

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 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, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain and Susan McGarrigle. Also present were Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principals Karen Machroli and Eric Runck. Absent was Board member Lisa Anderson.

Sharon Hughes, volunteer coach for girls' soccer, signed in to address the Board. She currently has 24 girls trying out for the team and the current maximum is 20. She stated that of these 24 girls some are also on the track team as well. When a track meet overlaps soccer, she will be down to 14 or 15 players. Therefore, she is requesting the Board make an exception to the 20 maximum rule to make it 24 players in order to have a full team. She is not asking for anymore uniforms and each girl will continue to play at least 25% of the time. Mrs. Hughes further stated that she would hate to cut any girls knowing that she could play them. Mrs. Hughes will also discuss this at the parent meeting. She also thanked the Board for their time.

Board member Lisa Anderson entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that the maximums were originally set at 20 because of uniforms (which we do have 25 for soccer) and the percentage of time being played by each student since every student pays the same amount to play. This also should not be an issue when there are track meets the same night as soccer games.

A motion regarding the one time exception to increase in the size of the girls' soccer team will be added as item "D" under New Business.

WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

ARS Principal Karen Machroli introduced kindergarten teacher, Beth Diller and first grade teacher, Paulette Nichols, ARS and MS music teacher, Katrina O'Reilly-Greene and substitute teacher Elisa Buss. Mr. Runck introduced 5th grade teacher, Norene Carr, MS math and computer teacher, Shirley Slater and Steve Pickering who is the volunteer play director.

Dr. Mahaffy introduced Sharon Uslan from Chevron.

There were no other comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Steve Knar to approve the consent agenda, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 23, 2009, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 23, 2009, approve the February 2009 Treasurer's Report, approve the March 2009 Bills and Payroll and approve the February 2009 Activity Accounts Report. Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. O'Reilly-Greene presented an update on the Green Team as well as Earth Week and Earth Day. Each grade level will be doing an activity. A brown grocery bag from Dominick's will be given to each student at ARS to take home and decorate. Any middle school student who would like to participate can pick up a bag in the office. These bags will then be returned to Dominick's and will be used to pack groceries on Earth Day. Other activities include wearing green and having a waste-free lunch day. Mrs. Jean Masukevich will now be the PTO/parent liaison on the Green Team. The Board thanked Mrs. O'Reilly-Greene and the Green Team for all their efforts.

Dr. Mahaffy shared revised estimates of class sizes for 2009-2010 (09-03-01). Classes were broken down into two and three sections and compared to the grade level size recommendations guide. At this time only Kindergarten falls under the guide for the FY10 school year. Many grade levels are only off by one student. At this time, the administrative team is recommending keeping each grade level at three sections. If this does not happen, the administrative team recommends not changing third grade and 6th and 7th grade as these grades are at 29.5 and 31.5 students respectively for FY10 if lowered to two sections. Dr. Mahaffy stated that one teacher is retiring this year and one teacher is resigning at the end of this year. This will leave two positions for the Board to fill to have three sections or if the Board chooses to not fill either position, there still would be no RIF (reduction in force) issues for FY10.

Dr. Mahaffy also reviewed the cost savings by using four different scenarios – replacing the two teachers who are leaving; replacing only one teacher, replacing neither teacher, and replacing neither teacher and RIF one additional teacher (09-03-02). Dr. Mahaffy also presented a forecast through FY14 using current enrollment figures and the class size guidelines. Dr. Mahaffy stated that the lower you can keep the elementary grades (K, 1 & 2) the better it is. The administration's recommendation at this time is to keep three sections at every grade level. It is very difficult to go from three sections to two sections and two sections to three sections at the middle school. At the elementary school they are mostly self-contained and therefore it is a numbers game. The more students you have the less individual attention they will receive. Scheduling and continuity at the middle school becomes more difficult with two sections as well.

