

**Minutes of Regular Business Meeting
of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161
June 8, 2009
Normandy Villa Administrative Offices**

President Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:40 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, via teleconference
Mr. Ronald Moore
Mrs. Timijanel Odom, via teleconference
Mr. John Simmons
Mr. Thomas Sifner
Dr. David Dreyfuss

Staff members present:

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services
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
Ms. 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, John Fester, attorney with the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca, and community members (see attached list).

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 today is the official last full day of school.

Summer school starts next week, Monday, June 15. The District has a total enrollment of 230 students, but is expecting additional students to register this week. The District will offer writing and two CSI enrichment classes.

The District will hold its new student registration on Tuesday, June 16 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and residency check is scheduled for June 23 from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Normandy Villa. The District holds these registration dates in order to assist with its long range planning.

Dr. Joy thanked Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Bruce Brozynski, administrators, staff, parents, students, and Board of Education members for their efforts in making an outstanding 2009 graduation ceremony.

The following items were presented for approval:

Board Minutes

- Special Board of Education Meeting – May 4, 2009
- Recognition Meeting and Regular Meeting – May 11, 2009
- Executive Session – May 11, 2009
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – May 26, 2009
- Executive Session – May 26, 2009

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Marks, Crater – Committee of the Whole Meeting - May 26, 2009

Motion Carried.

Personnel

- Personnel Report

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of Annual Dues for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding business.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of Classroom Furniture Bid

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of National School Lunch Bid

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

Discussions took place regarding the District's bid criteria and use of the hot lunch program. Teachers in attendance asked if the numbers discussed included students involved in the free lunch program and were the prices the students were charged also reviewed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of Gift From the O'Toole Family – CHARACTER COUNTS! Program Donation to Serena Hills School

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. The Board members thanked the O'Toole Family for their generous donation to the District.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Business

- Approval of Gift From Steve Sweeney (CHARACTER COUNTS! Program Donation)

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Crater to approve the consent Agenda regarding business. The Board members thanked Steve Sweeney for his generous donation to the District.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Bills/Payroll

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the bills for the month ending June 2009 in the amount of \$1,037,462.64. Mr. Moore shared his concerns with Dr. Susan Pingitore prior to the board meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the payroll for the month ending May 2009 in the amount of \$1,402,842,58

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of the Plan Regarding the American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Crater to approve a plan to expend funds the District will receive from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in support of the District's academic programs in the areas of reading and mathematics, to meet the needs of special education students, and serve the District's at-risk students with early intervention

services. This plan was reviewed at the May 26th Committee of the Whole meeting.

The proposed plan for using the stimulus funds incorporates the ARRA requirements in three key areas: technology, increased support for reading, and improvement of academic achievement. The plan incorporates recommendations based on administrative and faculty input from the recently concluded Technology Summit, Reading Summit II, and the annual needs assessment input provided by community members and staff in the area of special education.

A priority/implementation timeline was discussed with Board of Education members. These priorities were based on the ARRA regulations.

Mr. Simmons clarified the Board would be asked to approve each expenditure as presented. He also inquired if any other Board members had any concerns about approving the plan prior to actually getting the grant approved. The administration expects the Grant will be completed and submitted in July. It was discussed that if the grant is 80% acceptable funds will begin to be dispersed to the District. A timeline with plan schedule was also discussed.

Mr. Sifner clarified these funds are part of the stimulus package from the federal government and will not be received again.

Mr. Crater clarified that the funds are tied to approval of grant and will be immediately dispersing funds. This grant is independent of the technology plan.

Mr. Simmons questioned if the District 161 grant would be packaged with other school districts. No, this is not dependent upon other school districts.

Mr. Crater shared his concern about the longevity of the technology plan budget and the administration stated the technology committee would meet on the regular basis to review the plan.

The Board thanked the administration and looks forward to regular updates regarding this matter.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Reading Summit Recommendation for Reading Specialists

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the addition of two Reading Specialist positions to support reading instruction, one

at Heather Hill School and one at Western Avenue School. This matter was discussed at the May 26th Committee of the Whole meeting.

The availability of quality candidates this time of year and any data available to show the benefits of reading specialists in the District was discussed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Recommendation of Reading Summit for Reading Interventions Program

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Crater to approve expanding the Reading Intervention Program with the addition of four paraprofessionals and materials needed to support kindergarten and grade one. This matter was discussed at the May 26th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of hardware purchases to support the first phase of the five-year technology plan

A motion was made by Mr. Crater seconded by Mr. Moore to purchase personal computers as teacher workstations for Parker Junior High. This recommendation was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 26, 2009 and recommended in the Technology Plan as part of the Technology Summit.

The teacher workstations will allow staff to differentiate instruction, provide additional content material such as curriculum-based CDs and web-based materials. The personal computers will also allow staff to expedite their work, communicate with parents, and begin to prepare the District for use of a web-based Student Management System proposed in the Technology Plan for purchase in the 2009/2010 school year.

Ms. Pitts discussed the many advantages and disadvantages in favor of both the laptop and the desktop PC. In summary, the purchase of the PC workstations are recommended as a tool to support instruction while meeting the goals and objectives established by the Technology Summit.

Elementary teachers expressed their concern regarding when the elementary buildings would be slated to receive any of the technology benefits.

Ms. Pitts stated two buildings would be equipped next year. The plan has all the schools connected in two years. The District's first priority is infrastructure (the first year). The stimulus dollars are moving the plan ahead, which should help.

Mr. Simmons stated the Board is addressing the technology issues in the District and plans on expending as prudently as possible, but help is on the way.

Again, the technology plan is a living document and will be touched often to make sure the needs of the District are being addressed.

Dr. Dreyfuss stated the servers would be updated at all the schools. This affects the overall budget. The expenditures will be made in a smart fashion.

Gina Punda, Parker faculty member, wanted to make sure teachers would still be able to access computers from home. Yes, any update will maintain existing sites and structures.

Crystal Conley, Parker faculty member/FEA President, questioned if staff would have access to computers during planning time. Parker faculty was directed to share any questions or comments with Dr. Vanessa Atkins who will in turn discuss any technology matters at Parker with Deb Pitts.

Timi Odom discussed the E-Rate grant and options available to the District.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of the Internet Safety Curriculum

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Crater to approve an Internet Safety Curriculum, which meets the State mandated Public Act 095-0869 concerning education. This recommendation was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on May, 26, 2009.

In July 2008 the State mandated schools to offer an Internet safety curriculum beginning with the 2009/2010 school year to grades three and above. The focus of the Internet Safety framework is to teach young children that personal identification should not be shared online without permission and to follow the rules of a respected adult when working on the Internet. Older children are lead to examine their own and others' behaviors, what constitutes cyberbullying or harassment, and how to deal with uncomfortable situations. The program considers the power and responsibilities of online activity and

incorporates ideals, when feasible, learned from the Character Counts program.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Executive Session

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:46 p.m.

Return to Open Session

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board returns to open session at 10:37 p.m.

Adjournment

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Secretary