

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.  
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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

**WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board President Pat Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting. ARS Principal Karen Machroli introduced the following staff members: Jennie Bebbler, Lora LeGrand, Beth Diller, Beth Achey, Pat Beebe, Paulette Nichols, Bonny Patterson, and Sue Roche. Also in the audience were former Superintendent Dr. Jackie Krause, Harry Krause, Brian Patterson, Elisa Buss, Steve Pickering and District Treasurer Bob Blumberg.

Board member Kris Germain stated that she had received unsolicited compliments from a community member stating how wonderful our schools are and how her children had great experiences both at ARS and the Middle School. Mrs. Germain wanted to share these wonderful comments with the Board.

One person signed in to address the Board. As a follow-up to the last Board meeting, Mrs. Schladt had a couple of additional questions regarding the decision to have two sections at 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She inquired as to if the Board had looked at the proposed budget for next year and possibly make some cuts elsewhere (i.e., transportation or technology).

Dr. Mahaffy responded that transportation is a fairly fixed amount based on fuel and salaries. The only savings in transportation would be to eliminate field trips and extra-curricular runs. The District does not outsource for transportation. The District is also responsible for transporting any students to their respective schools outside of District 3 in order for them to receive the services they require. Dr. Mahaffy stated that if the District would get behind in technology, it would take more to try to catch up in the future. The District needs to keep up with technology.

Board member Steve Knar entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Schladt also questioned as to the timing for next year's District budget. She wanted to make sure the Board is looking at every aspect for solutions to this problem.

Dr. Mahaffy explained that the budget is presented at the August meeting in order to lay for 30 days prior to recommended approval at the September meeting. Once approved, the budget will be posted on the District's website.

Board member Knar mentioned that the loss of the Hold Harmless monies is weighing heavily on the minds of the Board members and administration. This loss of \$291,000 to \$330,000 over the next three to five years is one of many concerns for the future. The District is currently stable but any decision making must be based on the future as well.

At this time Dr. Mahaffy, on behalf of all the students, parents, staff and administrators, personally thanked retiring 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Bonny Patterson. Mrs. Patterson will be leaving District 3 after 30 years of teaching.

In addition, Board President Pat Hughes had the honor of presenting Mrs. Patterson a gift from the School Board and District. Everyone wished Bonny and her family the best and that she will truly be missed.

Mrs. Patterson stated that it has been both a privilege and a pleasure to work in Fox River Grove. She further commented that she has seen many changes over the years but the closeness of the community and the dedication of the teachers and staff has always remained constant. It has been a wonderful place to spend her 30 years.

### **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 special Board meeting of April 26, 2009, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of April 27, 2009, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of April 27, 2009, approve the April 2009 Treasurer's Report, approve the May 2009 Bills and Payroll and approve the April 2009 Activity Accounts Report. Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Board member Lisa Anderson requested that Class Size Update Reduction Options be put back on the agenda. She stated that in her opinion keeping the 5<sup>th</sup> grade section at three sections or going down to two sections that neither option is a great alternative. She is requesting that the Board and Administration come up with a long term strategy, not for next year, because the District is not going to get out of this situation for quite awhile, unless enrollment increases or decreases. She suggested possibly looking at other options such as multi-age grouping, a part time teacher for the core curriculum subjects, or possibly split grade levels. Mrs. Anderson stated that these options could be a scheduling nightmare but was wondering if any of these would be worth looking into since the District cannot afford to keep classes at three sections with the current class sizes.

Board President Pat Hughes reiterated that the Board has struggled with the class size issue for two years now. It was the hope of the District that more students would move into Fox River Grove, but this has not happened. As the current trend of enrollment continues, the District cannot continue to have three sections at every grade level.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that Fox River Grove is not the only District facing these same problems. He has been in contact with the Hebron School District and their Superintendent is putting out a questionnaire to all the Superintendents in McHenry County requesting information on what they are doing on class sizes – how they are accommodating students during a time when it is not feasible to hire additional teachers and keep class sizes down. Dr. Mahaffy will present this information to the Board when it is received. In the meantime, Dr. Mahaffy stated that this issue could be looked at both long term and short term either by the Administrative team or as a co-team with the staff.

Mr. Knar stated that the decision is tough now because the classes are at 28-29 students when put into two classes. In three years, when the current kindergarten and first grade students come forward, that would be about 25 students per class in two sections. Therefore, Mr. Knar stated looking more closely at the short term is more feasible if enrollment remains around 50 students in the lower classes. Mr. Knar would like Class Size Update to remain on the June, 2009 agenda.

Dr. Mahaffy reminded the Board that the Administration had originally made the recommendation to the Board to hire two teachers for FY10 to fill the vacancies of a retiring teacher and a resigning teacher. The Board, in turn, voted for the Administration to fill only one of these two positions. Dr. Mahaffy will present updated information on revenues and expenditures at the June meeting including revised information on Hold Harmless.

Board President Pat Hughes stated that if any change to the original decision would be made, it would be based on numbers – enrollment, revenues and expenditures – current and future.

At the June meeting, Dr. Mahaffy will also present a three to five year financial projection from Tammie Beckwith Schallmo of PMA as well as a cash flow analysis for TAW's (Tax Anticipation Warrants). This information should also help with the determination of how soon the District will be in the red by keeping two or three sections at each grade level. Dr. Mahaffy stated that he will continue to look at other options and report back at the June meeting.

Board member Lisa Anderson stated that she reviewed class sizes of small, surrounding districts and they do go up in Junior High. This is a much harder decision in districts of our size.

