

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 46, held on April 21, 2008 at Woodview School, 340 Alleghany Road, Grayslake, IL

CALL TO

ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Linder

ROLL CALL: Linder, Facklam, Weinert, Hannan, Coe Peek, Rohrer, and Garcia. Supt. Correll & Aggen were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance took place at this time.

Jeff Knapp presented three Woodview students (Emma Henne, Ben Vogeler, Kaylee Staral) from Mrs. Houck's class recognizing the book their class and Ms. Bleyer's class wrote on Woodview citizenship themes (citizenship, responsibility, and sharing). After finishing their writing, the students illustrated the book with Woodview's Information Specialist, Mrs. Tarnowski. The writing/pictures were sent to a publisher and Woodview is now the proud owner of the book, "The Golden Ticket to Lifelong Learning."

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Facklam and seconded by Weinert to amend the agenda for 4/21/08 to remove Discussion Item I. Strategic Plan and include a discussion regarding emergency planning, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye	Facklam - aye
Weinert – aye	Rohrer - aye
Coe Peek – aye	Hannan – aye
Garcia – aye	

7 ayes 0 nays 0 absent Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was offered at 7:40 p.m.

Becky Dressendorfer shared that on Friday April 11th she was informed that the staffing plan included the elimination of 2/3 of the speech & language therapy department and 1/3 of the occupational therapy department in order to eliminate part time speech therapists and paraprofessional employees. Becky informed the Board that there is an enormous shortage of therapists across the nation, and in Lake County Public Schools, there are currently 59 full or part time positions for SLPs and 15 full and part time positions for occupational therapists. Becky asked the Board what they will do if they are unable to find full time employees, due to shortages in these professional areas, to replace part time positions.

Sue Follansbee, Sarah Vermont, Chris Kenerhan, Brittany Eikleberry and Becky Meyer shared that they were recently told by the Director of Pupil Services that speech pathologists, speech assistants and possibly hearing itinerants would be

receiving letters of termination if they are a part time employee because the District was moving in a different direction. It was mentioned they were told part time staff were no longer meeting the needs of the District; therefore, these positions are being eliminated. The staff members stated it appears that five full time speech positions will not be staffed this coming school year, which they believe will prevent the District from being able to meet legal IEP needs. It was mentioned that the shortage in these specialty areas across Lake and Cook counties may make it difficult to find a full time replacements for these positions which would require the District to hire contractual personnel costing the District a minimum of \$900,000. The staff shared their concern regarding the financial burden these cuts will have on the District and asked that the Board review the financial repercussions before eliminating these positions.

Kathy Burnstein, Mary Pat Henke, and Melanie Lard asked the Board to consider the price they are willing to pay to minimize special services staff. The Board was also asked if there was collaboration in considering costs of retaining students in special education due to possible limited resources in which to serve them for the coming years. The staff members asked the board what the quality of therapy will be in District 46 when therapists will be required to carry maximum caseloads. It was mentioned that maximized case loads and travel time between buildings will not allow for the necessary collaboration, planning, quality evaluations, and meeting requirements for mandated paperwork. The staff members shared that recent literature reports indicate that school districts who moved to a work load system vs. a case load or head count system have reported improved student outcomes, increased staff & parent satisfaction, and increased recruitment and retention of employees. Kathy, Mary Pat, and Melanie shared that they feel the proposed staffing plan will have a negative impact on students, staff, and parents. They asked the Board how a trusting and positive relationship with parents will continue if students are not receiving the attention and help needed to meet their needs.

Casey Bateman stated she feels there was a lack of communication regarding the staffing plan. Casey stated that she feels this staffing plan disregards the valuable contribution of competent staff members, and ignores the years of experience, team building, and collaboration vital to initiatives such as RTI. Casey mentioned that when changes occurred in the past, teachers were afforded the courtesy of a conversation ahead of time to prepare the teacher for change, an explanation was given, and the teacher was given an opportunity to provide his or her perspective. Casey stated that she feels these courtesies were not afforded to the staff and expressed her concerns regarding how staff members received information about their employment for the following school year. Casey shared that staff members are considering leaving District 46 because they feel the proposed staffing plan will compromise their ability to properly services students, and because of the way they are currently being treated. Casey stated that as a community member, taxpayer, and employee of District 46 she asking the Board to consider this perspective.

