

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JULY 20, 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 7:03 p.m. Members present were Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, and Susan McGarrigle. Also present were Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principal Karen Machroli.

**WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board President Pat Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting. ARS Principal Karen Machroli introduced the following individuals: Beth Diller, Paulette Nichols, Terrie Smialek, Penny Cole, Denise Rose and Steve Pickering. Also in the audience were representatives from CTS, Michelle James and Dave Stengrand, who will be presenting later in the agenda.

One person signed in to address the Board.

Mrs. Daphne Monroy questioned the Board as to if they knew how many students entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade have IEP's or 504 Plans as compared to previous years and if this is taken into consideration when determining the quantity of class sections. Her second question focused on if another teacher or teachers currently in the Middle School could possibly teach an extra section of math or science; basically the core subjects. Dr. Mahaffy stated that if teachers were used for five extra periods a day, this would equal a teacher. If the overall concern is one period, say math, that is a different scenario. Any staff member taking on an extra period would need to be paid for a sixth period which would end up being one-sixth of their salaried rate depending on their rate (essentially overtime). Currently we have three teachers, Mrs. Barham, Mrs. Bruns and Mrs. Picuch with a Type 3 Certification.

Board member Knar suggested that a solution may be an aide for the whole day. Mr. Knar also suggested the possibility of hiring a part-time teacher for the core subjects, reading and math, which would be 33% of a full day salary. The grade level teachers would need to prepare the lesson plans for this part-time teacher; otherwise, the District would need to pay this teacher for planning as well.

Board President Pat Hughes again reminded the Board that having two sections is doable and in line with other Districts in the area. He thanked Mrs. Monroy for her comments.

There were no other comments from the audience.

At this time retiring transportation supervisor and lead bus driver, Chris Jacob, was recognized for her 29 years of driving for our District. School District 3 Board, Administration, staff and students wish Chris the best in her retirement!

### **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 June 22, 2009, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 22, 2009, approve the June 2009 Treasurer's Report, approve the July 2009 Bills and Payroll and approve the May, 2009, June, 2009 and the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Activity Accounts Report. Tom Mollet 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.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Michelle James and Dave Stengrand of CTS presented an update on the progress of work being done at Algonquin Road School. The roofing replacement is almost complete. Trimming, some electrical, piping reinstallation and an internal drain still need to be addressed. Demolition and asbestos abatement of the old flooring will be completed this week. The quartz tile has been laid in one classroom at this time. The hallways will be mainly white with a random pattern of blue. Carpeting in the library will be installed once tiling is completed. Mrs. Walton will begin waxing once a room is tiled. Ms. James stated that the windows and doors are set to be installed the week of August 17<sup>th</sup> which is later than originally anticipated. CTS is working with the manufacturer and is hoping this installation could be pushed up to the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Installation should take approximately 10 working days. Ms. James stated that even if only 50% of the windows are installed prior to the first day of school, further installation would be completed after school hours with no disruption to classes. Any prep work will be done ahead of time. Mr. Stengrand stated that the windows and doors will be stored in a large trailer prior to installation. Teachers will be given at least a day lead time prior to installation of their windows. Blind removal and reinstallation is the responsibility of the District. Ms. James stated that the timeline is as follows: flooring should be completed the end of July or beginning of August, roof work will be completed the end of July and windows and doors by the end of August. Completion of the ARS office is top priority.

Dr. Mahaffy reviewed the current class sizes for FY10 (09-07-01). Currently, more students have moved out of the District than have moved in.

Board member Lisa Anderson voiced her concern about an additional student now added to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. If one more student comes in, there will be 30 students in one of these sections which would be 3 students above the recommended maximum.

Board President Pat Hughes stated that the concern is duly noted and that the Board will continue each month to review class sizes and sections. Mr. Hughes further stated that it is a financial decision and students will still receive a solid, quality education.

Board member Knar felt that class size and number of sections warranted further discussion at this Board meeting. Mr. Knar felt that based on the District's financial numbers, a third section is possible.

Board members thoroughly discussed the current 5<sup>th</sup> grade class size, number of sections, budget, five-year projection, criteria determining the effects, if any, on having a larger class, class sizes of surrounding districts and the original recommendation of the Administration. Scheduling wise, adding a new section midyear would be extremely difficult, but could be done.

