

**Minutes of the Recognition Meeting and Regular  
Business Meeting of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161  
April 11, 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, via teleconference  
Dr. David Dreyfuss

**Staff members present:**

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent  
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  
Mrs. Cathy Perino, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education

**Others present:**

Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Karen Brown, Bruce Brozynski, Bruce Nieminski, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, FEA Co-President, and community members (see 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.

The annual Science Olympiad was held on March 12, 2011. This year's Science Olympiad winners are: Varsity: 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Disease Detectives - Tinscha Thomas and Marcus Mangel; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Meteorology - Jessica Barry and Mae Carroll;

4<sup>th</sup> Place - Science Crime Busters - Evan Runburg and Marcus Mangel; 5<sup>th</sup> Place - Battery Buggy - Marcus Mangel; 6<sup>th</sup> Place - Compute This - Jacob Fontana and Evan Runburg. JV: 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Dynamic Planet - Noah Colon; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Meteorology - Brianna Rauch and Noah Colon; and 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Battery Buggy - Isaac Arsenault. Brianna Rauch, Marcus Mangel and Isaac Arsenault were in attendance and received their awards.

The 2010-2011 Math Counts team members are Evan Runburg, Marcus Mangel, Michael Gislason, Darius Slatton, and Bernie Coderre. The Regional competition was held on Saturday, February 26, 2011. On average there were about 41 schools that competed from the southern suburbs and throughout the Chicagoland area at the regional competition. Marcus Mangel was in attendance and received his award.

Dr. Dreyfuss suggested Board of Education members attend each of the District schools to recognize students at their awards assemblies.

Dr. Dreyfuss acknowledged the two new Board of Education members in the audience - Mrs. Leah Langston and Mr. Gregg Lunceford. Dr. Dreyfuss noted that the Cook County Clerk's office must certify all election results by April 26. Therefore, the Committee of the Whole meeting originally scheduled for Monday, April 25 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 27 in order to reorganize and seat the new Board of Education members.

The regular business meeting was called back to order at 7:36 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. No one responded.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joy acknowledged the work performed by Mark Polignone, and Bill Linz, Jr., and all of the custodial staff in the District over spring break. The schools look great!

Dr. Joy noted that the second annual Choral Clinic was held at Parker Junior High School at April 8. Elementary students in grades 4 and 5 are included as part of this larger musical experience. Each school performed individually, followed by the choirs singing together. Dr. Joy acknowledged the individuals involved in the clinic: M'rald Calhoun, Lori Evenhouse, Kathryn Harshbarger, Laura Miller, Valerie Pasque, and Matt Zimmerman.

Dr. Joy announced the Illinois State Board of Education has invited state legislators to visit the District 161 schools. This invitation was extended since

the District received implementation status from ISBE. The District hopes to receive full implementation status by Spring 2012.

Dr. Joy shared that 12 District 161 students will participate in the May 2 Special Olympics at Thornton High School. Good luck to them all!

Dr. Joy announced that Venus Smith, principal of Heather Hill School, has accepted the position of Pre K-5 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum with Valley View School District. A search for a new principal at Heather Hill School is underway. A faculty focus group was held and a parent focus group is scheduled.

Dr. Joy shared that fifth and sixth grade students are invited to participate in Operation Snowflurry on Saturday, April 16. Operation Snowflurry is designed to develop student's self-esteem and decision-making skills.

Finally, Dr. Joy thanked everyone who attended Serena Hills School 50-Year Anniversary on Saturday, April 9. More than 250 guests attended the Open House. Dr. Joy thanked Lynn Westerlund and Cathy Perino. Dr. Joy also thanked the following teachers: Linda Butkus, Tracy Coon, Barb Goesel, Cindy Grasso, Katie Harshbarger, Kathy Lause, Nora Lilly, Barry Okner, Kelly Rosales, Ingrid Vann, Jason Walker, and all the Serena Hills staff who helped with the preparations.

