

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.  
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Board President Pat Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Gerry Blohm. Also present were Superintendent Jackie Krause and Principals Karen Machroli and Tim Mahaffy.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Krause introduced kindergarten teachers Lora LeGrand and Beth Diller as well as various community members and parents.

Two people signed in to address the Board.

Heather Cook spoke to the Board regarding having three classes of kindergarten for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mrs. Diller and Mrs. LeGrand stated that they were at the meeting in case the Board wanted to talk with them about kindergarten when it was addressed under Old Business.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION EMAILS**

Dr. Krause informed the Board that they had received a communication from Melissa Bean and another one from Melissa Bean's campaign manager. The campaign is asking for various volunteers. The Board requested that Dr. Krause contact Ms. Bean and ask to be removed from her email list.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Kris Germain to approve the consent agenda, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of March 17, 2008, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of March 17, 2008, approve the March 2008 Treasurer's Report, approve the April 2008 Bills and Payroll and approve the March 2008 Activity Accounts Report. Tom Mollet seconded the motion.

Before voting, Board member Knar asked the members to look at the financial report (pg. 12) under Board of Education, legal fees, which are currently budgeted at \$78,000 – the original

budgeted amount was \$25,000. Mr. Knar wanted to know how that number could change, why we changed the original number, and from where the money would come.

Dr. Krause stated that throughout the year slight adjustments are made within the same budgeted bracket. There are rare times when there is no money to move but we do have to meet the expense. Dr. Krause responded that as in past practice the line item was increased to meet the substantial increase in legal fees. The increased amount is likely to be covered by positive balances from other line items in the education fund. If this is not sufficient, some money would come from surplus. This is the reason an amended budget is submitted to the State at the end of the school year.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that the administration reviews all the amounts for each line item. This is done internally as we review the track record of individual accounts.

Dr. Krause again stated that the district does not spend every dime in every line item. Therefore, we may be able to locate the \$60,000 to cover the increase in legal fees. In addition to legal fees, we also spent more on substitute teachers but less on regular teachers this year. In various line items, the amount budgeted may or may not be spent.

Board member Kris Germain stated that in order for better readability and instead of having a fluid budget, she would prefer seeing the variances in order to see what needs to be adjusted.

Dr. Krause suggested that when there is a significant change, we could point that out to the Board. Board member Knar stated that he just wants to make sure that at the end of the year what the Board approved overall is close to what was approved originally.

Mr. Mollet stated that we see this same issue with revenues. There is no way to know what the education tax money will be so we do have to change the budget. We need to change the dollar amounts to make them fit.

Board President Hughes asked Dr. Krause to prepare a spreadsheet at the end of the year showing what was spent and what was received so the Board can have a better idea of how the District ended the year – either under or over budget.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the earlier motion regarding consent agenda. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Krause stated that there are 49 students currently enrolled for kindergarten for the 2008-2009 school year. There are three other students who are age appropriate but are undecided about coming. Also, there is one other student whose parent picked up a registration packet but at this time has not returned it to the District. The Board previously asked Dr. Krause to contact surrounding districts to see what their kindergarten class sizes are. For Cary District 26 in kindergarten through grade 2, they have 20-24 students per class. In Crystal Lake, they have 25 students as a maximum in a class for grades K-2 and in Prairie Grove, they have in the low to mid 20's (about 25). With the District's current enrollment at 49, there would be 24 and 25 students in two sections, which is somewhat consistent with what other districts do. If the Board chooses to go with three classes, there would be two classes of 16 and one of 17. Dr. Krause

stated that she would not be surprised if a couple of additional students do come forward. This will be the smallest Kindergarten class the district will have had in the past nine years.

Board member Knar stated that everyone knows it is more beneficial to have students in a smaller class, but he was concerned about the families in the community who do not have children in our schools and are paying property taxes, and if we are being fiscally responsible in deciding this issue.

Board member Blohm stated that although we are under a tight budget, he feels it is important to hold the class size low instead of being at the high end like neighboring schools. Mr. Blohm stated that we should find a teacher that fits into our budget and go with it. He also stated that we need to inform the parents that this class breakdown is on a year-to-year basis.

Board member Mollet suggested the possibility of having five (instead of six) homerooms across Kindergarten and first grade. This would mean there would be one K-1 split level class, and all classes would average about 22 students.