The Board stated that this is a very tough decision. Expenditures must be cut in order to maintain the budget. Various scenarios were discussed in detail. Monies from the State are decreasing or ceasing (i.e., Hold Harmless, etc.) over the next three years which go into the Education Fund. Multi-age grouping of students was briefly discussed – rather than having four large sections in two grade levels or six smaller sections, you could now have five sections of students between two grade levels. Multi-age grouping takes research, the right teacher(s) and the right program to succeed. The highest average class size in recent years was at 28 students. A large class in the science lab at the MS is very difficult. The Board will continue to review class sizes every year to determine whether to remain at three sections or reduce them to two sections.

A motion to move to fill one of the two open positions for the FY10 school year was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Steve Knar. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson and Steve Knar. Voting nay – Susan McGarrigle. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy reviewed the RFP (Request for Proposal) process (Article 19 of the School Code). Ms. Sharon Uslan of Chevron was in the audience in case there were any questions regarding the feasibility study done back in December and/or questions relating to the RFP process. The study was to present the needed projects of the District (roofing, windows, doors and possibly flooring at ARS) along with guaranteed energy savings. The RFP is written to bring in multiple proposals for the Board to consider if the Board decides to go through the RFP process. Notice of the RFP will be sent to the Illinois Procurement Board as well as a local newspaper as soon as tomorrow if the Board decides to do so. The actual RFP (requirements and format), areas of concern at ARS – roof, windows/doors and flooring), the Resolution and newspaper publication (09-03-03) were included in the Board packets. The proposal due date will be by 11:00 a.m. on April 10, 2009. The Board may decide not to act on any of the proposals at this time. The administration will bring a recommendation of whether to go ahead or not to the Board at the April 27th Board meeting. If the Board decides to move forward, this will authorize the school district to start negotiating for the project with one qualified vendor.

Funding/financing options for the projects were discussed. With the RFP, the provider will propose how to finance the project. The District could also choose to finance the project on our own using the District's limited current operating funds, debt certificates or by a limited tax non-referendum bond. Dr. Mahaffy stated that he has been investigating the working cash bonds which can be accessed through the District's debt service extension base which was established in 1994. This locked in rate is \$130,565 that we can access each year for 20 years. Therefore, at the current interest rate, the District could access \$1.5 million through this debt service extension base. These are working cash bonds and would go directly into the Working Cash Fund. These bonds can be permanently transferred to the Education Fund and then be transferred to the Operations and Maintenance Fund by a Hearing. If the District would use the whole \$1.5 million and there was an emergency, there is no additional money to access without going to a referendum. If the District chose to do a \$1.0 million project over 10 years, there would be an 8 cent increase to the bond and interest rate. It would go from .2936 to .3731. This equates to \$49 for a \$200,000 house or \$76 for a \$300,000 house and \$103 for a \$400,000 house per year in Fox River Grove. These are rough estimates based on the current interest rate.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that if the Board decided not to do the RFP, the B section of the roof at ARS still needs to be addressed. Rick Miller, district facilities director, for approximately \$15,000 with 10 years of minimal repairs, his time on the roof (shoveling snow and getting standing water off the roof) would be much less and virtually maintenance free except for checking the downspouts and gutters. His proposal includes roof drain wells and covers over existing exterior downspouts. He would cut swales to direct water to the current drains. Mr. Miller has done a few of these already and it is working. The roof seams that need to be repaired would cost about \$2,000 to \$3,000. Gutters will be added to roof A and guided to the roof drains above the library. An interior heater would be added to the external downspouts. Additional outlets would be installed for the use of heating cables. Any traffic damage on the roof will be repaired. Dr. Mahaffy stated that he would recommend this type of plan if the Board decided not to go with the RFP process or just go with the single roof project. Mr. Miller would be subcontracting some of the roof work out. Overall, he is trying to save the District money.

Ms. Uslan of Chevron stated that this RFP process is not totally about the energy savings; more importantly it is about getting a number of jobs completed in a minimal amount of time, any risks are handled by the vendor and to avoid inflationary costs. She further stated that if the Board decides to do just a single item, i.e., the roof, we do not need Chevron for the project.

A motion to approve the Resolution to issue a Request for Proposal for guaranteed energy savings contract was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Susan McGarrigle. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There was no other Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Softball for the spring was cancelled due to a lack of a coach and players. Track does now have enough players by including the 5th graders.

