

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 – 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 Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, and Pat Hughes. Also present were Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principals Karen Machroli and Eric Runck.

**WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board President Pat Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ARS Principal Ms. Machroli introduced staff members, Mrs. Beth Achey and Mrs. O'Reilly-Greene, and parents, Mrs. Buss, Mr. Pickering and Mr. Clemons.

Mrs. Beth Achey, in representing the Fox River Grove Education Association (FRGEA), presented the Board Members and Administration the FRGEA'S formal letter of their Request to Bargain beginning as soon as possible after March 1, 2010 (10-01-01). Currently, only Mrs. Achey and Mrs. Grosse are confirmed as representatives for the FRGEA. Both Mrs. Achey and Mrs. Grosse were former Board members and are looking forward to negotiations that will be fair for all parties. Mrs. Achey thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Clemons thanked Dr. Mahaffy for meeting with him regarding the admissions policy for School District 3. Current Board policy states that students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> to enter Kindergarten and 6 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> to enter the first grade. Mr. Clemons requested the Board have flexibility and allow the opportunity for a child to be observed and tested by the school psychologist to see if there is a possibility for early entrance to school. This decision would be in the hands of the experts.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that this subject will be revisited under Item VIII. - Policy.

There were no other comments or questions at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Tom Mollet to approve the consent agenda, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of December 14, 2009, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of December 14, 2009, approve the December 2009

Treasurer's Report, approve the Bills and Payroll from December 12, 2009 to January 22, 2010 and approve the December Activity Accounts Report. Gerry Blohm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

### **REQUEST FOR RECORDS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. O'Reilly-Greene presented the Board an update on the Green Team. The Green Team is proposing to have First Friday Low-Waste Lunch Days on the first Friday of the month. Parents will be reminded of this new event in advance as well as tips on how to pack a waste-free lunch. The goal of the Green Team is to encourage and educate both parents and students to make low-waste more of a habit. With the assistance of Mrs. Jackie O'Mara, approximately \$250 was earned through the Lights for Learning Project. The Green Team intends to purchase two public recycling bins to be placed near the entrance of both buildings.

Mrs. O'Reilly-Greene also invited everyone to come to the spaghetti dinner fundraiser and social event sponsored by the Music Department at 1776 Restaurant in Crystal Lake on Sunday, February 21, 2010.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 certified seniority list was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Lisa Anderson (10-01-02). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 non-certified seniority list was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Gerry Blohm (10-01-02). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Devin Bright. Voting nay – none. Abstain – Tom Mollet. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the registration fees for 2010-2011 -- \$130 for kindergarten through seventh grade and \$165 for eighth grade which includes a graduation fee was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that as part of the new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) the Board periodically needs to approve copying rates.

A motion to approve \$.10 per copy for letter and legal black and white above 50 pages per FOIA request plus the actual cost of using a local printer for color or special size documents was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There were no Volunteer Coaches to approve at this time.

Dr. Mahaffy reviewed class size estimates for 2010-2011 using three sections and two sections per grade level (10-01-03). If the Board chooses to go down to two sections in grades 4 through 8, some classes would be reaching the 30 mark. In some grade levels below 4<sup>th</sup> grade going into two sections, the size would be in the mid twenties. The Kindergarten figures should be more accurate next month once students start registering for the preschool screenings and kindergarten registration. Over the next few months the Board will need to decide if any grade level should be reduced to two sections. Due to the retirement of Mrs. McAtee at the end of this school year, the Board will need to decide to either rehire for that position or not rehire and save money due to the natural attrition of staff to fill that position. Mrs. McAtee will certainly be missed in the District. However, if the Board decides to fill this position, it will be posted on the website. Dr. Mahaffy stated that it may be more palatable to the community to reduce several grade levels to two sections at one time rather than just picking one grade level. The community values the low class sizes in School District 3. Dr. Mahaffy stated that one option would be to continue along keeping class sizes low and the District would begin to run into a deficit with lower state and federal funding. When the lower classes begin to hit the middle school, the District would lower the classes to two sections, because having classes with 24-26 students is more palatable at the Middle School than in first or second grade. Another option would be when a smaller section begins to approach the Middle School and the opportunity arises to save money and not do a Reduction in Force (RIF) because of a retiree, it may be wise to take advantage of that opportunity. In this instance, the District is not hiring people and therefore would not need to RIF these individuals the following year. With the recommendation of Board member Lisa Anderson, Dr. Mahaffy will be putting together a committee to look at alternative educational ideas (i.e., multi-age, looping, etc.) in anticipation of larger class sizes. Board member Tom Mollet requested that Dr. Mahaffy add the 2009-2010 enrollment as a column for comparison purposes. The Board will need to make a decision by the March Board meeting on the PE position at Algonquin Road School. Confirmation for three classes at the Kindergarten level should be decided by the April Board meeting if enrollment is low.

Dr. Mahaffy also mentioned that with the elimination of Textbook Loan dollars, administration may be recommending putting off the textbook adoption for social studies next year.

Dr. Mahaffy will present at the next Board meeting a summary of revenues the District will not be receiving through Hold Harmless, ARRA and other federal and state funding.

