

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting
of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161
June 27, 2011**

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

Mrs. Leah Bailey Langston
Mr. Gregg M. Lunceford
Mrs. Christine Marks
Mr. Ronald E. Moore
Mr. John Simmons
Dr. David Dreyfuss

Absent

Mrs. Timijanel Boyd Odom

Others Present

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education
Ms. Cathy Perino, Board Clerk

Others Present

Lynn Westerlund, and Crystal Conley (see sign in sheet).

Special Education Annual Update

Nancy Wilson updated the Board on special education services in the District.

The District has identified 301 students as special education students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs), which is 13 percent of the student population. The state's average is 14.8 percent. The District has 287 total IEPs with 14 service plans. The District has 27 students with outside placements. 16 students attend SPEED, 3 attend ECHO, 4 attend AAA Academy, 1 attends Southwest Cooperative, 2 attends Easter Seals, and 1 attends Elim Christian School. The District received 14 students who moved into the District with IEP's. Thirty-four eighth graders graduated from special education; four were out of district students.

The District had 73 initial evaluations this year with 65 completed evaluations. Of the 65 initial evaluations completed, 58 students have qualified for services within the District. The District has eight pending evaluations to complete.

The caseload and assignments of the case managers were discussed. The addition of the school psychologists has helped tremendously as well as the

department staying on top of the cases. This has created a much more efficient system.

The case managers have done a great job at educating our parents so they know what services are available throughout the District for their children. Nancy Wilson added the RtI model offers intervention services for students without IEPs.

The Board congratulated the special education department. The staff has done a great job.

- Recommendation: This was an Information Item. The Board of Education thanked Nancy Wilson for this update.

Discussion of Tentative 2011-2012 Budget

Dr. Susan Pingitore presented the tentative FY2012 Budget for the Board member's consideration. The administration is asking the Board of Education to recommend approval of the FY2012 tentative budget on July 11, direction to place the budget on public display as required by School code, and direction to schedule the public hearing prior to adoption of the budget for the September 12 Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Pingitore shared several facts about this budget:

- The budget reflects the educational goals, mission, and philosophy of the District in support of community expectations to provide all children with a quality education.
- Revenue projected from General state aid is conservative and projects a foundation level of \$6,119, the same amount as last year, the revenues only indicate 21 of 22 state payments will be received due to a possible proration of General State Aid. This action is being taken because of the uncertainty in the State's ability to make payments in General State Aid as well as the mandated categorical grants.
- Expenditures for all funds in the FY2012 budget decreased by 1.2237% from \$29,875,328 to \$29,509,729.
- The budget includes \$395,000 for the Heather Hill School parking lot and pavement improvement project as well as the front entry improvement. In addition, a total of \$17,000 has been budgeted to restore lockers at Flossmoor Hills School, and \$58,300 to pay for a cooling unit for the server room at Normandy Villa and carpeting for the media center at Western Avenue School.
- The tentative budget provides fund to replace servers at two schools, purchase computer workstations to replace outdated, obsolete work stations at Normandy Villa, purchase 18 Smartboards, and to install fiber to enhance Internet connectivity at the schools.
- Fund balances for the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 will be adjusted

in the budget, which will be adopted in September to reflect revenues and expenditures that followed creation of the tentative budget. This will include outstanding bills, and revenues that are anticipated to close out the 2011 fiscal year.

- Interest projections and tax levy receipts are based on information provided by the Bloom Township Treasurer. This year's budget forecasts \$150,000 in interest payments. This is a conservative projection based on an estimated return between .50 percent.

Dr. Pingitore stated adjustments would be made to the tentative budget as more information becomes known to the District. This tentative budget is based upon audited financial data. The District will continue to be fiscally responsible.

The District is being conservative but realistic.

Mr. Simmons inquired if the District will be close to its projected amount. Dr. Pingitore believes the District will do considerably better than the number.

The timeline in collecting revenue from the state was discussed. The administration shared the Board of Education needs to have a discussion as to how much they want to have on hand in terms of funding. It's a policy decision for the Board of Education. The Board members decided to have this conversation with the new superintendent, Craig Doster.

Ms. Langston asked how are staffing decisions made in the District. Dr. Joy responded by sharing the process the District uses to make staffing decisions. She noted that the District's enrollment is declining. In grades k-3 the class size is 25 students; in grades 4-5 the class size is 27; and for grades 6-8 the class size is 30. Again, the Board will have to have a conversation regarding class size once enrollment numbers are established for the coming school year.

The Board was updated on the current PTAB cases.

- Recommendation: The Board members recommend moving forward the FY 2012 tentative budget to the July 11 Board of Education meeting. This agenda item will be to place the budget on public display, and direction to schedule the public hearing prior to the September 12 Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Joy shared a gifted education report will be shared with the Board at the August committee of the whole meeting. Dr. Joy would like to encourage the Board to look at the District's gifted education.

The Board of Education shared this is Dr. Joy and Dr. Pingitore's final meeting in District 161. In the nine years with the District they have made a tremendous

number of improvements. Their hard work has brought the District to this point, and for that the Board, parents, and community thank them. The Board of Education wishes them both the best in their future endeavors.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Marks to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. 6 AYES, 1 Absent. Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Gregg M. Lunceford, Secretary