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

Approval of Minutes:

- Recognition and Board of Education Meeting – March 14, 2011
- Executive Session – March 14, 2011

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

Personnel

- Personnel Report

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the consent Agenda regarding personnel. The Board expressed their appreciation to the staff members who are leaving the District. The Board wishes them well.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

## **Business Report**

- Approval of Amended 2011-2012 Calendar

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

- Approval of Gift from Western Avenue PTO – Backdrop Curtains
- Approval of Gift from Dr. Donna C. Joy – Donation to the District's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program

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

## **Committee Reports**

Mr. Sifner presented a summary of his last SPEED meeting, which was held April 6, 2011. Discussed and approved the usual business items of the SPEED Board, bills, payroll, and personnel issues. An agreement was approved with the South Suburban Special Recreation Association to operate a day camp at SPEED over the summer, approved a contract with AESOP (Automated Substitute Placement and Absence Management System, which is an automated data system whereby teachers and substitutes can call in to handle absences at a cost of \$7700, and approved Legacy for SPEED's auditing services. Also approved were the summer school costs and extended summer school program at SPEED, Illinois School Insurance Coop resolutions, and amendments to the employee's cafeteria plan, and lastly, we accepted donations. The election of board officers took place, with Mr. Ron Bean was re-elected as President, Mr. Tom Brabec, Homewood School District 153, replaces Mr. Thomas Sifner as Vice-President, and Ms. Juanita Jordan will continue to act as secretary of the SPEED governing board. A closed session was scheduled to handle a personnel matter as well as the Superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Sifner has volunteered to assist with the transition of the new Board Member to the SPEED Governing Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Sifner was his years of service on the SPEED governing Board.

## **Approval of Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the bills for the month ending April 2011 in the amount of \$714,195.33. Mr. Sifner discussed his questions with Dr. Pingitore prior to the board meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the payroll for the month ending March 2011 in the amount of \$1,865,933.42.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Re-employment and Tenure for Fourth Year Probationary Teachers**

Deferred until discussion in executive session.

### **Approval of Re-employment of First, Second, and Third Year Probationary Teachers**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the resolution re-employing the following first, second, and third year probationary teachers: Lauren Brinkley, Ashley Pelley, Emily Chewning, Michelle Jeros, Carol Humm, Kelsey Matthews, Rebecca Brink, Sandra Pinsky, Laura Miller, Kim Konieczka, Eleanora Lilly, Erin Bylina, Tracy Coon, Samantha Farrar, Haley Marti, Amy Sizemore, Linda Butkus, Cynthia Gerecke, Margaret Arendt, Andrew Bauer, Keely Moriarty, Jana Eagan, Megan Mooney, Traci Chirillo, Mark Eichenlaub, Bridget Gannon, Kathleen Jenkins, Dana Johnson, Toni Kornas, Amy Lauer, Pete Marron, Kyle Marti, Katie Martin, Heather Davis, Valerie Sims-Rucker, Samantha May, Scott Olson, Andrea Pitts, Sarah Rudenga, Dina Tufo, Matt Zimmerman, and Joy Bacino.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Dismissal of Probationary Teachers**

Deferred until discussion in executive session.

### **Approval of Re-Employment of Administrators**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the resolution for assignment of the following administrators for the 2011-2012 school year: Deborah Pitts, Nancy Wilson, Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Karen Brown, Jennifer Camilleri, Bruce Nieminski, Lynn Westerlund, and Bruce Brozynski. The Board congratulated the administrators.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

## **Approval of Administrative Salaries and Non-Scheduled Support Staff**

Deferred until discussion in executive session.

### **New Business**

Dr. Dreyfuss reiterated that the new Board members would be seated at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting/Canvass, Reorganization Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Dreyfuss shared the Board is moving forward on its new Superintendent search and will be meeting again and should have an announcement at the next Board meeting.

### **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 8:05 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 returns to open session at 8:55 p.m.

## **Approval of Re-employment and Tenure for Fourth Year Probationary Teachers**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Crater to approve the resolution to re-employ and grant tenure to the following teachers who have successfully completed the four-year probationary period: Johnna Armellino, Renee Baratta, Lynette Bowman, Amanda Fernandez, Suzanne Hayden, Yatta Matthews, Nicole Rebout, Karen Roorda, Melissa Santos, Kelly Wallace, and Lindsay Zilly. These teachers were acknowledged for their work with the children of District 161. The tenure will take effect on the first day of the 2011-2012 school year.

## **Approval of Dismissal of Probationary Teachers**

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Odom to approve the resolution to dismiss the first through fourth year probationary teachers as indicated.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

**Approval of Administrative Salaries and Non-Scheduled Support Staff**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the increases for administrators and staff members who are not covered by a salary schedule.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

**Adjournment**

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

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

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Ronald E. Moore, Secretary