Heather Lennartz shared that her basement has been flooded multiple times due to runoff from Woodview School's property. Heather explained that the water flowed into the basement window well and the window eventually broke due to the enormous amount of water buildup during a storm. Heather stated that due to research findings, she believes the District's property is not up to code in order to comply with ordinances regulating storm water runoff. Heather informed the Board of the various roadblocks she has encountered preventing the resolution of this situation, and shared conversations she has had with individual officials representing District 46. Heather requested the District to bring Woodview's property up to code in a manner that will not cause further harm to neighboring property values or the beauty of the neighborhood. Heather further requested the District to compensate her for her losses.

Supt. Correll shared a letter she received from Mark Hopkins, ARCON Representative, proposing that the ball field be lowered a few feet in order to resolve the runoff issue and prevent the need to cut down trees. Supt. Correll mentioned that the drawings from the architect would be available for review.

Eugenia Long shared the financial and emotional hardships Heather Lennartz and her family has faced due to the flooding of their basement. Eugenia informed the Board that homeowner insurance does not pay for flood damage and that the damage done to Heather's home is over \$20,000. Eugenia urged the Board to resolve this issue.

James P. Long urged the District to resolve this issue and reimburse Heather Lennartz and her husband for any non-reimbursable charges due to the flood damages.

Ruth Woodruff thanked the administrators at Frederick and the Middle School for their special attention regarding the threatening messages that were found in bathrooms. Ruth also thanked the staff at both schools for insuring students felt safe to be at school and for keeping them safe. Ruth thanked Supt. Correll for the letter she included on the website explaining both situations, and letting the public know that there is further investigation being done regarding this matter. Ruth asked the Board if they would entertain the idea of forming a committee to review a policy for these types of emergencies in order to have perspectives from parents and community members. Ruth asked that the procedure for these types of emergencies be made public once it is updated so that parents and the community know what to expect.

Public comment closed at 8:09 p.m.

**CLOSED
SESSION:**

A motion was made by Facklam and seconded by Garcia to move into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. to consider information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye
Weinert – aye
Coe Peek – aye
Garcia – aye

Facklam - aye
Rohrer - aye
Hannan – aye

7 ayes 0 nays 0 absent Motion Carried.

**OPEN
SESSION:**

A motion was made by Facklam and seconded by Linder to return to open session at 8:16 p.m. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye
Weinert – aye
Coe Peek – aye
Garcia – aye

Facklam - aye
Rohrer - aye
Hannan – aye

7 ayes 0 nays 0 absent Motion Carried.

**CONSENT
AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Coe Peek and seconded by Weinert to approve the consent agenda for 4/21/08 including; the treasurer’s report, accounts payable, personnel report w/ addendum and amendments, as presented.

Amounts paid from each fund are as follows:

Education Fund - \$250,553.20
O & M Fund - \$71,341.71
Transportation Fund - \$237,550.86
Capital Improvements - \$106,809.08
Total - \$666,254.85

A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye
Weinert – aye
Coe Peek – aye
Garcia – aye

Facklam - abstain
Rohrer - aye
Hannan – nay

5 ayes 1 nay 0 absent 1 abstain Motion Carried.

**BOARD/SUPT.
REPORTS:**

Mike Linder thanked Supt. Correll for a job well done regarding the variety of issues she worked to resolve last week.

Marcy Garcia thanked the teachers and administrators for keeping the students safe and for the outstanding communication from the administration regarding the issues at Frederick and the Middle School last week. Mary stated that she felt her student was safe at all times.

Karen Weinert thanked the principals, administration, and staff for a job well done regarding the threatening messages found at Frederick and the Middle School last week. Karen stated that she also felt her student was safe at all times.

Mark Hannan announced that May 5th is the beginning of teacher appreciation week. Mark thanked Board Secretary, Shawna Desecki, for all she does for the Board of Education in celebration of Administrative Assistant's Day.

Kristen Coe-Peek shared that she attended the Middle School play and commended the students on their outstanding performance.

Jill Rohrer stated that she took the emails and phone calls regarding the trees on Woodview School's property very seriously, and is happy that the Village and administration was able to resolve this issue.

Jill thanked the administration for taking the threatening messages at Frederick and Middle School very seriously. Jill further thanked the administrators for making it known amongst the student bodies that this type of behavior is extremely inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

Sue Facklam thanked the administration for all they did last week.

Sue thanked Shawna Desecki, School Board Secretary, for all that she does for the board.

Mary Garcia gave a friendly reminder that the Middle School is hosting the state band and chorus competitions this Saturday.

Sue Facklam shared that the Middle School band is scheduled to perform at 7:30am and Chorus is performing at 8:45am.

