

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 46, held June 17, 2009 at Middle School, 440 North Barron Blvd., Grayslake, IL

CALL TO

ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Garcia

ROLL CALL: Garcia, Facklam, Weinert, Surroz, Carbone, Millington.
Supt. Correll was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance took place at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Garcia and seconded by Facklam to amend the agenda for 6/17/09 to remove the discussion item G and add parent forum, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – absent	Millington - aye
Weinert – aye	Facklam - aye
Carbone – aye	Surroz – absent
Garcia – aye	

5 ayes 0 nays 2 absent Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was offered at 6:07 p.m.

Public comment closed at 6:07 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion of Open Meetings Act

Kevin Gordon, School Board Attorney, lead discussion about open meetings act and closed session. Kevin also discussed the possibility of reviewing changes in the Freedom of Information Act with the Board in the late fall. These changes are expected to take place this coming January.

The Board recessed at 7:05 pm and reconvened for the Parent Forum at 7:30pm.

**PARENT FORUM
(QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS):**

1). Many people in the community would like to become more involved with the School Board and the Schools in D46. Listed as one of the goals of the BOE, is reaching out more to the community. While presenting their SIP Reports, Administrators expressed a need for more parental involvement. Are the Board Members and Administrative staff aware that their demeanor, expressions, and tone, yield feelings of being “unwelcome” and “condescended to”? Would at least 1 Administrator and 1 BOE Member address this and help the Parents at the Forum understand how we can be more involved in discussions with the BOE along with the Administrators at their respective schools?

Board/Admin Response: There are multiple opportunities in each building for parent and community involvement including; PTO, PTF, Board Meetings, Brown Bag Forums and requesting to volunteer in the schools.

2). Would it be possible to review the policies currently in place for student conduct (and consequences) in the classroom, school-grounds, and buses? Would the Policy Committee consider meeting with members of the community and note their suggestions on policy modification?

Board/Admin Response: Policies are listed in the parent handbook, and many of the Districts policies are in relation to state board of education policies, which are mandated by the State.

3). There are reports that the Education Fund has a “surplus”, a “rainy day fund” if you will, of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10 million dollars. What is the dollar amount in this fund? You have stated that some programs and personnel were eliminated due to low enrollment; what was the reason for not obtaining the balance of programs and personnel by utilizing a small portion of what is in the Education Fund?

Board/Admin Response: The current fund balance is approximately 6.5 million. This fund is like a savings account and its purpose is to ensure the District has enough cash on hand to take care of day-to-day operations. PMA Financial Network, Inc. (PMA) is currently the financial company that advises the District regarding finances. PMA help the District to invest this fund and advise the District regarding how much should keep in the fund balance. They have recommended that the District have enough in that fund to cover six months of bills.

4). With the State of Illinois in financial straits and D46 having \$2.7 million dollars pending payment from the State, what provisions are being made should the monies not be provided as expected?

Board/Admin Response: The state has been lagging in payments, but the board and administration do expect to continue to see payments from the state. If a payment from the state is not received in time to book the payment as revenue for this year, the administration would ask the Board for permission to borrow from fund balance so that the District is not in deficit.

5). We submitted the idea of moving toward more paperless options from the schools. The response we received is that paperless options are being looked at. Please expand on that: Is the technology in place? Has a cost analysis been done to see how much it would cost to put a system in place?

How much money will the district save? Have you considered using one school or a small group of parents to test a system on? How can the community help this become a reality?

Board/Admin Response: *The District is working towards becoming paperless, the Board and Administration are working to ensure they have the technology to do so. Currently, the District has began looking into the virtual backpack, putting flyers on the website, using the website and email more to communicate, opening power school to parents in order for them to view student report card and assignment information. The District has also implemented Central Registration for the 09-10 School year.*

6). Have Band/Chorus fees been discussed further or decided on? If the BOE decides that fees for programs will be implemented, will it be in the '09/'10 year?

Board/Admin Response: *The conversation has been tabled until the following school year; therefore, there will not be an increase for the 09/10 year.*

7). With seven schools in our district, has any research been done on the impact of adding on to some current buildings and selling off other buildings to consolidate fees for property, building, teachers, staff, technology, etc.?

