

**Minutes of the Board of Education  
Flossmoor School District 161, Cook County, Illinois  
Board of Education Meeting  
September 14, 2009**

President Dreyfuss called the budget hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Normandy Villa School conference room, 41 East 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, arrived at 7:32 p.m.  
Mrs. Christine Marks  
Mr. Ronald Moore  
Mrs. Timijanel Odom  
Mr. John Simmons  
Mr. Thomas Sifner  
Dr. David Dreyfuss

**Staff members present:**

Dr. Donna Joy, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services  
Dr. Rebecca Elish, Director of Learning and Instruction  
Joe Martin, Director of Operations  
Deb Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology and Information  
Cathy Perino, Secretary to Superintendent and Board of Education

**Others present:**

Dr. Vanessa Atkins, Karen Brown, Bruce Brozynski, Jennifer Camilleri, Bob Pinciak, Venus Smith, Lynn Westerlund, Crystal Conley, FEA President, Val Gardner, IEA Director, Justin Petrarca, attorney with the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca, staff, and community members (see attached sign in sheet).

**Budget Hearing**

Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services, gave an overview of the 2009-2010 Budget. The 2009-2010 budget was previously presented and reviewed by the Committee of the Whole on June 22 and has been available to the public. Dr. Pingitore began her presentation with photos of the five District schools as well as teachers, and students. She further stated students are the centerpiece of everything the District does. The budget has been updated since the Committee meeting to reflect updated revenues and expenditures, fourth quarter interest posted by the Township Treasurer,

updated beginning fund balances, and accounting changes mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) under new rules imposed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Dr. Pingitore discussed several key factors regarding this budget. General state aid was allocated to both the Education Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund as directed by the Board five years ago as part of the continuing scheduled construction work. The revenue projected from this source does not reflect the \$160 increase in the foundation level since the State Board has not finalized the District's allocation.

Expenditures for all funds in the FY2010 budget decreased by less than 1 percent from the FY2009 adopted budget.

Due to ongoing contract negotiations with the Flossmoor Education Association, the tentative budget does not include salary increases for teachers, administrators, teachers who are not represented by the association, and non-scheduled support staff.

Dr. Pingitore reported the budget includes \$472,000 for the completion of the Flossmoor Hill School parking lot and pavement improvement project. The budget also includes the addition of two elementary reading specialists – one for Western Avenue School; the other for Heather Hill School as well as aides to assist students in need of reading intervention and support. The aides will be funded with ARRA Title 1 funds.

The budget provides funds to replace servers, computer workstations for teachers, and installation of a keyless entry to improve security at Heather Hill School. In addition, the budget includes the technology purchases that are part of the ARRA IDEA plan adopted by the School Board in June.

Dr. Pingitore stated the interest projections and tax levy receipts are based on information provided by the Bloom Township Treasurer. This year's budget forecasts \$363,000 in interest payments. The District budgeted \$492,000 in FY2009 and collected approximately \$409,000 as of early June. Total interest received in FY2009 was \$686,279.

Dr. Dreyfuss opened the hearing to the public for any comments.

Mr. Bradley Byrd, Parker Junior High parent, asked for clarification regarding the funds reported under the operations and maintenance accounts.

Dr. Pingitore stated the line items included in the Operations and Maintenance Fund include salary and benefits of more than \$1.6 million; purchase services such as HVAC and other repairs, water and telephone account for \$557,000;

supplies and materials (custodial supplies), gas, and electric are budgeted at \$730,000; capital outlay which includes funds for the Flossmoor Hills parking lot is \$579,000. The Operations and Maintenance Fund accounts for approximately \$3 million of the District's \$30 million FY2010 budget. Mr. Byrd further commented the \$2.5 million items are consistent yearly expenditures used by the District. Dr. Pingitore believes that is close. She said, the District has used the O & M accounts to fund the Districts construction projects for the last several years. The District has made approximately \$13 million in improvements.

Ms. Penny Cox, Heather Hill parent, questioned if any cuts were made to any District educational programs to help balance this year's budget. Dr. Dreyfuss stated that over the years certain staff positions have been vacated by retirees, etc. and those positions have not been filled. He further stated the majority of the District's programs are educational based, and there have not been any reductions to the educational programs. In fact, the District has added reading specialists for the 2009-2010 year.

Dr. Pingitore acknowledged the Board of Education for their support and commitment to the schools and students of our District, and to the administration for their sound prudent decisions and assistance in development of the fiscal year 2010 budget.

President Dreyfuss closed the budget hearing at 8:05 p.m.

