

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Avoca Schools

February 18, 2010

The Board of Education met in regular session on February 18, 2010, at 6:35 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  
Rosanne Ullman, Vice President  
Sherry Wallingford

Absent:

Michael Knippen (Joined meeting via teleconference  
during closed session & interview session)  
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:

Christopher Brown, District Tech Coordinator  
Dr. Linda Hanson, Rep., School Exec Connect  
Dr. Sarah Jerome, Rep., School Exec Connect  
Stuart Spiegel, Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach  
Gail Soriano, Technology Facilitator, Avoca West Elementary School  
Kim Zimmer, Technology Facilitator, Avoca West Elementary School  
Girls' JV and Boys' Varsity Basketball Players and Family Members

SCHOOL/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Members of the girls' junior varsity and boys' varsity basketball teams were recognized for both teams having won 2010 North Shore Independent Conference titles, with season records of 15-0 and 20-3 respectively. In junior varsity coach Todd Webster's absence, Dr. Reed reported on the accomplishments of the girls' team and indicated this was the first time in Marie Murphy School's history that a girls' basketball team went undefeated during a season. Coach Stuart Spiegel briefly summarized the boys' team's accomplishments and recounted the varsity team's successes from previous seasons. Also recognized was Marie Murphy School technology facilitator Christopher Brown, who was recently named the "2010 Outstanding Technology Using Educator of the Year" by the Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) organization. Avoca West Elementary School technology facilitator Gail Soriano had nominated Mr. Brown for the award. Following a presentation of certificates of recognition, a short break was called for refreshments provided by the Board.

ADDITIONAL ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Dr. Porto indicated that a presentation by the first of three superintendent search firms was to be added as the last discussion topic at the end of the agenda following closed session.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Wallingford moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- REGULAR MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2010
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OPEN MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2010
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CLOSED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2010
- JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT WITH A TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF \$8,356,535.29, AND EXPENDITURES INCLUDING JANUARY PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$681,881.63, JANUARY FIXED CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$101,986.36, FEBRUARY EDUCATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$173,905.04, FEBRUARY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,607.86, AND FEBRUARY TRANSPORTATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,331.65
- FEBRUARY PERSONNEL REPORT
- JANUARY ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos aye, except abstaining from the January 21, 2010, regular Board minutes; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye, except abstaining from the January 21, 2010, regular Board minutes; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. The motion was carried. Mr. Knippen will audit the books for the month of March.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report on FOIA Requests

Business Manager Beth Dever reported on two FOIA requests received by the District in the past month. One individual requested general employment information for all non-certified staff and the other person requested expense transaction reports for the last four years. A new law recently went into effect whereby the District must now respond to FOIA requests within five business days rather than seven days, as was previously required. Mrs. Dever indicated the District was also required to report to the Board during regular meetings on all FOIA requests it receives. One Board member suggested that we might consider keeping a log of FOIA requests to determine if there was a pattern.

Review 2010-2011 Staffing Plan

The Board was provided with a staffing plan for the next school year that proposed no changes in the certified staff and the preschool staff numbers, and only one reduction in non-certified support staff. Superintendent Dr. Porto pointed out that the number of inclusion assistants could change if any special needs students moved into the District by the start of school in the fall. It was also reported that this was the third consecutive year there was no increase in the number of certified staff. The proposed 2010-2011 staffing plan will be officially voted on at the March Board meeting.

Update on April NSBA Avoca Site Visit

Superintendent Dr. Porto reported that Avoca was selected last fall by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to be one of four school districts in North America for this year's NSBA site visit program. It was estimated that approximately 100 educators will visit the Avoca schools on April 8 and 9 as special guests of the NSBA. Because the District was not allowed to use its own funds to cover costs

associated with the visit, it was reported that District 37 had already solicited \$30,500 to date from seven private sponsors. The biggest expense would be a dinner and entertainment provided by an improvisation group from Second City to be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Skokie. Donations from sponsors will also be used to provide each visitor to the District with a "welcome" bag that includes a variety of items to make the visit to Avoca memorable. The Board was provided with a schedule of events and a list of the sponsors. Board members were encouraged to be present at certain times during the site visit.

#### Initial Discussion on School Fees

Each year, Business Manager Beth Dever conducts an informal survey of colleague district school fees and presents her findings and Board Finance Committee recommendations to the Board. The fees include books/materials, bus and technology fees. Based on township comparisons and the current economy, the Finance Committee recommended not raising any of the fees for one more year. Mrs. Dever indicated she sets up payment plans for families having trouble paying the fees. She also reported that 96% of this year's delinquent fees had been collected to date. The Board will officially vote on the proposed 2010-2011 school fees at the March Board meeting.

#### ACTION ITEM

##### Adoption of Revised Policy 2:250

Revised Policy 2:250 was presented to the Board for a first reading at the January Board meeting, and the Board was now asked to vote on the matter.

Mr. Bazianos moved that

THE BOARD ADOPT REVISED POLICY 2:250 (ACCESS TO DISTRICT PUBLIC RECORDS), AS PRESENTED.

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

#### CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Wallingford moved that

THE BOARD MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL MATTERS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

Ms. Ullman seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Bazianos, aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; and Ms. Ullman, aye. The Board moved into closed session at 7:25 p.m. and returned into open session at 8:15 p.m.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED

##### School Exec Connect Superintendent Search Firm Presentation and Interview

Doctors Linda Hanson and Sarah Jerome, representatives of the School Exec Connect superintendent search firm, were on hand to give a presentation on their firm's methods for conducting a search for the

best candidates to fill the Superintendent's position next year. Mr. Knippen continued to participate in the meeting at this point after having first joined the Board in closed session via teleconference. Board members were provided with brochures outlining the process, including involving the community, conducting a survey, forming a focus group, selecting and interviewing final candidates, and site visits. Following the presentation, Board members posed questions about a salary range and who was to be included in the interviewing process. The ladies thanked the Board for considering their firm. The two other search firms will give their presentations and be interviewed immediately before and after the next Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for March 1.

Ms. Ullman moved that the meeting adjourn, and Ms. Wallingford seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

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President

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Secretary