A motion to approve the following volunteer assistant coach – Justin Lowe for girls' soccer was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the modification to the non-certified employees salary notice for FY10 replacing Veteran's Day with Thanksgiving Friday was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A discussion of the Transportation Fund followed. It was suggested by Shelly Casella of Eder Casella (the school's auditors) to spend down this account if possible. These funds cannot be transferred to the Education Fund. The District will levy less or nothing in the Transportation Fund in the future.

A motion to approve the bus lease purchase agreement for three one year old 2009 International 71 passenger buses and the purchase of one 2008 International 71 passenger bus and one 2008 Chevrolet-Collins 24 passenger bus with the installation of rear air conditioning and no cameras was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm and Kris Germain. Voting nay – Steve Knar and Susan McGarrigle. Motion approved.

A motion to approve a one-time 2009 allowance of 20 to 24 players on the girls' soccer team was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There was no other New Business.

POLICY

None

SCHOOL REPORTS

Algonquin Road School – Ms. Machroli – ISAT testing went very well this year. Voting will be held in the art room on April 7th. Report cards will go home on April 16th followed by early release and parent/teacher conferences on the 17th. The February attendance was a bit lower due to many illnesses. The PTO sponsored mother/son skate night was a nice change and everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

Fox River Grove Middle School – Mr. Runck – There was great attendance during ISAT week. Students who were in attendance all week with no tardies and were on task during test time could participate in a volleyball game against staff members. Congratulations go out to Janet Mollet and the many volunteers for doing a great job during the volleyball tournament. We received a lot of positive feedback from the coaches and fans. April activities include a bullying assembly on the 6th sponsored by the PTO, elections in the gym on the 7th, and a Joint Advisory meeting on the 8th. The band and chorus students will be performing at ARS on the 16th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mahaffy discussed the gifted program with the Board. This is the first year we have not held it for either 3rd or 4th grade. This is a self funded program. There was no interest this year to hold the program nor was there a teacher available. The Board recommended offering it one more time to see if there is any interest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board member Gerry Blohm attended the SEDOM Governing Board Meeting held on March 11th. SEDOM is experiencing a decline in enrollment. A review of their programs was presented. SEDOM did receive a grant for their green roof project where they include solar

panels on the roof. Extra energy collected by these panels will be sold back to the energy company. They expect the roof to pay for itself in five or six years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Mahaffy was asked to remind the Board and the audience that people who live in Precincts 9, 33 and 45 should vote as usual at the Middle School location. There was an error in the Village Newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:45 p.m. to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, 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 10:29 p.m. was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Pat Hughes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to re-employ Mr. Eric Runck as MS Principal for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Abstaining – Steve Knar. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the re-employment of tenured faculty for FY10 – Beth Achey, Stephanie Barham, Jennie Bebber, Mary Ellen Bebber, Pat Beebe, Alisa Bruns, Kathleen Cooker, John Danley, Jackie Grosse, Greg King, Rick Knapp, Lora LeGrand, Don Lewan, Sharon-Diane McAtee, Larry Merkel, Mary Beth Miller, Paulette Nichols, Katrina O'Reilly-Greene, Amy Picuch, Laura Richards, Barb Savage, Kim Scherzer, Cindy Shaw, Shirley Slater, Donna Stick, Jane Szybowicz, Marge Tietz, Debbie Wagner, Kathy Wagner and Debra Yester – was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Tom Mollet (09-03-04). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the re-employment of 4th year non-tenured faculty for FY10, thus granting tenure – Beth Diller – was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Steve Knar (09-03-04). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the re-employment of non-tenured faculty for FY10 – Matt Benrus, Shaina Blau, Norene Carr, Susan Dilsaver, Kathy Gira, Heather Kalland, JoAnn Limpus, Gina Martucci, Kim Neilson, Jaime White and Karen Widdowson – was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Pat Hughes (09-03-04). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Steven Ostergaard was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Steve Knar. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. 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 10:33 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Kris Germain. 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