Dr. Mahaffy reminded the Board that any special education students are pulled out of the regular classroom for reading, math and language. This is based on the student's IEP. At this time, that would be approximately 4 students who would not be in the regular classroom setting during those core academic subjects. There is an aide in the classroom to help these students. An aide is also available for any students on a 504 Plan. The two 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are fine with this decision and will continue to do their best.

Board member Steve Knar made a motion authorizing the Administration to hire a teacher to split the 5<sup>th</sup> grade into three sections for one year.....

Before any seconds, Board President Pat Hughes asked for any further comments.

Board member Tom Mollet stated that he felt the decision had already been made and he is staying with the original decision based on one additional student. Mr. Mollet stated that this issue also remains a financial question as to the District beginning to save money for the future.

Mr. Hughes agreed with these comments especially in light of students being pulled out of the classroom for special education and that the District's class size is still way below surrounding districts. Mr. Hughes recommended staying with the original vote. He further stated that this decision is not just a financial decision and the Board is responsible to all voters of the community. Statistically, we have seen that larger class sizes have continued to do well.

Board member Blohm stated that this decision tears at the core of his professional, personal and community life. As a teacher, 30 students in the classroom can become overwhelming. It is not ideal, but is doable. Neighboring school districts have larger class sizes. Fox River Grove has the highest taxes in McHenry County and having 17-18 students in a class is a luxury. It is not a question of how, but when, does the Board need to make the financial decision to go to smaller sections.

Board member Germain stated that class size and the quality of education has been something she has always been proud of. The rationale of how many class sections is both emotional and financial. She would remain with the original decision of two sections only if the Board continues to review class size with definite criteria. She felt we needed to be responsible to this group of students as well as the rest of the community.

Board member McGarrigle stated that both her students were in the larger classes but feels that the money is well spent in adding the third section at 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Superintendent Tim Mahaffy stated that the problem with Fox River Grove is that the number of students in a grade level is right at the mark that either we have very small classes with three

sections or have 27-30 students in a class with two sections. If class size is a huge value and we do not want to go back to our taxpayers, it may be advisable to look at a group of grades and cut them back to two sections in the future especially as State funding continues to decrease. The taxpayers carry the burden of education.

Board member Knar restated the motion of the hiring of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for three sections. Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye -- Steve Knar, Gerry Blohm, Susan McGarrigle and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – Pat Hughes, Kris Germain and Tom Mollet. Motion carried.

Before voting, Board President Pat Hughes clarified that he did cut a section at his daughter's class (29 in one class) so he does know how it feels and there was no substantial difference in test scores from 29 students vs. 18 students in a class. He felt that this is a financial and emotional issue and voted no.

Review of class sizes and teaching solutions will remain on future Board agendas. Dr. Mahaffy suggested the formation of a subcommittee comprised of parents, teachers and administration in order to review any alternatives to the District's situation.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was any other Old Business and there was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion to go to Public Hearing to receive public comments concerning the intent of the Board to transfer \$1,250,000 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of the District and all persons desiring to be heard will have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Kris Germain. 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.

Board President Pat Hughes stated that the reason for the proposed Interfund Transfer is to comply with the Illinois School Code so that the District may use the proceeds of the District's recent working cash bond sale to pay for its capital projects this summer. Mr. Hughes asked if the Board had any additional comments on the matter. There were no comments at this time. Mr. Hughes asked if the Board received any written comments on the matter.

Superintendent Mahaffy stated that no written comments were received.

Mr. Hughes asked if the public had any oral comments on this matter and there was one. Mr. Pickering questioned an article in the Daily Herald on the construction/payment process of the ARS project. Mr. Pickering referred to the article regarding the transferring of funds and that the article indicated that a District needed to go to referendum for this purpose.

Superintendent Mahaffy stated that the Daily Herald is responding to a court case with West Chicago Public Schools. Prior to School District 3 funding this project with the debt service extension base, all avenues were investigated. The District worked with its attorneys and financial advisors as well as Chapman & Cutler who provided all the documents for the bond sale. Our people contacted the Daily Herald. The article is confusing as it ties our District to District 300 for another reason. In Dr. Mahaffy's opinion and from what he understands, funds

were not properly transferred in the other school district. The following Resolutions to be presented as well as all public notices took care of this matter. Lynda Givens of Chapman & Cutler explained the whole procedure to the Daily Herald.

Board President Hughes stated that all individuals desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed Interfund Transfer and asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

A motion to close the Public Hearing and return to the regular Board meeting was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Gerry Blohm.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was any further discussion before closing the meeting and then asked for a roll call vote.

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.

