

**Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161, Cook County, Illinois
August 24, 2009**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Present

Mr. Arnold Crater
Mrs. Christine Marks
Mrs. Timijanel Odom
Mr. John Simmons
Dr. David Dreyfuss

Absent

Mr. Ronald Moore
Mr. Thomas Sifner

Staff members present:

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education
Mrs. Cathy Perino, Secretary to Superintendent and Board of Education

Others present:

Karen Brown, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, FEA President, Ron Richardson, FGM Architects, John Ryan, Reporter with the Southtown Star, and capacity crowd of community and staff members.

Dr. Dreyfuss stated this is a Committee of the Whole meeting and is strictly for presentations or discussions. Action is taken at Board of Education meetings, which are held the second Monday of each month.

Year Two-Paving Plan

Mr. Martin shared year one of the plan provided for paving and reconfiguration of the bus drive and parking area at Flossmoor Hills School. The project addressed safety concerns by separating the bus lane from car lanes, and created 22 additional parking spaces. The District's expectations regarding the Flossmoor Hills project were exceeded.

Mr. Martin shared the benefit of the six-year plan is that the work will be sequenced to allow the District to maximize its construction dollars and to attract qualified bidders to perform the work in a timely, logical manner.

Work in year two of the plan is scheduled for Serena Hills School. The proposed plan would move the bus drop-off from Pleasant Drive to the back of the school with entry off of Frederick Drive. This will eliminate congestion with the buses lining up for drop-off and pick-up. A new sidewalk and handicap accessible entrance will be created on the west side of the building. Parking spacing will also increase from 53 to 59. In addition, the east parking lot entrance will be repaved and a new front entry sidewalk will be provided. Phase two work would begin in the summer of 2010.

Mr. Martin distributed a rendering of Phase II to Board members.

Mr. Martin stated the estimated total for this project would be \$560,929. The cost projections used in the earlier PMA model for this project for budgeting purposes was \$600,000. Mr. Simmons clarified that trees, and landscape are all inclusive in phase two. Mr. Martin shared the sequence of the work remaining in the six-year plan.

- *Recommendation: The Board recommends moving approval of the design and bid phase of year two of the six-year District paving plan forward to the September 14, 2009 Board of Education meeting.*

Discussion Regarding Copiers

Dr. Dreyfuss shared an overview of the copier replacements that was approved at the July Board of Education meeting. At that meeting the District was to receive eight new Xerox copiers.

Mr. Martin evaluated the current status of the existing copiers in the District to ensure that each school has parity of functional and serviceable copiers. Mr. Martin reported back to the Board that in further negotiations with Chicago Office Technology one more Xerox copier could be added to the District's previous order of eight at no additional charge. Because of this arrangement, the District will have an annual savings of \$301. Mr. Martin stated that each school would have at least one new copier.

The Board appreciated the extra time and effort expended by Mr. Martin to come up with an equitable solution.

- *Recommendation: The Board recommends moving approval of the revised proposal by Chicago Office Tech Group to provide nine new Xerox copiers*

to the District forward to the September 14, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

Discussion of Excess Equipment

Mr. Martin shared with the Board members all of the excess equipment items are located at Western Avenue School. The chairs have no value and are either broken, in a state of disrepair or not practical for use in District 161. They have been replaced as part of the District's Furniture Replacement Plan. The District started the replacement plan seven years ago. Storage of these items is a problem as space is limited. The chairs will be either disposed of or donated to an interested charitable organization. Teacher desks are part of plan for next year.

Ms. Odom asked how interested parties could acquire the District's excess equipment. Mr. Martin stated interested parties should contact the District office to view the excess equipment.

Ms. Pitts shared with the Board members hardware that is broken, in a state of disrepair, or not practical for use in a school setting, which should be declared excess equipment. A contracted vendor has agreed to recycle these items for a fee.

Mr. Crater had concerns about paying for disposal fees. He shared because of new government standards it may be possible to include disposal in the purchasing agreements when making new purchases. He will send list of companies you will pay for pick up of equipment.

The Board stated the administration would need to make sure companies have appropriate bonding and license agreements before entering into removal of excess equipment.

- *Recommendation: The Board recommends 400 chairs from Western Avenue School, and the items detailed by the Technology Department to be declared excess equipment and either disposed of or donated to an interested charitable organization.*

Dr. Dreyfuss shared that the large audience member turn out was due to the fact the Flossmoor Employee Association (FEA) contract has yet to be settled. He shared what's occurred to date and where the FEA and Board negotiation teams are since they began contract negotiations in August 2008. The FEA negotiation team and Board negotiation team began the 2008 negotiations using Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB) training. This is the same method used five years ago to settle the last FEA contract. The IBB process creates good will between the parties and solves problems while solving the contract. IBB training is also used to develop relationships. The last meeting was scheduled for the first week of June and meetings reconvened the first week of August. With distance remaining between the two parties, it was decided to go to mediation to resolve their differences.

Board members took questions from the audience related to the status of negotiations.

Executive Session

A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1), negotiations 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(2), and safety and security 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (8).

Voice Vote:

Aye: Simmons, Odom, Marks, Crater, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Absent: Moore, Sifner

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

The Board returns to open session at 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The agenda was exhausted, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Christine Marks, Member