Dr. Krause stated that she would not recommend it at kindergarten or first grade, as the gap between kindergarten and first grade is wider at this level than any other grade level. Mrs. Diller and Mrs. LeGrand concurred with this opinion.

Mr. Knar wondered about staying with the larger class size with the use of an aide.

Mrs. Diller interjected that the kindergarten teachers had found a Wisconsin study that tracked three kindergarten classes through high school. One was a class of up to 25; one was a class of 24 with an aide; and one was a class below 20. In this study the class with an aide performed the same as the class of 24 with no aide.

Board member Lisa Anderson asked what were the sizes of the larger classes going through a few years ago were. Dr. Krause responded that there were 24 in each classroom with no aide support. In terms of teaching time, these kindergarten teachers had two classes of 24 or 25 students. Therefore, these teachers had 48 report cards to do; 48 parent-teacher conferences to complete, etc. However, she also stated that the expectations for children were not as high as they are today.

Dr. Krause's recommendation to the Board was to go with three classes this year and revisit the matter next year and each year thereafter if the numbers remain the same. The other possibility was that since we had two days of registration yet this week, the Board could give Dr. Krause permission to hire an additional teacher if we reach a certain number set by the Board.

Board president Hughes stated that he was comfortable with making the decision at this Board meeting, since we are at 49 students already, but he could not promise that this class would stay in three sections in future years.

Dr. Krause stated that the administrative costs will be less next year. The District is losing a seasoned Kindergarten teacher next year, and two additional teachers over the next few years. In addition, substantial legal fees should not be a recurring cost.

Board member Susan McGarrigle stated that she is in favor of the three classes for kindergarten.

Board president Pat Hughes took a straw poll to see who would be comfortable voting on this issue tonight. Gerry Blohm – yes, Kris Germain – yes, Susan McGarrigle – yes, Lisa Anderson – yes, Steve Knar – yes.

A motion to hire a third kindergarten teacher for the 2008-2009 school year knowing that this decision will be revisited a year from now was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Steve Knar. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Abstaining – Steve Knar. Motion approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no new volunteer coaches to approve.

A motion to appoint Lois Bowman as Board Secretary and Bob Blumberg as Board Treasurer was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the two-year contract with Schuring and Schuring Dairy was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to increase the cost of milk for the 2008-2009 school year from \$0.40 to \$0.45 was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to increase the cost of student lunches from \$2.35 to \$2.40 and adult lunches from \$3.00 to \$3.25 was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A review of the summer maintenance plan followed (08-04-01). Capital outlay expenditures were approved last month and were listed in italics on this sheet. Additional items needed for the Middle School included: cleaning supplies, paint, refinishing the gym floors, seal coating and striping the parking lot, replacing ramp rails, increasing the drain capacity outside room 213, adding two lights on the east outside wall of the main gym, and installing a key box shelter outside of the PE office. Additional items needed for Algonquin Road School for the summer included: paint, cleaning supplies, and replacement of damaged hallway tiles. The grand total for summer cleaning and maintenance will be \$36,487. Last year the District spent about \$50,000 for projects that included the conversion of the two classrooms at ARS (kindergarten and the art room). Summer employment recommendations included Don Lewan for mainly painting, John Busch, Eric Zaruba, Kyle Dodge and Elliott Ireland as additional maintenance workers, and Jackie Bowman for secretarial help when the supplies start to come in.

In addition, the District received an email from Art Osten of the Village asking the Board to consider donating \$3,000 (50% of the total cost) to replace a swing set and tire swings on the

Kids Care Court of Stanger Park (08-04-01). This is village property, but our ARS students use this playground at recess.

Board member Knar asked if the PTO had been contacted as well about making a contribution. Dr. Krause stated that she would be happy to contact the PTO to see if they would be in favor of contributing to this request.

Dr. Krause stated that our students are not permitted to use the tire swings at recess. Board member Kris Germain then asked if our donated dollars could be put to something else on the playground instead of the tire swings. Board member Susan McGarrigle asked for a statement or an invoice indicating what the final cost will be, and she agreed that the district needed to put their funds to what our students are permitted to use. Board member Lisa Anderson suggested that the wording should be 50% of the cost but up to \$3,000 since maybe the cost will now be only \$5,000 instead of the \$6,000.

Board member Knar made the motion to approve and amend the Summer Maintenance Plan to include the expenditure of 50% of the total cost or up to \$3,000 to assist the Village with upgrading the equipment at Stanger Park. Gerry Blohm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the bus lease purchase agreement for three one-year-old buses through Midwest Transit for a total cost of \$33,240 (\$10,985 plus \$95 for new rotors) was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay -- none. Motion approved.