Board/Admin Response: *The Board is in the process of looking into the option of selling the white house that is in front of the middle school. This building is where our custodial and technical staff has been housed and is known as the ISC building. Curriculum has moved out of the District Office and into Avon School. Pupil Services has moved out of the District Office and into Prairieview School. The folks in the ISC building are moving into the District Office; therefore, the ISC will be vacant.*

If it were ever to be decided to add onto current schools in order to consolidate, re-districting and planning would be necessary. It would take more than a few months to make this type of decision and implement the project. This conversation is not on the table at this time.

8). Are the Park Campus Buildings being used to capacity? If not, how much is not being used? Can you provide the approx. cost for maintaining the un-used portions? What are the plans for filling the buildings to capacity?

Board/Admin Response: *When Park was built there was more building and housing going up. Park was built in order to accommodate all the projects that were implemented as well as those on the table. Even though some of those projects are on hold due to the housing market, Park's enrollment has been increasing. Special education self-contained classrooms will be at Park next year. Also, all classrooms at Park are being used and the Board is continuing to look at enrollment for all buildings. Park has a capacity of 1000 students and with current figures the enrollment for 09-10 will be approximately 750 students.*

9). Will you please provide an explanation for purchasing 258 Laptop computers? Could the purchase have been made utilizing less sophisticated laptops, in an effort to reduce cost?

a). We were advised that the BOE Members, Administration, and Tech Dept. have agreed that Tech Hardware Expenses will be way down in the next years to come in order to keep the Ed Fund money to pay for teachers salaries. Are the new Board Members aware of this and can we rely on you to follow through on this "promise"?

Board/Admin Response: *A decrease in technology expenditures would not necessarily translate into an increase in teachers, or offsetting of current costs. This would all need to be determined by the Board. Also, the model of laptop that the technology department requested and after much review the Board Approved, provides the technology necessary to run student and teacher software.*

10). Will you please explain why the district opted to obtain 38 SMART Boards (when many districts have 1 or none)?

a). Currently, only 5 District Personnel have been formally trained on the SMART Board; What are the Districts plans for further training of those who have not been formally trained?

b). Cost of this training?

c). What is the lifespan of a SMART Board?

Board/Admin Response: *The costs for the SMART Boards were spread out over the past several years. The Board of Education has approved the purchase of SMART Technology based on the recommendation by the Administration. The Board and Administration plan on moving forward with SMART technology and will be purchasing more boards in the 09/10 year. The District currently has five staff members that are trained to be SMART board trainers. These certified trainers will help reduce our professional development costs in the future. Every building has provided training to all staff on use of the boards at district institute days.*

11). Have the Administrative Salary increases been determined?

a). If yes: By what % per individual?

b). If no: When does the BOE foresee this decision being made?

c). Has the BOE considered tying salary increases to CPI with a cap?

d). What about Salary Freezes or Decreases?

Board/Admin Response: *Administrative salary increases, decreases, and freezes have all been considered but nothing has been approved by the Board. We foresee this being decided upon at the July 8, 2009 Board Meeting.*

12). Is the BOE aware at this time of any upcoming cuts to be made? (Can the BOE give us any idea on items or areas that will be looked at in the event that more cuts need to be made from us getting less revenues than we have expenses?)

Board/Admin Response: *The Superintendent and business manager will be working on ensuring there is a balanced budget so that 09-10 will not have any cuts.*

13). Why were we caught so completely off guard with the CPI? The economy has been in a recession since late 2007; did the PMA projections in 2007 & 2008 show this?

a). What provisions are being made to make sure we are covered when our housing assessments start to decrease and revenue declines as a result?

Board/Admin Response: *The Board and Administration were not caught completely off guard with CPI. Although it does not come out until December we knew that there were issues with it. The recession that began in 2007, was not officially acknowledged by the government until late 2008. CPI is based on December-to-December of cost incurred with overall inflation. Schools funding is tied to CPI and that is how the District receives its tax dollars. 80-90 percent of cuts*

were done not staffing cuts. PMA is a well-respected financial authority in school finance. It is utilized in a large percentage of school districts in Illinois. They have the best information available to us. Their information is accurate and relevant to how we build our models. We have built our best projections in to the model in regards to future revenues from all sources. We look five years out, and have put this into the model. The PMA model indicates that we will need to either make appropriate cuts, or dip in to fund balance in order to deal with this shortfall. It is too soon to make any decisions at this point, but when the CPI comes out next December we should have a good idea of where we stand financially, and at that point decisions will need to be made by the board and administration.

