

**Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting  
of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161  
March 8, 2010  
Normandy Villa School**

President Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Normandy Villa School conference room, 41 E. Elmwood Drive, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

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, via teleconference  
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  
Ms. Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology and Information  
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education  
Mrs. Cathy Perino, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education

**Others present:**

Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Karen Brown, Bruce Brozynski, Jennifer Camilleri, Bob Pinciak, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, FEA President, and community members.

**Audience to Visitors**

Board President Dreyfuss asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on non-agenda items. No one responded.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joy shared the District's work in mathematics was recognized by the National School Boards Association with the District receiving the Magna Award as an Honorable Mention in category 1, which is for school districts with an enrollment of 5,000 or less. The District's program is one of 15 projects throughout the country that received this award. The award will be presented to the Board of Education at the NSBA Annual Conference on Monday, April

12, and will receive a press release from the NSBA regarding this award. Additionally, the District's entry will appear in a special supplement to the April 2010 issue of *American School Board Journal*.

Dr. Joy announced that Western Avenue School was named to the Illinois Honor Roll, the second year in a row the school has received the Academic Excellence Award. This distinction places Western Avenue School among the state's highest achieving schools. To earn this recognition, a school must have 90 percent of its students meeting or exceeding state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years. Congratulation to the students, parents, and staff at Western Avenue School. This is a great honor not just for Western Avenue, but also for District 161.

Dr. Joy noted that Dr. Rebecca Elish presented at the No Child Left Behind Conference in Chicago last month. Dr. Elish shared with a standing room only audience how the District increased student growth in math for all students including our sub-groups, on the state tests. She reviewed the instructional practices of the District, the common assessments that are used, and professional development activities that have supported student growth. These components are strengthened by the Professional Learning Community model the District began using almost six-years ago.

Dr. Joy reported that Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology, will unveil the District's new website this week. She commended Deb Pitts and Steve Reid for their remarkable job. The administrators were also acknowledged for assistance in reviewing the site before its launch. Dr. Joy asked Board members and community members to review the website and let the District know their thoughts.

Dr. Joy shared the District is in the final stage of holding community focus groups for its strategic plan. Eight meetings have been held to date, and the final meeting with senior citizens from the community was scheduled on March 9. The first District Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10. The District will present the entire process to the committee as well as work on a vision statement. The purpose of strategic planning is to develop a five-year plan for the school District's future.

Dr. Joy reported the PTO's February 27<sup>th</sup> Mardi Gras was a great success, and thanked the PTO for its continued efforts to make District 161 a World Class School District.

**The following items were presented for approval:**

Approval of Minutes:

- Recognition and Board of Education Meeting – February 8, 2010
- Executive Session – February 8, 2010

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 22, 2010

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Crater

Motion Carried.

Personnel

- Personnel Report

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Business Report**

- Approval of 2010-2011 Calendar

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

- Acceptance of Investment Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Crater to approve the consent Agenda regarding Business.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

- Acceptance of District Audit

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Committee Report**

Mr. Sifner reported on the February 25th combined SPEED Operating Committee and SPEED Governing Board attended by Dr. Joy and himself. A School Board update and PowerPoint were distributed to the Board. Discussions concerning all areas of operation were discussed with particular attention to future finances. Mr. Crater questioned the impact of a pending Senate Bill raising the age for services from 21 to 26, and Mr. Sifner addressed this question.

### **Approval of Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the bills for the month ending March 2010 in the amount of \$745,869.50. Mr. Simmons discussed his questions with Dr. Pingitore prior to the board meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the payroll for the month ending February 2010 in the amount of \$1,402,682.08.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **FEA Request to Change Music Stipend**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve that the stipends for the Band Director and the Assistant Band Director be restored to \$2,920 and \$1,490, respectively effective March 8, 2010. Dr. Dreyfuss stated this is pending signature of the email submitted by Crystal Conley, FEA President.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of French 1 Textbook Purchase**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Simmons to purchase new French 1 textbooks for Parker Junior High for use beginning school year 2010-2011. The approximate cost of the purchase is \$6,900. This item was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 25, 2010.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of K-3 Phonics Adoption**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Odom to purchase a new K-3 phonics program for implementation in the 2010-2011 school year. The estimated cost of the purchase to the District is \$55,000. ELL students will have textbooks in Spanish. Dr. Elish compared this phonics program with the current program used by the District. This item was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2010.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of SET Revisions**

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the revisions for the Student Enrichment Time (SET) Program. The intent of SET was discussed. This item was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2010. The Board of Education requested a subsequent report before the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

On another note, the Board would like a review of X-Time at the jr. high at a June or July Committee of the Whole meeting.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Fees for the 2010-2011 School Year**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Crater to approve no change to the textbook fees, but a restructuring of the textbook fee to incorporate the technology fee. It was decided that technology is part of everything the District does. The book fees would be \$155 for students in grades K-5 and \$190 for students in grades 6-8 for the 2010-2011 school year. The fees would be effective for students and families who do not participate in the District's annual mail-in registration process. The fees for mail-in registration participants would be \$120 for grades K-5 and \$155 for grades 6-8. The administration is also asking for a \$7 increase in the fee for outdoor education and no change in the optional transportation fee. The item was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2010.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: Odom

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of First Reading of Waiver of Student Fees Policy 4:140**

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve first reading of a revised model policy regarding Waiver of Student Fees from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). This policy meets the requirements of a new state law (P.A. 96-360), which permits school districts to establish their own process for verifying students' eligibility for fee waivers. The process of granting fee waivers and free and reduced lunch was clarified. Both processes must be kept separate. This draft policy was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2010. The second reading of policy 4:140 and approval will be placed on the April 12, 2010 meeting agenda.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Projects at Western Avenue, Heather Hill, and Serena Hills**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Crater to approve completing projects at Western Avenue, Heather Hill, and Serena Hills Schools during the spring and summer of 2010. These projects were reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2010.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Bus Lease for Mini Buses**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Crater to approve a one-year lease with 18,000 annual miles for two (2) 29-passenger gasoline-powered busses with an option to extend for an additional year. This item was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2010.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

Dr. Dreyfuss received correspondence regarding a Green Committee, which he will forward to all board members. It discusses green opportunities within school districts, which are not only energy efficient, but offer cost savings as well. Dr. Dreyfuss also shared information he obtained from the Wall Street Journal discussing significant losses to school district budgets due to the stimulus dollars. The income would be reduced due to stimulus dollars going directly to government programs. He also mentioned that our revenue stream from the State has been delayed as much as 120 to 400 days behind in making payments to school districts. The District is currently undergoing its first strategic planning process and staffing reduction.

The Race to the Top grant was discussed and it was shared this grant is performance based. School districts' contracts and policies will be reviewed.

The Board would like to schedule a separate meeting to discuss finances of the District. The District is in a good financial position at the moment because the Board believes in always looking long-term.

### **Executive Session**

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:38 p.m.

### **Return to Open Session**

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board returns to open session at 9:32 p.m.

**Adjournment**

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

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Ronald E. Moore, Secretary