There was no other Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Mahaffy stated that according to the current teacher contract, pay periods will be every other Friday. Language in a previous memorandum of understanding stated that the first pay period of each year would be the third Friday in August. Currently, that memorandum has expired; therefore, creating the need for a new one. In the future, this will be listed in the contract.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the FRGEA regarding pay periods was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Steve Knar (09-05-01). A roll call vote

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

A motion was made at 7:49 p.m. to close the regular Board meeting and go to public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$1,250,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

At this time Board President Hughes announced that the purpose of the bond sale is to complete various capital projects in the District. He then asked the Board for any further comments. Mr. Hughes then asked the public for any written comments. He then asked the public for any oral comments regarding the sale of bonds.

Mr. Hughes was asked to elaborate further on this project. Mr. Hughes stated that the District has a capital project including the replacement of the roof on the 1964 section and above the library, windows and doors at Algonquin Road School. The District needs to float a bond to pay for this needed renovation project. Some exterior doors will also be replaced at the Middle School. There were three different bidders for this project.

Mr. Hughes asked if there were any further questions or comments and there were none.

A motion to close the public hearing for the sale of bonds for the capital project was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to return to the regular Board meeting at 7:52 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Steve Knar. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy reminded the Board that last month the extra summer maintenance crew was approved in order to secure labor for the summer cleaning and maintenance. He then reviewed the Summer Cleaning and Maintenance Plan (09-05-02) for work to be performed inside and outside, and painting at both the Algonquin Road School and the Fox River Grove Middle School. The plan also includes the refinishing of the main gym and multi-purpose room floors at the MS, mulch around ARS and playgrounds, seal coating the parking lot and rebuilding boilers and installation of chemical tanks. Dr. Mahaffy also stated, pending finalization of the CTS project, additional funds were included to pay for any extra employment needs for emptying rooms, moving furniture, etc. The total cost is about \$34,654.

A motion to approve the 2009 Summer Cleaning and Maintenance Plan was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy reviewed the FY09-FY13 SD3 Capital Outlay Plan (09-05-03). Asphaltting the bus pen along with repairing the fence, posts and gate around the pen at ARS and replacement of the 9” lockers at the MS was recommended for the FY10 capital outlay. The cost/repairs to the

bus pen would come out of the Transportation Fund. Future recommendations include upgrading the phone system for FY11, replacement of the maintenance van for FY12 followed by some roof repairs/replacement at the MS for FY 13. Carpet replacement in the mobiles also needs to be considered in the near future as well as a runoff water/ice solution at ARS.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that on the 1964 section, the roof will now be replaced with black roofing because in this climate the white roofing really doesn't save that much energy. The white roof is recommended for hotter climates.

A motion to approve the Capital Outlay Plan for FY10 was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Pat Hughes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Tom Mollet and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the authorization for prepayment of 2009-2010 bus lease of three buses and the purchase of two buses was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Tom Mollet and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – Steve Knar. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 Substitute Teacher Handbook was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Kris Germain (09-05-04). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 Personnel Handbook was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Pat Hughes (09-05-04). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There was no other New Business.

## **POLICY**

A motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised Policies: Policies – 4:55 – Use of Credit and Procurement Cards, 4:130 – Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, 4:170 – Safety, 5:35 – Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, 5:120 – Ethics, 5:185 – Family and Medical Leave and 7:60 – Residence was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Steve Knar (09-05-05). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

## **SCHOOL REPORTS**

***Algonquin Road School – Ms. Machroli*** – The 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to the MS for an orientation on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration for FY10 is set for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3:00-8:00 p.m. and June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fun Day will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to Kindergarten graduation on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. ECE summer school will run June 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>. The attendance rate has improved this month.

***Fox River Grove Middle School – Dr. Mahaffy*** – Many 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities are approaching including the dinner dance on June 5<sup>th</sup>, awards night on June 9<sup>th</sup> and Great America trip on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend the graduation at Cary Grove High School on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Congratulations went out to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls and 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys for winning the

Class A Sectional Track Meet held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Carmel High School – their winning plaques will be added at the Middle School. Congratulations to all the students who qualified for the State Class A Track Meet -- Danny Peifer, Connor Bowen, Kayli Trausch, Natasha Geiger-Powell, Molly Bo-Hansen, Nicky Maciejczyk, Brittany Brandon, Aidan Baratta, Payton Smith, Matt Hughes, Will Mollet, Kendall Teufel, Ieva Burksaityte, Olivia Roehri, Michael Saxon, Jeffrey Yokup, Ricky Hurley, Tommy Martin, Sang Seo and Esteban Angeles. Coach Tom Mollet stated that even though it was a cold, wet start, Molly Bo-Hansen came in 10<sup>th</sup> in the high jump and Natasha Geiger-Powell came in 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1600. Mr. Hughes thanked Mr. & Mrs. Mollet and Mr. Phil Woods for all their hard work and dedication to this team. Mr. Mollet stated that the whole team did a great job and represented School District 3 very well.

Board President Pat Hughes and the rest of the Board also thanked Steve Pickering for volunteering his time with our students and giving them the opportunity to perform in a play.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

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

Board President Hughes passed around a thank you card.

There were no other comments.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:23 p.m. to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There will be action.

### **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to return from executive session to open session at 9:15 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to accept the resignation of Mrs. Karen Widdowson effective at the end of this school year was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to re-approve the 2009-2010 re-employment recommendations of non-certified staff from the April 2009 regular Board of Education meeting to appropriately replace Cecilia Rosas with Teresa Masterson was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Pat Hughes (09-05-06). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Abstain – Tom Mollet. Motion approved.

Board President Pat Hughes asked if there were any other items and there were none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye – All ayes. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

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Patrick B. Hughes  
President  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Lois M. Bowman  
Secretary  
BOARD OF EDUCATION