

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Avoca Schools

December 17, 2009

The Board of Education met in regular session on December 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Marie Murphy School Community Room, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The President called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll. The following members were present:

William Bazianos  
Jeffrey Greengoss, President  
Henry Kingwill  
Michael Knippen  
Rosanne Ullman, Vice President  
Sherry Wallingford

Absent:

Rick Zelinsky

Also Present:

Kat Cetrone, Video Recorder  
Beth Dever, Business Manager  
Cindy Devin, Pupil Services Director  
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Principal/Avoca West Elementary School  
Madeleine McCloskey, Board Recorder  
Dr. Joseph Porto, Superintendent/Secretary  
Dr. Deanna Reed, Asst. Supt./Principal, Marie Murphy School

Visitors:

Diane Becker, Avenue for Change Consultant  
Dr. Clay Graham, Statistician/Consultant  
Wendy Don, Resident

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Ullman moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- REGULAR MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2009, AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2009
- NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT WITH A TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF \$6,261,648.14, AND EXPENDITURES INCLUDING NOVEMBER PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$703,934.29, NOVEMBER FIXED CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,134.79, DECEMBER EDUCATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,904.17, DECEMBER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,441.87, AND DECEMBER TRANSPORTATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,935.29
- DECEMBER PERSONNEL REPORT
- NOVEMBER ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Bazianos seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye, except abstaining from the regular Board meeting minutes of November 19, 2009; Mr. Knippen, aye, except abstaining from the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of December 7, 2009; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. The motion was carried. Mr. Kingwill will audit the books for the month of January.

Since Mr. Knippen would be leaving the meeting early and had expressed a desire to vote on the action items, the action items portion of the agenda was moved ahead of the discussion items.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2009 Tax Levy

The topic had been up for discussion earlier in the evening at the public hearing, and the Board was now being asked to vote on the tax levy.

Mr. Bazianos moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATTACHED 2009 TAX LEVY, AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Bazianos, aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; and Ms. Ullman, aye. The motion was carried.

Adoption of 2010-2011 District Calendar

The Board reviewed the proposed 2010-2011 District calendar at the November meeting and was now being asked to vote on the matter. Highlights of the calendar include: First day of student attendance (a half day) is Thursday, August 26; the days before and after Thanksgiving are holidays; winter break begins December 18, 2010, through January 2, 2011; spring break begins March 26 through April 3, 2011; no student and staff attendance on Labor Day (September 6), Rosh Hashanah (September 9), Columbus Day (October 11), Martin Luther King Day (January 17), Presidents' Day (February 21), Good Friday (April 22) and Memorial Day (May 31); and, barring any emergency closings, the last day of student attendance is Thursday, June 9, 2011. The District obtained waivers/modifications for three holidays, including Veterans' Day, Lincoln's Birthday and Casimir Pulaski Day, making those student attendance days.

Mr. Bazianos moved that

THE BOARD ADOPT THE ATTACHED 2010-2011 DISTRICT CALENDAR, AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Knippen seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried.

Adoption of Revised Board Policies

Board members had received the revised policies for a first reading at the November meeting, and the Board was now being asked to vote on the matter.

Mr. Kingwill moved that

THE BOARD ADOPT 34 REVISED POLICIES: 2:20 – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD; 2:40 – BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS; 2:100 – BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST; 2:110 – QUALIFICATIONS, TERM AND DUTIES OF BOARD OFFICERS; 2:240 – BOARD POLICY DEVELOPMENT; 2:260 – UNIFORM

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE; 3:40 – SUPERINTENDENT; 4:30 – REVENUE AND INVESTMENTS; 4:40 – INCURRING DEBT; 4:55 – USE OF CREDIT AND PROCUREMENT CARDS; 4:100 – INSURANCE MANAGEMENT; 4:110 – TRANSPORTATION; 4:120 – FOOD SERVICES; 4:140 – WAIVER OF STUDENT FEES; 4:170 – SAFETY; 5:30 – HIRING PROCESS AND CRITERIA; 5:35 – COMPLIANCE WITH FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT; 5:90 – ABUSE AND NEGLECTED CHILD REPORTING; 5:100 – STAFF DEVELOPMENT; 5:120 – ETHICS; 5:180 – TEMPORARY ILLNESS OR TEMPORARY INCAPACITY; 5:185 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE; 5:220 – SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS; 5:280 – DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS; 5:310 – COMPENSATORY TIME-OFF; 5:330 – SICK DAYS, VACATION, HOLIDAYS, AND LEAVES; 6:15 – SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY; 6:340 – STUDENT TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM; 7:60 – RESIDENCE; 7:70 – ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY; 7:100 – HEALTH, EYE, AND DENTAL EXAMS; IMMUNIZATIONS; AND EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS; 7:170 – VANDALISM; 7:190 – STUDENT DISCIPLINE; 8:100 – RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES.

Ms. Wallingford seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### Presentation of 2009 ISAT Test Results

For a third year, statistician/consultant Dr. Clay Graham delivered yet another positive presentation on the District's 2009 ISAT results. The presentation included ranking comparisons between Avoca School District 37 and eighteen similar, high-achieving Illinois schools. The rankings were based on achievement test scale scores rather than a percentage of "meets and exceeds" scores provided by the state. According to Dr. Graham's in-depth analysis of the test scores, District 37 currently ranked fourth in the state in overall student achievement after having ranked sixth the previous year. Dr. Graham gave high marks to the District on its continuous academic growth, despite some major systemic challenges facing the District. He concluded by reporting that reading was the weakest area overall in the District. Drs. Reed and Jauch each responded by listing various methods that were currently being utilized by the teachers to address this particular area. The Administrative Team indicated that the District will continue its quest toward improvement and not simply rest on its laurels. Mr. Knippen exited the meeting toward the end of Dr. Graham's presentation.

A ten-minute break in the meeting was called at 7:30 p.m.

##### District-wide Plan for Social/Emotional Learning

Consultant Diane Becker provided the Board with a document outlining the process for implementing a state mandate regarding a District-wide social/emotional learning program, as learning and behavior are directly linked. Ms. Becker discussed the program's mission, strategic goal, framework, and timeline for the process. The program's main objective is to bring 21<sup>st</sup> century learning to the students by aligning the program with the academic curriculum through a skills context, a tools context, and a life context using real world examples, applications and experiences. The program, which is in complete alignment with the District's mission statement, does not affect the budget or create any add-ons for the teachers. It is simply imbedded in the daily routine. The program has already been introduced to the teachers at Avoca West and is scheduled to be taken to the Marie Murphy teaching staff next.

Avoca Community Preschool NAEYC Accreditation

Consultant Diane Becker provided the Board with a document explaining the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) accreditation procedure for the Avoca Community Preschool. Included were the benefits of pursuing the NAEYC accreditation, 2009-2010 goals, ten standards of excellence, and a timeline to complete the process by 2011. Ms. Becker reported that the preschool staff is currently focusing on the first four standards of excellence, which include relationships, curriculum, teaching and assessment. She also reported that several on-site training sessions have been arranged for the staff, and the preschool's portfolio for accreditation is in the process of being assembled. It was noted that obtaining NAEYC accreditation adds to a preschool's prestige and competitiveness with other area preschools.

Mr. Bazianos moved that the meeting adjourn, and Ms. Ullman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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President

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Secretary