

**Minutes of the Recognition Meeting and Regular  
Business Meeting of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161  
February 14, 2011  
Normandy Villa Administration Center**

The recognition ceremony was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Normandy Villa Administration Center. Board President Dr. David Dreyfuss called the Recognition Ceremony in session.

Roll call verified that there was a quorum of the Board present with the following members present as listed below:

**Present**

Mr. Arnold Crater  
Mrs. Christine Marks  
Mr. Ronald E. Moore  
Mrs. Timijanel Odom  
Mr. Thomas Sifner  
Mr. John Simmons  
Dr. David Dreyfuss

**Staff members present:**

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent  
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services  
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction  
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations  
Ms. Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology and Information  
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education  
Ms. Cathy Perino, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education

**Others present:**

Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Bruce Brozynski, Bruce Nieminski, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Pam Cernetic, FEA Co-President, Valerie Gardner, IEA-NEA UniServ Director, John Fester, attorney with the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca, staff, and community members (see attached sign-in sheet).

The Board of Education believes many excellent things happen in our School District. Students achieve many different things, teachers do outstanding things in the teaching-learning process, and citizens and parents support the schools in many different ways. The Board of Education is using the Recognition Ceremony as one of the ways to recognize our excellence.

Evan Runburg is this year's District spelling bee winner, and Myles Walker was the runner up at our District bee. Evan is an eighth grader at Parker Junior High and Myles is a fourth grader at Heather Hill.

Isabel Weber is this year's Parker Junior High School overall winner of the Geography Bee who will participate in the qualifying round for the state-level.

Ben Hoefle participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for Band. A special thanks to Elana Panner.

These students participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for Choir: Malik Curtis, Kyle Matl, and Mandy Sigale. A special thanks to Lori Evenhouse.

Mbella Beseka, Michelle Maass, Imani Mason, Madison Thiros participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for Orchestra. A special thanks to Samantha May.

Darrell Stephen, eighth grade basketball coach, achieved his 400<sup>th</sup> victory on January 13, 2011. Darrell has been a physical education teacher and coach in the District since 1978.

The regular business meeting was called back to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Conference Room at Normandy Villa Administration Center.

### **Audience to Visitors**

Board President Dreyfuss asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on non-agenda items.

Ms. Helen Burlson, a former Board of Education member, shared her concern about rumors she has heard in the community whereby students of School District 161 were not able to listen to President Obama's speech last year.

Dr. Joy thanked her for her very thought provoking comments. She replied that no one prohibited the students from viewing the President's speech. Teachers are able to access the President's speech through the technology in their classroom or available in the schools.

Ms. Burlson stated she wanted to come to tonight's Board meeting to hear the facts. Dr. Dreyfuss thanked Ms. Burlson for her comments.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joy announced that the South Cook Intermediate Service Center will conduct a Health and Life/Safety inspection of our District February 14 and 15, 2011. This inspection will cover the physical plant aspect of each of the District's six buildings. Dr. Joy is pleased to report that inspection of four of

the six buildings is complete and the inspector was very complimentary of our District.

Dr. Joy noted that February is Black History Month and each school has activities planned. Please visit the District's website and Facebook to receive updated information.

On February 25 the District will host the monthly meeting of the school social workers of the south suburbia. Cyber safety is one the topics that will be addressed at this meeting.

Dr. Joy thanked District 161 staff, especially the maintenance workers and custodians, for their work in connection with the blizzard of 2011. It is the District's practice every morning to have the Maintenance Department Supervisor and a maintenance worker visit each building to make sure the boilers are working and there are no broken pipes. This practice enables the District to get a head start on any problem that might arise due to harsh weather conditions.

Dr. Joy mentioned that Parent Visiting Day was Friday, February 5. Elementary parents visited their children's school in the morning. Junior High parents visited their children for the afternoon. The parents had many wonderful comments about their experiences during Parent Visiting Day.

The District will administer the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) beginning March 1. The test areas are reading, math and science.

Finally, the PTO's annual fundraiser, Mardi Gras, is scheduled for Saturday, February 26. Dr. Joy thanked the District PTO for all they have done.

The following items were presented for approval:

#### Board Minutes

- Regular Board of Education Meeting – January 10, 2011
- Executive Meeting – January 10, 2011
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – January 24, 2011
- Executive Meeting – January 24, 2011
- Executive Meeting – January 31, 2011

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the consent Agenda regarding minutes as amended. All AYES. Ms. Odom abstained from the 1/24/11 Minutes. Motion Carried.

## Personnel

- Personnel Report

This item was deferred until after discussion in executive session.

## Business

- Approval of Resolution Directing Preparation of the FY2012 Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. All AYES. Motion Carried.

- Approval of Breakfast Program Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. All AYES. Motion Carried.

- Approval of Gift from CVS Pharmacy – Incentives for PBIS Program (F.H./PJH)

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Crater to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. All AYES. The Board thanked CVS Pharmacy for their generous gift to the District. Motion Carried.