The motion carried and the Hearing is adjourned.

Mr. Hughes stated that the next item on the agenda would be a motion to approve the Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that because the Board members received the full Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund in their Board packets (09-07-02), Mrs. Bowman will read only the Resolution title. Dr. Mahaffy further stated School Code Section 20-9 allows a school district to do this abatement from working cash. The abatement amount was received on July 15, 2009 from the recent working cash bond sale. This is a permanent transfer to the Education Fund.

Board President, Pat Hughes, asked Board Secretary, Lois Bowman, to read the following final Resolution:

Resolution abating the working cash fund of Consolidated School District Number 3, McHenry County, Illinois.

A motion to approve the Resolution abating the working cash fund of Consolidated School District Number 3, McHenry County, Illinois was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Lisa Anderson. 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.

Mr. Hughes asked for a motion to approve the Resolution directing the transfer of \$1,137,533.16 from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Dr. Mahaffy went on to say that again the Board members received the full Resolution directing the transfer of \$1,137,533.16 from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund in their Board packets (09-07-03). This Resolution, in accordance with Illinois School Code 17-2A, authorized the transfer of the funds from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The Resolution also notes that tonight's public hearing and notifications were carried out. The Resolution also authorizes the transfer of funds to the District's Capital

Projects Fund in accordance with Section 100.50(d)(2) of Title 23 of the Illinois Administrative Code. This allows the District to pay CTS out of Capital Projects as the District receives the invoices.

Board President, Pat Hughes, asked Board Secretary, Lois Bowman, to read the following final Resolution:

Resolution directing the transfer of \$1,137,533.16 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of Consolidated School District Number 3, McHenry County, Illinois.

A motion to approve the Resolution directing the transfer of \$1,137,533.16 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of Consolidated School District Number 3, McHenry County, Illinois was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Kris Germain. 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 Resolution Extending IDOT Approval of Serious Safety Hazards was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Gerry Blohm (09-07-04). 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 approve the 2009-2010 Bread Pricing (09-07-05) 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.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 Grocery Pricing (09-07-05) was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Pat Hughes. 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.

A motion to approve the Region IV Special Education Agreement between Prairie Grove District 46, Cary District 26, Crystal Lake District 47 and FRG District 3 (09-07-06) was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Gerry Blohm. 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.

The Board requested a meeting in February to discuss the Capital Outlay plans prior to asking for approval later in the spring. Volunteers for this meeting will be secured in January.

At this time, Board member Knar asked to table item I, under New Business – Non-certified Salary Process.

Dr. Mahaffy requested direction on what action items the Board would want him to provide at next months' Board meeting on the non-certified salary process. Information requested included a discussion of how our current salary process is conducted, how surrounding districts determine or negotiate annual pay, use of a salary schedule, steps and rates and/or if the Board determines the raises. The salary schedule with bumps was initiated by Superintendent Hill in order to

bring the non-certified employee rates of pay to be more in line with other districts. Salary notices for non-certified employees are usually given out in early May. This item will be on the August agenda.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that in doing some initial figuring, comparing non-certified staff in the same position for FY09 to FY10, the overall percentage including the bumps is a 3.1% raise on average -- some are less and some are higher. The total new dollars will be \$20,763 for non-certified staff in the same positions.

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

### **POLICY**

A motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised Policy: Policy 7:230 – Misconduct by Students with Disabilities – was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Lisa Anderson. 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.

### **SCHOOL REPORTS**

None.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Board member Gerry Blohm volunteered to represent District 3 at the SEDOM Governing Board meetings.

Building tours for the Board members will be held prior to the August 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (ARS @ 5:40 and the MS @ 6:20 p.m.).

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

All carpeting has now been removed and the floors are ready for the new tile. Kingston Tile will be providing commercial school grade bond area rugs for a total cost of \$604.00.

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

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:00 p.m. to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District and to engage in the semi-annual review of lawfully closed minutes was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Steve Knar. 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.

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 Kris Germain and seconded by Tom Mollet. 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 keep the Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Board of Education meetings held on December 15, 2008, January 26, 2009, February 23, 2009, March 16, 2009, April 27, 2009 and May 18, 2009 and the Executive Session Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting on May 26, 2009 closed due to their confidential nature was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Lisa Anderson. 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 approve the employment of Eric Rovin as the School Psychologist and Special Needs/RTI Coordinator for 2009-2010 was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Gerry Blohm. 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 9:17 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Steve Knar. 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