

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Flossmoor School District 161  
September 29, 2009**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board Clerk, Cathy Perino, took roll call. The following members were present for the meeting:

**Present**

Mr. Arnold Crater  
Mrs. Christine Marks  
Mr. Ronald A. Moore  
Mr. Thomas Sifner  
Mr. John Simmons  
Dr. David Dreyfuss

**Absent**

Mrs. Timijanel Odom

**Others 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 of Administrative Services  
Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology and Information  
Jennifer Camilleri, Principal, Western Avenue  
Karen Brown, Principal, Flossmoor Hills  
Bruce Brozynski, Assistant Principal, Parker Junior High  
Venus Smith, Principal, Heather Hill  
Lynn Westerlund, Principal, Serena Hills  
Crystal Conley, FEA President,  
Val Gardner, IEA Uniserve Director  
John Ryan, Reporter with the Southtown Star  
Cathy Perino, Board Clerk  
Capacity crowd of community and staff members (see attached sign in sheet)

At the start of the meeting the Board of Education negotiation team and the Flossmoor Education Union (FEA) team agreed to go back to the bargaining table with or without the mediator.

**Discussion of Excess Equipment – Social Science, and Spanish Textbooks**

Dr. Elish shared with the Board members the Social Studies and Spanish textbooks that the administration would like declared as excess equipment. Storage of these books creates a problem and the District is not planning on using them in the future. These textbooks have been replaced.

Anyone interested in these textbooks or knows of anyone was asked to contact the District Office.

- Recommendation: The Board recommends declaring the designated Social Studies and Spanish textbooks excess equipment and either recycle or donate to an interested charitable organization. This item will be forwarded to the agenda for the October 13, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

### **2009 District ISAT Report**

Dr. Elish began by thanking the Board of Education for their support and updated them on the 2009 Spring ISAT results. ISAT information for parents will be sent home within the week.

Dr. Elish shared the learning success keys. The high expectations of the District continue to raise the bar as well as the District's rigorous curriculum, which far exceeds the state. The District uses numerous benchmarks as assessment tools. Progress monitoring is used to assist struggling students rather than wait until distribution of report cards.

Students in grades 3 through 8 are administered the ISAT in reading and mathematics. Students in grades four and seven also are tested in science. And writing was tested in grades five and eight. There was also a norm referenced component in the area of math, reading and science.

Dr. Elish began with student successes in the area of reading. She believes this success is due in part to the addition of reading specialists, and intervention aides. The first comparison Dr. Elish showed was District vs. State. Grades three through eight scored in the 74%, 82%, 82%, 83%, 82%, and 91%, respectfully. There were no students in academic warning in reading in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The District continues to make strives in math. Grades three through eight scored in the 92%, 94%, 90%, 87%, 91%, and 87%, respectfully. The principals, and teachers are applauded for their efforts. There were no students in academic warning in math in grades 5, 6, and 7.

The results indicate that the District students are achieving above the state average, with the exception of seventh grade science scores. Science curriculum committee is scheduled to begin reviewing the data.

Dr. Elish mentioned students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 take the writing component. It was mentioned that scores are not exactly where the District would like; therefore, the administration is reviewing the data to look at ways to support our students.

The District believes time and intervention are the keys to success.

Dr. Elish reviewed longitudinal information with the Board comparing five years of data. The District's use of progress monitoring the students is helpful to move individuals to the meets and exceeds category.

Mr. Crater thanked parents, and staff for all their hard work. He requested that the administration share with the Board members the District's plan for improving writing and science areas within the District. Dr. Dreyfuss requested a comparison of the District and the state normed data.

Mrs. Marks asked if the cut scores remain the same as last year. Yes.

- The Board thanked Dr. Elish for her presentation.

### **Discussion of H1N1**

Dr. Joy introduced Kathy Knawa, District nurse, who touched upon the Outdoor Education Program first. A decision was made to screen all students attending outdoor education prior to boarding the bus at each building. Parent meetings were held for all fifth grade parents and the ODE procedures and expectations were explained to them. All students are required to have a doctor's order for Tylenol or Motrin to be administered during the ODE program.

Mrs. Knawa updated the Board members regarding the most recent information regarding the H1N1 virus, and the current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Illinois State Board of Education. She stated prevention is the key to reducing the number of flu cases in the District and community.

The importance of hand washing was reiterated and PA announcements will begin shortly at all of the District schools. Mrs. Knawa asked that children who are sick stay home, and when parents call to report their child's absence to the school, please be specific about the symptoms.

Letters will go out to staff as well as parents. This information will be made available on the District's website as well as links to the CDC and ISBE websites. The District will continue routine cleaning especially on touch points. Hand sanitizers are available in classrooms. November 20 is Wellness Day – seasonal flu shot will be given. Unsure if the H1N1 vaccine will be available at that time.

Mrs. Knawa attended a September 25<sup>th</sup> Cook County Department of Public Health planning meeting and shared an overview with the Board. The Board was updated regarding the H1N1 school vaccination program. The Cook County Department of Public Health has sent Memorandum of Agreements to suburban cook county school districts. The program provides free immunization, but parent consent is needed. Dr. Joy stated the District's

attorney has reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement and the District is working through some concerns.

Hopefully the H1N1 and seasonal flu will not be severe, but the District is ~~being taking steps in order to be~~ prepared.

- The Board thanked Kathy Knawa for her presentation.

### **Comments from the Audience**

Kate Raddatz, teacher, read a statement regarding the letter sent the FEA members by the Board negotiations team.

James Cerone, a community member and former Board of Education member, shared a passion plea that our community values the excellent quality of our schools and asked both sides to show courtesy and respect when dealing with each other.

~~Penny Cox, parent of Heather Hill students, expressed concern regarding having her children attend the school with only substitute teachers.~~

Samantha Fiaoni, stated she would remove her children from the school district and enroll in a private school if the quality of education is affected by the negotiations.

Jim Gislason, a former Board of Education member, can relate to both sides, but urged the two sides to put aside their differences and avoid a strike.

### **Executive session**

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 8:25 p.m.

### **Return to Open Session**

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

**Voice Vote:**

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 10:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

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

Voice Vote:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Odom

Motion Carried.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

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Ronald E. Moore, Secretary