

**Minutes of the Recognition Meeting and Regular
Business Meeting of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161
February 8, 2010
Parker Junior High School**

The recognition ceremony was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Media Center at Parker Junior High School. 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

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

Absent

Mr. Arnold Crater

Staff members present:

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction
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:

Bruce Brozynski, Jennifer Camilleri, Bob Pinciak, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, FEA President, and community members.

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.

Jacqueline Mazique is this year's District spelling bee winner, and Tamia Johnson was the runner up at our District bee. Both students are sixth graders at Parker Junior High. The District champion, Jacqueline, did a fine job of representing District 161 at the Regional Bee on February 3rd at James Hart School, where she earned 5th place.

The District's overall Geography Bee winners per grade level are Naomi Adams, eighth grade, Leslie Flores, seventh grade, and Isabel Weber, sixth grade. 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.

Jacob Miguest and Jordan Stempel participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for Band. A special thanks to Elana Panner.

Mbella Beseka, Kristina Hill, and Imani Mason participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for the Jazz Festival. A special thanks to Lori Evenhouse.

These students participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for Choir: Malik Curtis, Philip Glover, Kristina Hill, Jonah Ongman, and Katie Teykl. A special thanks to Lori Evenhouse.

Morgan Hogan, Sushane Kumar, Imani Mason, Kendall Paris participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) for Orchestra. A special thanks to Fred Kuester.

The regular business meeting was called back to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Media Center at Parker Junior High School.

Audience to Visitors

Board President Dreyfuss asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on non-agenda items. None at this time.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Joy shared 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.

Dr. Joy shared the SET program was recently revisited. The District has held two meetings to discuss modifications to SET. Modifications were reviewed in the area of scheduling and content. These will be reviewed with teachers and administrators over the next several weeks. Dr. Joy thanked the teachers and Dr. Rebecca Elish, and Lynn Westerlund who co-facilitated these meetings. The Board of Education members will receive a complete report on the modifications of the SET program at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Word Workout is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Parker Junior High. Dr. Joy acknowledged Renee Reeves as the chair of this year's event and Barbara Stavola, retired District 161 teacher, for all her help in assisting with this wonderful event each year.

Dr. Joy updated the Board of Education on the District's work in the area of grants. Dr. Joy introduced Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology, who shared the District submitted an application for the ARRA Enhancing Education Through Technology grant (E2T2). This grant is intended as a one-to-one laptop initiative that would provide netbooks for the third grade classrooms at two of our Title 1 schools. The District is requesting funds from the grant in the amount of \$126,048 that will be used for laptops. Grants will be evaluated based upon a rubric set by the State of Illinois. Grant recipients will be announced between January 15 and June 30, 2010.

The District also looked into a math grant. Dr. Joy introduced Dr. Rebecca Elish who reported having attended an informational meeting at South Cook Intermediate Service Center. SCISC is partnering with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) regarding the potential math consortium. The purpose of this meeting was to determine if there was an interest among South Cook districts in pursuing a Chicago Community Trust grant targeting the improvement of teaching and learning in the area of mathematics for students in grades 6-9. The grant would include creating a collaborative partnership with a consortium of schools in the South Cook territory, SCISC, and UIC. Dr. Elish shared the District does not qualify for this grant due to the criteria for low test. In addition, this grant focus on school districts with a large number of students on free and reduced lunch.

The District will administer the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in early March.

Finally, the PTO's annual fundraiser, Mardi Gras, is scheduled for Saturday, February 27. 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 11, 2010
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – January 25, 2010

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the consent Agenda regarding minutes as amended.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

Personnel

- Personnel Report

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of gift from the Turnquest Family – 32” Color Television

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

Committee Reports

Mr. Sifner presented a summary of the SPEED meeting held January 28, 2010. He shared discussions took place regarding the usual business items of the SPEED Board, bills, payroll, and personnel issues. The stimulus funds as well as reallocation of those funds were discussed. SPEED approved the leases for five vans. Reviewed and modified the superintendent’s contract. A meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss long-term planning regarding revenues. Mr. Sifner will continue to update and apprise the School Board of the activities within the SPEED Cooperative.

Approval of Bills/Payroll

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the bills for the month ending February 2010, in the amount of \$1,055,081.12. Mr. Moore reviewed the bills with Dr. Pingitore prior to the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Odom to approve the payroll for the month ending January 2010 in the amount of \$1,370,158.99.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

Approval of Breakfast Program Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Simmons to apply for a waiver exempting the District from the regular Breakfast Program and Summer Program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. This item was discussed at the January 25, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting. Mrs. Odom shared her concern that anyone under the age of 18 can participate in the summer program.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

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 two 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 information and data regarding the Cooperative's current financial condition. Draft minutes of that meeting were shared with member of the Board. Brian Hutchens, representing the Educational Benefits Cooperative (EBC) has been invited to provide an overview of the EBC to the Committee at the next meeting on February 10.

Mr. Simmons asked how the FEA membership on this committee was determined. Dr. Pingitore responded the FEA selected the members who had an interest in the insurance committee.

Mr. Moore asked if the SSBC cooperative was still in tact. Dr. Pingitore stated the SSBC Board voted to maintain the co-op; however, several members are approaching the Educational Benefits Cooperative (EBC) for quotes on individual basis. Dr. Pingitore also stated the SSBC has created an ad hoc committee which met last week to develop a reserve policy. It was discussed that several FEU members are still in Plan D, which will no longer be offered after June 30 of this year.

Dr. Dreyfuss questioned whether the SSBC now has funds available so they would return the 13th month of premium payment to the districts. Dr. Pingitore stated that SSBC would need to vote on that issue.

The Board thanked Dr. Pingitore for this report.

Update on Strategic Plan

Dr. Joy provided the Board of Education members with an update regarding the Strategic Plan. Focus groups were held with faculty and support staff on February 2. Evening focus groups were held at each of the elementary schools on February 4. The next focus group is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, at Parker Junior High School at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Joy thanked the board members for their attendance at each of the elementary schools.

Dr. Joy also informed the Board members that a press release was sent out inviting community members and parents who do not use the District 161 schools to a focus group on February 16 at Normandy Villa. A focus group meeting is scheduled on February 23 for special education parents. A second press release was sent out regarding the District's online survey for the strategic planning process, which will be on the District's website from February 12 through February 19. Invitations will be sent out next week to large group committee members. Finally, a press release will be sent to the Southtown inviting the District's senior community to the March 9 meeting.

Dr. Dreyfuss thanked Dr. Joy for the update. Dr. Dreyfuss shared that some very interesting comments were made at the focus groups similar to what the Board discussed at their preliminary strategic planning meeting.

Executive session

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Sifner to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) and student discipline 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(9).

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 7:45 p.m.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Sifner to return to open session.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 8:37 p.m.

Student Discipline

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the hearing officer's report regarding student # 475970891.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Moore, Odom, Marks, Sifner, Dreyfuss

Nay: Simmons

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Sifner to adjourn the Board of Education meeting.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Vice President