### **Return to Regular Business Meeting**

President Dreyfuss called the regular meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. in the Normandy Villa School conference room, 41 East Elmwood Drive, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

### **Audience to Visitors**

Board President Dreyfuss asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on non-agenda items.

Bradley Byrd asked about the security/theft issues at Parker. Dr. Joy shared that five classrooms were broken into at Parker Junior High over the Labor Day weekend. The outside windows were used to access the classrooms. No intruders went through the hallways where the cameras are located. Ten of the newly installed computers, monitors, and mouses were taken. Police have been notified as well as the insurance company. The District has placed conduit bars in each sliding window at Parker and the other schools.

Janet McKenna, read a prepared statement on behalf of the Flossmoor Education Association (FEA).

Dr. Dreyfuss thanked Ms. McKenna and believes that all central office administrators were on hand to welcome the teachers back.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joy thanked everyone who attended Flossmoor Fest. The elementary choirs all sounded great! Serena Hills was invited, but declined because the music teacher was new to the school. The District again hosted a CHARACTER COUNTS! booth.

Flossmoor Hills School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new parking lot on Friday, September 11 followed by their Back to School Picnic. All who attended had a wonderful time.

September 16 is Parker Junior High's Parent Meeting/Open House scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

The District continues to monitor enrollment. Currently, enrollments are down approximately 90 students from last year. This week four students were disenrolled. Two of the students were at Parker Junior High, and two students were at Western Avenue School.

NWEA testing is underway and will continue through the end of the month.

The Illinois Music Educators Association has invited our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students to audition for their upcoming November concert.

Dr. Joy responded to the FEA's statement. Administrators were in attendance at the opening institute day activities to welcome all faculty members back and visited all the schools in the District. However, in the future she will take their words to heart.

Mrs. Langston, a Heather Hill parent, requested a brief overview of the process used for residency verification.

The following items were presented for approval:

### **Board Minutes**

- Regular Board of Education Meeting – August 10, 2009
- Executive Session – August 10, 2009
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – August 24, 2009
- Executive Session – August 24, 2009

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Sifner, Moore – 8/24/09 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Motion Carried.

### **Personnel Reports**

- Personnel Report

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

- Approval of Application for Recognition of Schools

A motion was made by Mrs. Odom seconded by Mr. Crater to approve the consent Agenda regarding approval of application of recognition of schools. The District is asked annually to complete the Application for Recognition of Schools under the school code.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

- Approval of Excess Equipment

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding approval of excess equipment.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

A discussion took place regarding the resale value on the District's excess equipment.

- Approval of Heather Hill Copier

A motion was made by Mr. Moore seconded by Mrs. Odom to approve the consent Agenda regarding approval of Heather Hill copier.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

- Approval of Gift (flowerpots for Serena Hills)

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the consent Agenda regarding approval of gift. The Board members thanked Ms. Maldonado for her generous gift to the District.

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

- Approval of Flossmoor Employees Union (FEU) Contract

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the consent Agenda regarding approval of the FEU contract.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **SPEED Report**

Mr. Sifner briefed the Board on the SPEED Governing Board meeting held September 3, 2009. Discussion items included bills, payroll, and personnel. In addition, SPEED's three-year contract with the Employee's Association was reviewed and ratified, along with their Policy Manual. Educational opportunities available to member Districts were shared, and Flossmoor School District 161 will attend as schedule allows.

Dr. Dreyfuss thanked Mr. Sifner for serving on the SPEED governing Board.

### **Approval of Bills/Payroll**

A motion was made by Mr. Crater seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the bills for the month ending September 2009, in the amount of \$1,245,741.61. Mr.

Crater shared his questions with Dr. Susan Pingitore and Joe Martin prior to the board meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the payroll for the month ending August 2009, in the amount of \$1,193,747,80.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of FY 2010 Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Crater to approve the adoption of the FY 2010 budget. The Board of Education placed the budget on display in July as required by School Code following a review by the Committee of the Whole at their June 22 meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Dr. Dreyfuss mentioned he received several emails from community members and it was nice to see people interest in the District's budget and attend the budget hearing.

### **Approval of Design and Bid Phase of Year Two of Six-Year Paving Plan**

A motion was made by Mrs. Marks seconded by Mr. Sifner to approve the design and bid phase of year two of the District six-year paving plan. This matter was discussed at the August 24, 2009 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

### **New Business Items**

Mediation will begin next week with the FEA and Board negotiation teams. The mediation is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Sifner seconded by Mrs. Odom 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: Moore, Marks, Odom, Crater, Sifner, Simmons, Dreyfuss

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 9:00 p.m.

**Return to Open Session**

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 9:40 p.m.

**Adjournment**

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

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Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

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Ronald E. Moore, Secretary