The district-owned bus #2 had few repairs this year but should be good for at least another year.

Board member Gerry Blohm complimented former Superintendent John Hill for his insight in building the protective fence for the buses in light of the recent tire slashing in other school districts as well as previous vandalism we had experienced. This was a great recommendation.

A motion to approve the amended school calendar and final school calendar for 2007-2008 was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Lisa Anderson (08-04-02). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Changes to the Algonquin Road School and Fox River Grove Middle School Parent/Student Handbooks for the 2008-2009 school year were reviewed by Ms. Machroli and Dr. Mahaffy (08-04-03). These changes were discussed at the Joint Advisory Committee on April 8, 2008.

Principal Tim Mahaffy reviewed the proposed changes in the scheduling of exploratory courses for next year (item L on the agenda). Currently at the middle school the specials classes are on trimesters. The MS wants to move all classes to quarters. This can be accomplished by going to a nine-day rotation. This has a lot of benefits, which were lost by going to trimesters. For example, students will have technology all year long, and all students will finish with Spanish at the end of the year before going on to high school. The middle school will try this approach for the FY09 school year. Home Logic (grade reporting) information will be added to the MS handbook.

A motion to approve the Parent/Student Handbooks for 2008-2009 for Algonquin Road School and the Fox River Grove Middle School was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet and Steve Knar. Voting nay -- none. Motion approved.

Dr. Krause reviewed the recommended changes to the 2008-2009 Safe School and Crisis Management Plan (08-04-04). These changes were also reviewed at the Joint Advisory meeting on April 8, 2008.

A motion to approve the 2008-2009 Safe School and Crisis Management Plan was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Pat Hughes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve summer programs for 2008 – Fox River Grove Basketball Shooting Camp with Mr. Lewan, Summer Band Camp with Mrs. Limpus, Summer Experience with Mrs. McAtee, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Eagle Pride Basketball Camps with Mr. Danley and Mr. King, Basketball Summer Camp with Mr. Zasadil and FRG Middle School Summer Volleyball Clinic with Mrs. Mollet was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Gerry Blohm (08-04-05). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Abstaining – Tom Mollet. Motion approved.

Dr. Krause reviewed upcoming Board meeting dates including changing the date of the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting to June 30<sup>th</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup> (08-04-06).

A motion to approve the 2008-2010 Board meeting dates was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

The Board discussed the setting of a minimum age for head coaches.

A motion to set the minimum age for head coaches at 19 years of age before the start of tryouts for that sport was made by Pat Hughes and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

The Board expressed a desire to revisit the subject of volunteer coaches versus paid coaches. Dr. Krause included in the Board packets the page from the teachers' contract that pertained to stipends (08-04-07). The current paid sponsorships had a checkmark in front of them.

Board member Tom Mollet distributed worksheets for further discussion on extracurricular fees and stipends (08-04-07). Currently the District pays \$17,487 in stipends. It would cost an additional \$34,973 to cover the remaining stipends if the district chose to go back to paid coaches. Total charges to participants were also reviewed. Various scenarios were presented for the Board's consideration. Raising the student fees would more than likely eliminate some participants. Mr. Mollet felt there would be more respect for teachers as coaches than the volunteer coaches. He also felt we could be more competitive with teachers as coaches. Funding remains the major hurdle.

Much discussion followed. Dr. Mahaffy was asked to poll the teachers to see how many would consider coaching if stipends were reinstated or if they would be interested in being a coordinator for a particular sport.

A motion to reinstate paid coaches was made by Tom Mollet. There was no second. Motion fails and the program remains as is.

## **POLICY**

A motion to approve the first reading of the following revised policies – Policies 4:110 - Transportation, 4:150 – Facility Management and Expansion Programs, 5:190 – Teacher Qualifications, 6:30 – Organization of Instruction, 6:50 – School Wellness, 6:170 – Title I Programs, 6:210 – Instructional Materials, 6:240 – Field Trips, 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:15 – Student and Family Privacy Rights, 7:30 – Student Assignment, 7:100 – Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students, 7:190 – Student Discipline, 8:25 - Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities, 8:30 – Visitors to and Conduct on School Property and the deletion of Policy 6:90 – Kindergarten was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Pat Hughes (08-04-08). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

## **SCHOOL REPORTS**

***Algonquin Road School -- Ms. Machroli*** – Registration for the FY09 school year will be held at ARS on April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. Teacher appreciation week begins on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The book fair is held during that week as well as the spring social on Thursday evening, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:00 p.m. The St. Jude Math-a-Thon, under the direction of Mr. Knapp, is proceeding. Attendance is at 301 students. There are currently 9 students in the early childhood program. Ms. Machroli complimented our long-term band substitute, Mrs. Limpus, for the wonderful job she is doing with the band program.