Supt. Correll shared with the Board and public the timeline of the events that took place last week in regard to Frederick and Middle School's threatening message issue. Supt. Correll thanked the administrators and staff for a job well done.

**DISCUSSION
ITEMS:**

1% Solution Presentation

Dr. John VanPelt and Mike Conway presented to the Board a possible new revenue option for facility improvements and debt reduction. These revenues would come from an imposed tax on tangible goods (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, hardware, etc), and Districts would receive these monies based on enrollment reported to the State. This solution would need to be approved by the community and the Board of Education is required to pass a resolution in order to have this put on the ballot in the spring.

Discussion of 2008-09 Staffing Plan

The Board discussed student enrollment as well as details regarding the staffing plan that was presented. Supt. Correll shared that the administrators came up with statistics to see what percentage of 1st graders attended private Kindergarten in order to more accurately staff 1st grade for the coming year. Supt. Correll also mentioned that the staffing plan reflects the Board's goal of having no more than 30 students per class in 3-8 and no more than 25 students in K-2 classrooms. Currently classes for 3-8 for the coming school year will be an average of 28 students, and K-2 will have an average of 23 students to allow a little room for growth.

Discussion of Architect's Contract

Supt. Correll reviewed a letter from the District's attorney with answers to questions Board members had regarding the Architect's contract. Supt. Correll stated that the District's attorney recommends that the Board approve the Architect's contract as is.

Supt. Correll was asked to get the attorney's approval of the contract in writing and forward that information to the Board.

Review of Budget Update Narrative

Supt. Correll shared that the format of the budget has been tweaked to include explanation, and asked the Board if this format is what they were looking for. The Board agreed to the updated format of the budget that was presented.

Discussion of Board Member Binder

It was suggested that the board review the new board member binder a few sections at a time to allow an opportunity for a thorough review and questions. It was discussed to have the Binder in an electronic format or to have a master version in the District Office to keep everyone up to date.

Discussion Regarding Draft of Technology Plan

The Board discussed going forward on the leasing of the 300 computers that was presented in the technology plan. Supt. Correll explained that the action item regarding technology is only for the approval of leasing the 300 computers; not the technology plan in its entirety.

Review Draft of Board Goals

Supt. Correll stated that she took the notes and comments from the Board Goal meeting and incorporated that information into goals. The Board will be reviewing this draft and will forward suggestions to Mary Garcia to compile. The Board will discuss Board goals at the following meeting.

Supt. Correll presented an example of a District-wide newsletter that a neighboring District puts out. Supt. Correll asked the Board if this is something

they would like to do in District 46. The Board agreed to review the information and have a future discussion about having a District-wide newsletter.

Discussion of Five-Year Facilities Plan

The Board agreed to table the Five-Year Facilities Plan discussion until the following board meeting.

Discussion of Emergency Planning

Jill Rohrer announced that if a parent did not receive the phone message last week from the school’s calling system to please contact the school office to verify information.

Supt. Correll shared that school principals will be visiting various schools in the area to see where they have camera’s strategically placed in their buildings. The administration will then compile the information and assess what is needed in District 46.

Supt. Correll reminded the board that the State is required to approve the outline of school emergency plans and any updates to the plan. It was also discussed that there are various police departments that the District needs to consider in the emergency plan.

The Board discussed the possible need to form an Emergency Policy Supt. Committee.

Future Agenda Items

- Approval of Architect Contract
- Centralized Registration
- Five-Year Facilities Plan – Summary Version
- Board Binder
- 1% Solution
- Board Goals

**ACTION
ITEMS:**

**APPROVAL
OF YEAR 1 OF
TECHNOLOGY
PLAN:**

A motion was made by Facklam and seconded by Coe-Peek to approve the three-year lease for 300 computers with the stipulation that the costs not exceed \$112,00 per year, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Linder – aye | Facklam - aye |
| Weinert – aye | Rohrer - aye |
| Coe Peek – aye | Hannan – aye |
| Garcia – aye | |

7 ayes 0 nays 0 absent Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF
DISBURSEMENT
OF FUNDS TO
PURCHASE
DISTRICT
VEHICLE:

A motion was made by Facklam and seconded by Garcia to approve the disbursement of funds to purchase a district vehicle, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye	Facklam - aye
Weinert – aye	Rohrer - aye
Coe Peek – aye	Hannan – aye
Garcia – aye	

7 ayes 0 nays 0 absent Motion Carried.