## **Committee Reports**

Mr. Sifner presented a summary of the SPEED meeting held January 27, 2011. Of special note, was a presentation on what is working well and not so well at SPEED, including research based A+ Programs, rubrics for grading, instructional coaching, classroom management by teachers, and principals as instructional leaders. Also discussed, and approved were the usual business items of the SPEED Board, bills, payroll, and personnel issues. Other items included an RFP for Audit Services, renewal of ISIC contract, renewal of transportation contract with ABC, and allocation grant funds, donations, and fundraisers. As Mr. Sifner's last SPEED meeting will be in March, the Board will need to elect another Board member to attend SPEED's Governing Board meetings. Anyone who may be interested, please contact Dr. Dreyfuss.

## **Approval of Bills/Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Odom to approve the bills for the month ending February 2011, in the amount of \$891,721.28. Mr. Moore reviewed the bills with Dr. Pingitore prior to the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Moore, Sifner, Simmons, Odom, Marks, Crater, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Odom to approve the payroll for the month ending January 2011 in the amount of \$1,250,863.85

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Sifner, Odom, Moore, Crater, Marks, Simmons, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Insurance Committee Update – Information**

Dr. Pingitore shared with the Board of Education members that the District's negotiated agreement with the Flossmoor Education Associate (FEA) included a provision that the Insurance Committee be re-activated with progress to be reported to the Board of Education.

Dr. Pingitore stated the goal of the committee is to find the best possible medical insurance at the best rate. The committee has met three times. The Committee consists of five members of the FEA, Barry Okner, Judy Kubas, Michael Hastings, Susan Zorns, and Carol Waller. The Flossmoor Employees Union (FEU) has two members, Pam Cernetic, and Linda Chaney with Courtney Manning serving as the alternate. Joe Martin, Dr. Susan Pingitore, and Dr. Joy are the administrative representatives. John Garven, Co-op Administrator, presented updates on the financial status of the South Suburban Benefits Cooperative, research by association members on how other school districts' secure medical insurance plans, changes by the IRS in flexible spending accounts, and open enrollment questions.

Dr. Pingitore mentioned the Co-op is making great progress towards greater solvency. Later on in the meeting the Board will be asked to approve a resolution to amend the SSBC Bylaws. A change in the bylaws was as a result of the trouble in 2009 when premiums had not kept pace with claims. All member districts were asked to make one double premium payment to provide sufficient cash flow. The co-op remained those premiums to the member districts, which amounted to approximately \$987,000. The District received approximately \$100,000. The co-op will be deciding on next year rates in April, which aligns with our next insurance committee meeting, April 27.

At this time, the committee is not recommending changing from the co-op and is awaiting a proposal from Delta Dental. The District is now in their third year with them.

Mr. Crater questioned whether the SSBC paid the District interest when they returned the 13<sup>th</sup> month of premium payment to the district. No, the District did not receive interest. The cooperative is owned and operated by the member districts. There is no profit in the cooperative. The cooperative owns the equity.

Dr. Dreyfuss mentioned during negotiations a consultant came in and brought in some estimations from another cooperative as well as the possibilities of combining our co-op into another co-op. Have any of those options been investigated. Dr. Pingitore stated the insurance committee did look those options very thoroughly when they met last year and entertained proposals from Educational Benefits Cooperative (EBC) and at the time, the decision was to stay with South Suburban Benefits Cooperative (SSBC) because rates were expected to be better and in fact, they were. Dr. Dreyfuss also mentioned that he wants to make sure the insurance committee is looking at all options because he is hearing from underwriters that premiums are expected to be in the double-digits.

Dr. Pingitore stated she recently attended a Scariano law seminar and double-digit rate increases were very much on the horizon. Raising rates just because of health care reform and removal of lifetime dollar limits. She stated John Garven believes the co-op's rates will increase by a high end of 11% rate increase for next year, but not all the claims are in as of yet.

Mr. Moore asked if Delta Dental would lock their rates for three years. Dr. Pingitore stated the District had Delta's rates locked for two years; however, not for the last year of the contract.

The Board thanked Dr. Pingitore for this report. The Board looks forward to subsequent updates.

### **Approval of Resolution to Amend SSBC Bylaws**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the resolution in support of the proposed changes to the bylaws in the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement governing the South Suburban Benefits Cooperative (SSBC). Two-thirds of the SSBC members or four of the six members to become effective must approve the revisions. All AYES. Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

Dr. Dreyfuss received correspondence from Maria Pappas regarding amendment to debt disclosure ordinance. This ordinance will take effect on February 1, 2011. Dr. Dreyfuss will share this information with the Board members.

Dr. Pingitore stated the Township Treasurer received a copy of the debt disclosure ordinance and will file on the District's behalf. Apparently, this document was sent only to School Board Presidents.

Dr. Dreyfuss also received correspondence regarding prevailing wage.

**Executive session**

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Moore to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

**Return to Open Session**

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Moore to return to open session. All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 8:47 p.m.

Personnel

- o Personnel Report

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the consent Agenda regarding personnel.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Marks, Odom, Moore, Simmons, Crater, Sifner, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

**Executive session**

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Moore to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went back into executive session at 8:47 p.m.

**Return to Open Session**

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Moore to pursue a contract with Candidate B, with the assistance of our attorney, Mr. Fester. All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 10:10 p.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Moore to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. All AYES. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

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Ronald E. Moore, Vice President