

Dist. 205 Board of Education

June 11, 2013

7:30 pm – 10:25 pm

All Present

Public: 60 Staff: 8 Press: 4

Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 5:30 p.m. for employment of employee, pending litigation, contract negotiations, closed session minutes discussion/review and approval of closed session minutes of 5/29/13.

President Collins called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: Nine individuals spoke of their unhappiness with the newest moves of personnel at Conrad Fischer elementary school concerning the ELL (English Language Learners) program at the school. It was stated by several that they are unhappy with the state's requirement that students that speak Spanish at home must be taught by bilingual teachers who teach the child content in their native language. These regulations segregate the students, creating racial tensions and bullying. They also spoke of non-residents attending Conrad Fischer School and stated that this needs to be watched closer.

Two others spoke of buying their dream homes on Elmhurst's south side and having the houses flood after the last large rain event. Both encouraged the Board to consider the City's flood plan.

Superintendent's Communications:

A. City Stormwater Flood Plan: Several members of the Elmhurst City staff and Burke Engineering were available at this meeting to discuss the City's flood plan. Elmhurst City Manager, Jim Grabowski, introduced Christopher Burke, the City's storm water consultant to give an overview of the plan. Besides discussing the 3 initial sites (Bryan softball field, Jackson and Madison soccer fields), the group introduced a plan to use the Bryan "gravel pit" for additional rainwater storage.

Mr. Grabowski handed out the City's written responses to the School Board's 41 questions about the concepts. It can be found at: <http://www.boarddocs.com/il/elmhurst/Board.nsf/Public>.

B. FY'14 Budget: The Board Improvement Committee is about 75% complete with their Community presentation. Some Board members were concerned about a communications plan and started naming group to whom this presentation should be shown. It was advised that the first group presented to should be the Superintendent's Advisory Committee. District Director of Communications and Public Relations, Melea Smith should be involved in this plan.

C.: Review of ELL Implementation Plan: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Charles Johns, gave an overview on the ELL (English Language Learner) plan at Conrad Fischer. He stated that Best Practices is giving the student as much information concerning content in their native language as possible. ESL (English as a Second Language) is not equivalent to a bilingual program. There will be a Parent Q & A for the Conrad Fischer community on June 25th at Fischer.

Superintendent Pruneau addressed some additional issues recently brought up by parents.

- When a student initially starts as a D205 student, the residency requirements are very stringent. For continuing students, it is a manpower situation. If a staff or community member reports a possible non-resident attending D205 schools, the District hires a private investigator to follow-up.
- Class size for ELL students are 10% smaller than general education class by mandate.
- A student who has English as their primary language cannot be in a bilingual class.

The Board accepted the minutes for the 5/29/13 Board meetings as presented.

Board Committee Reports:

A. Mrs Ebner reported on the **Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting**. The committee heard about writing and creating a K-12 continuum. Longitudinal assessment was also discussed. Preparation for the Board retreat continued.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Report
- To authorize destruction of verbatim recordings of closed session minutes
- Donation (Emerson) – PTA paying for 5 wireless access points (\$2540).
- Donation (Edison) – PTA paying for 2 wireless access points (\$1,051).
- Donation (Field) – PTA to buy iPads (\$5,500).
- Donation (Bryan) – 2 Student response systems (\$3800).

Mr. Collins removed: Revised Policy #5:120 - Ethics (Second Reading and adoption) – To allow D205 employees to tutor students for compensation as long as there is no direct conflict. He stated that he was happy with this change in policy. Although an individual student's teacher may not be hired by a family to help the student, another District teacher may do so. This teacher will be aware of the curriculum and intent of the instruction. Motion carried.

Mr. McDonough removed: To open designated closed session minutes and keep all other closed session minutes closed. He said that the Jan. 10th meeting minutes needed slight editing before release. Motion carried with removal of the Jan. 10th minutes.

Superintendent's Agenda – Action Items The Board approved:

- Resolution Approving Bank Depositories.
- Resolution Appointment to DuPage Occupational Education System (DAOS) Board of Directors (Dr. Charles Johns)

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday July 16th at 7:30 pm. All committee meetings as well as the regularly scheduled Board meetings are held at the D205 Center:

- Thurs., June 13, Special Board of Education meeting. 6:00 pm.
- Tues., June 18, Finance and Operations Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm.
- Wed., June 19, Special Board of Education meeting. 6:00 pm.
- Wed., June 26, Special Board of Education meeting, 6:00 pm

Action on Closed Session: The Board voted unanimously for the dismissal of Barb Ramel for insubordination. They also agreed to a settlement of a class action lawsuit claiming the district "willfully and improperly" denied members of the central office staff overtime and wages over the prior six years. This settlement does not admit any wrongdoing by the District. It caps the maximum payments at \$300,000 total to the plaintiffs and provides \$72,500 to the plaintiff's attorneys plus additional payment of court costs and the cost of the court-supervised settlement manager.