- 14). Is the Staff Development Budget being reduced for '09/10?
- a). What % of the projected budget is for travel?
 - b). Have reductions been made in this area for everyone from administrators, teachers, to non-certified staff? If not, will reductions be made in this area?
 - c). How much of the Staff Development budget is allocated for Blue Ribbon of Excellence, Inc.? How much of the Superintendent's Professional Development Account is allocated for Blue Ribbon of Excellence, Inc.?
 - d). Will any administrator, teacher, or staff member (certified or not) be attending the National Conference in Dec. 2009 @ Disney's Contemporary Resort in Orlando Florida?

Board/Admin Response: The State of Illinois expects Districts to provide professional development. The Board distributes \$80,000 among the seven buildings to go toward professional development. In 2006-2007 Supt. Correll and Lynn Barkley attended the Blue Ribbon Conference to learn about Blue Ribbon and see if it was something that would be good for District 46. After briefing the Board about Blue Ribbon, it became part of the Superintendents Goal to go from a good to great District. The Board and Administration felt that it was important to have someone from the outside come in and give an unbiased opinion on strengths and weaknesses. Representatives from Blue Ribbon assessed the Schools in the 2007-2008 School Year. This assessment included onsite observation and surveying administrators, students, and the community. The results of the onsite visits and surveys were compiled and each school received a report from Blue Ribbon. The past two years representatives from each building have attended the Blue Ribbon Conference. At these conferences administrators and staff tour other Districts and attend various presentations. At the 2007-2008 Conference Prairieview received the Blue Ribbon and Excellence Award, and Woodview and Meadowview received the Blue Lighthouse Award. At the 2008-2009 Conference Meadowview received the Blue Ribbon and Excellence Award and were asked to speak at the conference. In light of the economy, not as many staff members will be sent to the 2009-2010 conference, but Blue Ribbon will continue to be a goal for District 46.

Pending Board approval, there will be an administrator and staff members attending the National Conference in December 2009 @ Disney's Contemporary Resort in Orlando Florida.

- 15). What can the community do to help the Members of the Board, Superintendent, Administrative Staff, and Schools?

Board/Admin Response: Board Meeting attendance would be helpful and much appreciated. Also, the administration is open to receiving phone calls and emails for questions, concerns, and/or kudos.

**THE FLOOR OPENED FOR QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS, AND COMMENTS:**

Sabrina Galiano class size?

Board/Admin Response: The District starts with what is needed and then add from there. If the District is overstaffed we are paying out money that could be used in other areas. Staff members can always be added, but cannot be taken away once the staffing plan has been approved.

Sabrina Galiano stated that she feels students and parents are overwhelmed with workload.

Colleen Wade suggested that the Board provide more transparency on what drives decisions.

Nadia Shams asked when the agendas are put on the website.

Board/Admin Response: The Board meeting agendas are posted no later than the Wednesday prior to the Monday Board meeting.

Nadia Shams asked if there is any way to get a response directly after public comment during a meeting.

Board/Admin Response: During open meetings the Board is not allowed to directly respond to public comment as public comment is for the public to voice praise, ask questions, and state concerns. The Board and Superintendent are going to work on a way to get in touch with folks after the meeting with questions.

Mike – Suggested that the Board respond to questions on the website. Mike also

Lisa Baker – Suggested that another resource the community can utilize is their local PTOs.

Paul Sprenger expressed his concern regarding kindergarten teacher cuts as well as the reduction in office staff.

Board/Admin Response: The Board will be watching the numbers and offices very closely to ensure needs are being met.

Mark Yoder would the Board consider re-surveying the community to see if the improvements are being seen by the community and suggested that these surveys be re-run each year.

Board/Admin Response: Yes, the Board would consider a survey.

Pam Weiss will the video be on the website for an extended period of time.

Board/Admin Response: Yes, the Board meeting videos will be on the website and will remain there for at least this school year.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Facklam and seconded by Surroz to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. A roll call vote was taken:

Linder – absent
Weinert – aye
Carbone – aye
Garcia – aye

Millington - aye
Facklam - aye
Surroz – aye

6 ayes

0 nays

1 absent

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Desecki, Secretary

Mary Garcia, President