

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting
of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161
April 26, 2010**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present for the meeting:

Present

Mr. Arnold Crater, arrived at 7:10 p.m.
Mrs. Christine Marks
Mr. Ronald A. Moore, arrived at 7:18 p.m.
Mr. Thomas Sifner
Mr. John Simmons
Dr. David Dreyfuss

Absent

Mrs. Timijanel Odom

Others Present

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations
Ms. Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education
Mr. John Izzo, Attorney with the law firm of Sraga Hauser, LLC
Ms. Cathy Perino, Board Clerk
Ms. Crystal Conley, FEA President

Update Regarding PTAB

Mr. John Izzo, attorney with the law firm of Sraga & Hauser shared the pending District 161 cases of the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) with the Board members.

The Board of Education approved a formal intervention of PTAB cases for 2008. Mr. Izzo stated as of today he has not received any evidence from the petitioners regarding these two PTAB matters.

Mr. Izzo mentioned that in these two cases, the land value was assessed too high. As a matter of public policy, the land is valued according to fair market value. Golf courses and other open spaces are valued in their current use not in its highest investment use i.e. if they were sold and condominiums were built on the property. Mr. Izzo stated he has seen three recent cases with three different lawyers where the land was assessed too high. In all three cases, the land was doubled the value in the span of just one tri-annual reassessment.

A discussion took place regarding a newly adopted Ordinance 1025, which readjusted the percentage of fair market value property is assessed at, which was 1/3 of the fair market value, and in Cook County the Assessor's Office classifies property. Beginning with the 2009 tax year, all commercial property would be taxed at 25% and residential property at 10%. As is the case, this ordinance is a detriment to outlying communities of Cook County such as Flossmoor. With this new ordinance, Mr. Izzo is uncertain as to what the Assessor's Office is going to decide; however, they will no longer engage in multi-year deals as they have done in the past. This would limit the District's options in trying to settle this matter.

The District's options were discussed and Mr. Izzo suggested that the District let his firm inquiry as to what the county is using as a standard. Mr. Izzo discussed the information that was distributed to the Board members and noted that the amounts listed is only for one year, but should be reflected as three years.

Dr. Dreyfuss inquired about the other taxing bodies (Park District, Village and High School) that are also affected by these PTAB. Mr. Izzo stated they are not intervening.

The potential loss to the District due to these PTABs was discussed and it was noted these funds would be subtracted from future tax revenues.

Due to the fact that evidence is still being gathered, Mr. Izzo recommended the District wait until discovery is complete in this matter.

The Board of Education thanked John Izzo for his presentation and Mr. Izzo left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

➤ *Recommendation: This was an information Item.*

Update for ARRA Technology

Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology shared with the Board of Education members that because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) grant the District was able to purchase hardware for all five schools. Ms. Pitts shared that with these monies approximately 85 percent of the District's Technology Plan goal has been met.

It was noted that personal computers as teacher workstations have replaced Citrix thin clients for Special Education teachers. Laptop replacements for the mobile laptop carts at each of the elementary buildings were made possible.

Interactive whiteboards have been installed and are being utilized in 14 classrooms. An additional nine interactive whiteboards are on order.

Ms. Pitts shared that hardware to upgrade wireless access at both Serena Hills School and Heather Hill School has been ordered. The Scholastic READ180 and System 44 program has been expanded to include all four elementary buildings. This expansion included needed hardware, software, and materials for the program to operate successfully at Serena Hills and Heather Hill this school year with availability to Western Avenue School and Flossmoor Hills School for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

A discussion took place regarding where the District is in terms of the technology plan.

Ms. Pitts shared that advance training for teachers is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on April 27 and 4:00 p.m. on May 4.

- *Recommendation: The Board of Education thanked Ms. Pitts for her presentation. Dr. Joy will schedule a demonstration for the Board of Education to view the Smartboards.*

Initial Discussion of Student Management System/Fiber Installation

Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology shared with the Board of Education members that the District has considered for the past few years the need to purchase a student management system. The current STI student management system has been in District for nine years. One of the primary purposes for considering a new software package is to anticipate the loss of technical support for the District's current system. This is projected to take place within two years. In addition, the present STI system does not align with the Board of Education's objective to use technology as a means to enhance home-school communication.

Ms. Pitts reported that a committee of teachers, administrators, and staff evaluated four web-based student management systems. The four systems reviewed were SISK12, Pearson PowerSchool, STI InformationNow, and Skyward. The major components of each application were reviewed and evaluated by the committee members.

A final meeting of the committee confirmed that by unanimous vote Skyward is the group's first choice and STI InformationNow was the second choice. The committee felt that the online immediacy, ease of reporting, and two-way communication between home and school surpassed that of the other student management systems reviewed.

Ms. Pitts will provide the Board of Education members with a presentation at the May 24th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Pitts shared the District plans to use ARRA grant funds to help underwrite a portion of this purchase.

In addition, proposals for fiber installation are also being sought. Fiber will allow the District to move to a 5 Mbs Multi-point Ethernet solution in content delivery. This will allow for the faster connectivity needed for digital content and even improved connectivity for programs used everyday.

The costs of fiber was discussed and it was noted that the actual cost to the District would be considerably less since 46 percent of the cost could be recovered through E-rate reimbursement and the District could also consider discontinuation of the Comcast line to save another monies.

The Board requested a brief explanation on how District 233's system placed third.

A discussion took place regarding whether the District should look into an off site location to host its servers. Dr. Dreyfuss suggested surveying school districts that have been successful with off site facilities.

Mr. Crater noted the District would need to think about technical support to handle this new capacity of work. Also the District will need to plan and architect how to handle the uploading and sharing of data.

- *Recommendation: The Board recommends moving forward this item for presentation at the May 24, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting and placing on the June Board of Education meeting agenda for approval.*

Update on PBIS Recognition

Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education, shared with the Board of Education members Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) is a school-wide discipline system that focuses on proactive strategies for defining and teaching appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. The District has used this system of support for eight years. Last year, the PBIS program was restructured and began receiving training, technical assistance, and evaluation support from the Illinois PBIS Network, an Illinois State Board funded initiative.

Ms. Wilson stated as a Response to Intervention (RtI) model, PBIS offers a three-tiered model of support. A discussion took place regarding Tier 1/Universal level, Tier 2/Secondary level, and Tier 3/Tertiary level. Ms. Wilson shared two new programs that have shown great successes: CICO or the "check in /check out" program and Social Academic Instructional Grouping ("SAIG"). With SAIG social workers can work with students during SET time.

Ms. Wilson noted that once a school year, the Illinois PBIS Network formally recognizes schools that demonstrate implementation and sustainability of the

PBIS process. It was shared that each of our schools will be submitting an application, along with the supporting documentation.

Finally, Ms. Wilson shared that Joy Bacino, District Psychologist, and Keely Moriarty, Social Worker at Western Avenue School, have been asked to be presenters at the upcoming PBIS leadership conference.

Mr. Sifner wants to make sure that successes at each school are shared and implemented at each of the District schools.

- *Recommendation: This was an information item. The Board of Education thanked Nancy Wilson for her presentation.*

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Sifner to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Secretary

**Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161
April 26, 2010**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss at 7:59 p.m, called a special meeting to order.

Board Clerk, Cathy Perino, took roll call. The following members were present for the meeting:

Present

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

Absent

Mrs. Timijanel Odom

Dr. Dreyfuss stated the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss matters relating to personnel.

Approve Action on Personnel matter

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the retirement of employee no. 3599 effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Secretary