***Fox River Grove Middle School -- Dr. Mahaffy*** – The scholastic team, under the direction of Mrs. Carr, continues to do an excellent job. Fourth grade orientation is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. The band concert is at 7:00 p.m. on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The middle school play, “Christmas in July” under the direction of Mr. Pickering, is set for May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Eighth grade graduation will be at Cary-Grove High School on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The FRG Inaugural Chorus Festival under the direction of Mrs. O’Reilly-Greene was a great success. We commend her on all her hard work on this amazing event. Mrs. Carr’s class entered a reading challenge sponsored by the Scholastic Book Club to see if the class could read 100 books from the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to Earth Day. Her class took the challenge and read 105 books and now will be entered into the Scholastic Book Club Hall of Fame and Scholastic will donate funds to help save the Rain Forest. Mr. Brian Ruud, one of the athletic directors from a neighboring school, sent an email complimenting Susan Pettigrew, our athletic director, and the track coaches, on how well the track meet was handled. Carol Dolan of the FRG public library, thanked the middle school staff and middle students (Olivia Richter, Katie Edwards, Adena Ruckoldt, Sierra Centeno and Anna Fredrick) for helping out with Earth Day celebration. Dr. Mahaffy mentioned the drawings of the presidents hanging in the hallways at the middle school. The fifth grade has created packets for Senators Clinton, Obama and McCain showing pictures of our FRG students, with letters inviting them to come to our school and speak to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Dr. Mahaffy stated that this was a great culminating activity and congratulated Mrs. Szybowicz for her work

on this. Track sectionals were scheduled for the upcoming weekend at Carmel High School in Mundelein followed by the State track meet on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Krause briefly reviewed the 2007 levy outcome which is payable in 2008. The District will receive slightly more than originally projected. The District also has been notified by Bill LeFew's office that we will be receiving early tax disbursements (one in May and two in June).

Dr. Krause reported that the District received a Certificate of Financial Recognition from the State of Illinois.

Eder, Casella & Co., the District's auditing firm, sent a letter stating that districts that pay post-retirement benefits (i.e., health insurance) for former employees must now report this (08-04-09). There will also be an increase in auditing fees due to an increase in what the auditors need to check at each school in order to complete their audit.

The Board and Dr. Krause also received a letter from Lou Anne Majewski, Republican Precinct Committeeman for Algonquin Township 16, thanking us for the relocation of the polling place back to Algonquin Road School.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 10:08 p.m. to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district and pending litigation was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved

There will be action.

### **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to return from executive session at 10:31 p.m. was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Pat Hughes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to employ Beth Lombardino and Cindy Perkins as teacher aides for the 2008 ECE Summer School Program was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call

vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to re-employ the following non-certified staff for 2008-2009 school year – Renee Baniqued, Linda Barham, Lauryl Barnett, Evelyn Blau, Lois Bowman, Ilona Buetsch, Gerry Cappellania, Penny Cole, Kelly Ford, Deb Fruhauff, Leticia Garcia, Susan Hoffman, Eva Ippolito, Sarah Ireland, Dawn Ives, Chris Jacob, Carol Kregel, Beth Lombardino, Rick Miller, Janet Mollet, Cindy Perkins, Susan Pettigrew, Sue Roche, Cecilia Rosas, Denise Rose, Brian Sawyer, Terrie Smialek, Kim Solimini, Marge Stefani, Jana Still, Dianne Suchy, John Tekampe, Vickie Walton, Sue Winterton, and Daniel Zbacnik – was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Susan McGarrigle (08-04-10). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Abstaining – Tom Mollet. Motion approved.

A motion to employ Jaime Hahn as the school psychologist for the 2008-2009 school year was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Tom Mollet, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m. was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Steve Knar. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye – All ayes. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

---

Patrick B. Hughes  
President  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

---

Lois M. Bowman  
Secretary  
BOARD OF EDUCATION