

**Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting
Flossmoor School District 161
April 6, 2010
Normandy Villa Administrative Offices**

President Dreyfuss called the special 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

Mrs. Christine Marks
Mr. Ronald E. Moore
Mrs. Timijanel Odom
Mr. Thomas Sifner
Mr. John Simmons, via teleconference
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
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education
Mrs. Cathy Perino, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education

Others present:

Karen Brown, Bruce Brozynski, Jennifer Camilleri, Bob Pinciak, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, FEA President, Pam Cernetic, FEU President, staff, and community members (see attached sign in sheet).

Public Hearing on Reduction in Form

Dr Dreyfuss shared that on March 24, 2010 a Personnel Committee meeting was held to discuss the current financial state of the District as well as the delayed state payments and concerns for future loss of revenue from taxes and reduced state aid. The District decided, at this time, not to make any economic cuts related to staffing, but rather make some decisions relating to textbook purchases, class sizes, and filing positions of non-renewed teachers.

Dr. Joy shared the District is recommending the discontinuation of the junior high school counseling program and replacing this with social workers. School social workers are certified to provide counseling services and activities that

have been historically assigned to school counselors. Social workers can develop behavioral plans as well as work with the families. Dr. Joy also shared the social worker model is used by many school districts including all of the member districts in the Speed Special Education Cooperative. In addition, the District may be eligible to receive a state reimbursement of up to \$9,000 to cover a portion of the social workers time and cost. The state reimbursement is based on the amount of time a social worker spends in the area of special education.

The Board of Education has had numerous discussions over the years regarding the counseling department at Parker Junior High School.

According to the School Code, a tenured teacher can be honorably dismissed and not re-employed when a program is discontinued. However, the teacher may remain in the District if he/she is certified for another position. The elimination of the counseling department involves two individuals, one of whom has appropriate certification in a different capacity and one individual does not. The discussion and decision at tonight's meeting is to honorably dismiss the tenured teacher who is not presently certified in a different teaching position.

Board President Dreyfuss opened the meeting to the audience.

A number of faculty and community members shared their support of the counseling department and thanked the counselors for their work.

Dr. Dreyfuss thanked the audience for all their comments. The hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

A special meeting was needed to meet the notification deadline for tenure teachers, which is by the Illinois School Code.

Resolution Tenure Teacher Reduction in Force

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve a Resolution for the Honorable Dismissal of a Certain Tenured Teacher for the 2010-2011 school year based on the decision to discontinue the junior high school counseling program and that social workers will be hired to provide services to general and special education students.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

A discussion took place regarding an email sent out on Sunday, April 4 to the FEA membership, which contained erroneous information.

Adjournment

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crater

Motion Carried.

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

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald Moore, Secretary