APPROVAL
OF 2008-09
STAFFING
PLAN:

A motion was made by Linder and seconded by Weinert to approve the 2008-09 staffing plan, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye	Facklam - aye
Weinert – aye	Rohrer - aye
Coe Peek – aye	Hannan – nay
Garcia – abstain	

5 ayes 1 nay 0 absent 1 abstain Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT:**

Public comment was offered at 9:50 p.m.

Linda Soto expressed her concern regarding the District's change in policy on extended school year. Linda shared that the extended school year program improved her student's academic achievement. Linda stated that she became very concerned about the continuation of her student's success when she learned her student did not qualify this year for extended school year due to changes in District policy. Linda mentioned she was told that the only students who display major regress qualify for this program. Linda stated that she and other parents did not know about this change in policy until the end of the school year, and is not only concerned about her student's future achievement, but is concerned for the students who may not receive the benefits her student did in the lower grades. Linda explained that she believes many families will have no choice but to try and quickly find appropriate private services for the summer if they have the financial means. Linda stated that it is her understanding Special Education cuts are taking place and asked the Board what those changes entail and why.

Dayna Staff urged the Board to uphold previously stated presentations in regard to maintaining staff.

Sondra Adams stated that she is concerned the Board may not be using clear data when reviewing class size information. Sondra asked the Board to provide her where the Speech Therapists would be staffed the following school year. Sondra asked the Board to ensure that Special Education students are not only receiving a service but a quality service.

Beth Effa asked the Board how will students be affected if there are going to be cuts in Special Education services? Beth also asked how outsourced students will receive enough speech and language services if cuts are going to be made?

Bob Sights shared that speech and language has helped his son succeed in his academics and hopes to see that continue.

Steve Guts stated that his student was mainstreamed from John Powers to Prairiview because of the high level of services current District 46 staff was able to provide. Steve expressed his concern regarding the policy the District appears to be adopting because he believes his student will not receive the level of services that are currently being provided. Steve asked the Board how staff will be able to effectively do their job with the high caseloads it appears they will be receiving next year due to staff reduction. Steve informed the board that he will be watching very closely to ensure that the level of services his student receives is continued.

Debbie Guts asked the Board to take into consideration the staff they have already lost who have been instrumental in positive academic achievement for students.

Sharon Meekma thanked the speech and language staff for all that they have done and do for her students. Sharon expressed her concern as to what the academic future holds for her students with the way things appear to be moving in the District.

Lyana Martinez asked the Board and administration to consider the wealth of knowledge that can be received from the staff.

Kim Dones asked the Board how they are going to ensure the continuation of the quality of service students who need speech and language services currently receive. Kim asked the Board what their action will be if they see this program begin to deteriorate, and stated that she wants more than just their word that they are watching.

Amy Nets asked the Board what the average caseload is for speech therapists? Amy informed the board that she will be watching this situation closely and expressed her concern regarding the changes she is seeing.

Diane Novatnik shared that she has been pleased with services that the specialists have been providing. Diane expressed her concern that the quality of service she currently provides will not continue if she is given heavier case loads next school year due to staffing changes.

Mary Hobbs asked the Board how caseloads will be managed if staff is cut.

Joanne Moshay shared her concern that staffing changes may cause indirect affects on the students and staff.

Public comment closed at 10:25 p.m.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Garcia and seconded by Facklam to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – aye	Facklam - aye
Weinert – aye	Rohrer - aye
Coe Peek – aye	Hannan – aye
Garcia – aye	

7 ayes 0 nays 0 absent Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Desecki, Secretary

Mike Linder, President

The Superintendent recommends approval of the 4/21/08 Personnel Report w/addendum, as presented.

Resignation Letters

Kristin Cornelius - MV Second Grade
Karen Demeis - FS Fifth Gr. Resource Teacher
Catherine Estrin - MS Drama Teacher
Mary Rose - AV Second Gr.
Stacey Tippet - AV Third Gr. Resource Teacher
Mary Utterback - MV Information Specialist

Leave of Absence Request

Debbie Grewe - WV Information Asst.

Appointment

Scott Lucadello - MS Program Asst.

Reduction in Force Letters

Resolution for Dismissal of First, Second and Third Year Probationary Teachers

Katherine Gilman
Mollie Lard
Diane Plunkett

Resolution for Dismissal of Part-time Non-Tenured Teachers

Nancy Borkman
Brittany Eikleberry
Susan Follansbee
Kristin Herrmann
Sarah Vermont