Dr. Mahaffy reviewed the snow removal, landscaping and de-icing estimate comparison with the Board (10-01-04). The agreement with Ramiro's Landscaping expires on February 13, 2010. Dr. Mahaffy proposed going with two different vendors. Dr. Mahaffy recommended VIP Services Group for landscape management for a total of \$10,352.00 for both buildings from April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This amount includes summer clean up, fall clean up, lawn mowing services (estimated at 30 mowings), pruning, weeding, and edging. Ringers Landscaping was recommended for snow removal (1" or more) and de-icing of the parking lots and sidewalks and steps. Spot salting will still be done by the District.

A motion to approve VIP Services Group as the grounds maintenance contractor for \$10,352.00 was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting

aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve Ringers Landscaping as the snow removal contractor for \$6,300 for snow removal and \$2,250 for de-icing/salting was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Board President Hughes asked if there was any other New Business and there was none.

## **POLICY**

Dr. Mahaffy reviewed changes to Policies 2:200, 2:250, 5:10, 6:60, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50 and 7:180 for their first reading. As referenced earlier, Policy 7:50 – School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, which covers eligibility criteria, procedures, timeline and fees for early entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade was discussed. Both the revised policy and Early Entrance Information sheet for parents were included in the Board packets (10-01-05). Current policy requires students to be 5 years of age (for Kindergarten) and 6 years of age (for First Grade) on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year.

A motion to approve the first reading of the following revised policies – 2:200 – Types of School Board Meetings, 2:250 – Access to District Public Records, 5:10 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, 6:60 – Curriculum Content, 7:10 – Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 – Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:50 – School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools and 7:180 – Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies – 2:20 – Powers and Duties of the School Board, 2:40 – Board Member Qualifications, 2:110 – Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers, 3:40 – Superintendent, 4:30 – Revenue and Investments, 4:40 – Incurring Debt, 4:100 – Insurance Management, 4:110 – Transportation, 4:140 – Waiver of Student Fees, 4:160 – Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds, 5:30 – Hiring Process and Criteria, 5:90 – Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, 5:100 – Staff Development Program, 5:120 – Ethics, 5:250 – Leaves of Absence, 5:280 – Duties and Qualifications, 5:330 – Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves, 6:50 – School Wellness, 7:190 – Student Discipline and 8:100 – Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

## **SCHOOL REPORTS**

***Algonquin Road School – Ms. Machroli*** – There were some very nice results through the winter AimsWeb testing. MAP winter testing for math and reading for students with IEP’s, students who are receiving Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions and the Title I reading students will begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>. All students take these tests in the fall and spring. There is a PTO movie night

scheduled for Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. The pre-school screenings and Kindergarten registration will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Two assemblies were also held for the students – “Ease the Tease” and “Train Safety”. ARS will be doing a 100 day food drive.

***Fox River Grove Middle School – Mr. Runck*** – The Sports Award Night will be held on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. There is an early release on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be working on the writing process and doing a gap analysis at the grade levels. The solo and ensemble contest is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>. Eighth grade graduation pictures will be taken from 5-7 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> in the multipurpose room. There is a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade dance on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Pending no additional snow days, 8<sup>th</sup> graduation will be on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Otherwise, graduation would need to be moved to Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at CGHS or move graduation back to the MS. Mr. Runck thanked Dana and Edie Carr for donating six filing cabinets to the MS. The Beta Club will be doing a “Change for a Change in Haiti” program. A special thank you to Maddy Katchen for coming up with the slogan.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

The annual Joint Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School to review the guidelines of the parent-student handbooks and review state and federal grants. Board members Kris Germain and Pat Hughes will serve on this committee.

The Board decided not to convene a Capital Improvement Committee at this time. Instead, Dr. Mahaffy, in conjunction with the principals and the maintenance department, will present a plan of major capital improvements for the next several years (i.e., roof, boilers, buses, copiers, concrete, etc.) to the Board at one meeting for discussion and voting on such a plan could be done at the following Board meeting.

Dr. Mahaffy recommended the creation of a Quality Instruction Committee in order to look at alternative educational practices in a down economy using less staff. Members of the community, staff, Board members and parents will be invited to be part of this committee. Results from this committee will be shared with the full Board. Board members Lisa Anderson and Devin Bright will be on this committee with Gerry Blohm as the alternate.

Dr. Mahaffy reported to the Board that CTS did remove the floor tile in four rooms at ARS over the holidays. One of the tile installers indicated a crack and there could be moisture. CTS was not going to tell the installers to put the floor down if there was a problem. The job was aborted and carpet tiles were installed. CTS along with an independent moisture evaluator will do tests on those rooms to see if there is an issue. These floors will now be completed over the summer. The final payment to CTS has not been issued.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

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

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:50 p.m. to consider information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, and for the purpose of conducting a semi-annual review of lawfully closed meeting minutes was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, and Devin Bright. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

## **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to return from executive session to open session at 9:29 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to keep the Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meetings closed to the public that were held on June 22, 2009, July 20, 2009, August 17, 2009, September 28, 2009, October 26, 2009 and November 16, 2009 and the executive session minutes of September 21, 2009 closed was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Susan McGarrigle. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the employment of Alyson Phillips as a part-time lunch aide for the remainder of the FY10 school year was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Tom Mollet. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm and Pat Hughes. 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 9:30 p.m. was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Tom Mollet. 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