

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Avoca Schools

March 18, 2010

The Board of Education met in regular session on March 18, 2010, 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
- Rick Zelinsky

Absent:

Sherry Wallingford

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:

Melanie Salgado, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, and Family Members

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Avoca West Elementary School fourth-grader Melanie Salgado was recognized for having been selected as one of ten winners of Scholastic Book Club's nationwide "Best Book of the Year" Book Report Contest. Following some comments from Principal Dr. Kevin Jauch, Melanie gave a short speech about her win and was presented with a certificate of recognition. A break was then called, during which Melanie and her family were treated to some refreshments provided by the Board.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Dr. Porto indicated that he wished to add two discussion items to the agenda: Participating in the upcoming NSBA Conference in Chicago; and Wilmette governmental bodies' concerns about the state budget.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Knippen moved that

- THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:
- OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2010
  - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2010

- FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT WITH A TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF \$8,959,820.94, AND EXPENDITURES INCLUDING FEBRUARY PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$715,323.66, FEBRUARY FIXED CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$106,054.86, MARCH EDUCATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,445.32, MARCH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,699.36, AND MARCH TRANSPORTATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,743.74
- FEBRUARY ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos aye, Mr. Zelinsky, aye, except abstaining from the February 18 and March 1 Committee of the Whole open and closed minutes; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye, except abstaining from the February 18 open meeting minutes and March 1 Committee of the Whole open meeting and closed session minutes; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. The motion was carried. Ms. Ullman will audit the books for the month of April.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Superintendent Search Firms

During the past four weeks, the Board interviewed three superintendent search firms: School-Exec Connect; B.W.P. & Associates; and Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to select B.W.P. and Associates to conduct the search. It was suggested that all three firms be contacted the next day to share the Board's final decision. A concern was raised regarding additional business expenses that were included in the initial bidding process. Dr. Porto indicated he had been assured by B.W.P. that they would remove those expenses from the contract. The Board was to formally vote on the selection of the search firm later in the meeting.

#### Greatness Indicators Update

Superintendent Dr. Porto presented a brief update on the status of the selected measurements of the seven "Greatness Indicators," including: Student academic achievement; Recognition of students, staff, school, district; High levels of satisfaction; Leadership in innovation; Student connectedness; Success in high school and beyond; and Fiscal responsibility. It was reported that a couple of the selected measurements have been delayed or postponed; however, the majority were either completed or are on schedule. Dr. Porto will provide the Board with a formal report on the "Greatness Indicators" in June.

#### NSBA Conference Attendance

One Board member relayed her positive experiences from attending past NSBA conferences and urged other Board members to consider attending this year's conference being held in Chicago in April.

#### Wilmette Governmental Bodies Concern Re. State Budget

Superintendent Dr. Porto reported that Wilmette Village President Chris Canning was asking Districts 37 and 39 if they would be interested in joining the village in hosting a press conference with Pioneer Press to discuss the impact of the state's potential budget cuts. Dr. Porto asked the Board for approval to go forward with this conference, which was tentatively set for the following Monday. The Board discussed the pros and cons of participating in the press conference. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Porto and two Board members participate in the press conference.

ACTION ITEMS I

Approval of Superintendent Search Firm

As the Board had reached a consensus on the selection of a superintendent search firm earlier in the meeting, they were now being asked to vote on the matter.

Mr. Bazianos moved that

THE BOARD SELECT B.W.P. AND ASSOCIATES TO CONDUCT THE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH.

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

Approval of Intervening in Two PTABs

Business Manager Beth Dever indicated that the District's legal counsel had once again offered to intervene on the District's behalf on two pending 2008 Winnetka residential property tax assessment appeals (PTABs). The Board was now being asked to vote on the matter.

Mr. Knippen moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE INTERVENING IN TWO PTABS AND APPOINT THE LAW FIRM OF ROBBINS, SCHWARTZ, NICHOLAS, LIFTON & TAYLOR, LTD. TO INTERVENE ON THE DISTRICT'S BEHALF ON PENDING 2008 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS BY ROBERT L. HULSEMAN FOR HIS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 920 HILL RD., WINNETKA, IL, AND DAVID AND JERI HOFFMAN FOR THEIR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 44 LOCUST RD., WINNETKA, IL.

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

Approval of 2010-2011 Staffing Plan

The proposed 2010-2011 Staffing Plan had been presented for review and discussion at the February Board meeting. Dr. Porto indicated that, although one kindergarten teacher was listed as being non-reemployed for the 2010-2011 school year in the March Personnel Report, the Staffing Plan was not being changed in the event kindergarten enrollment numbers should increase. Although that enrollment currently stood at 38 students, Dr. Porto said it was too soon to make a final decision on reducing the number of kindergarten sections from four to three.

Mr. Kingwill moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATTACHED 2010-2011 STAFFING PLAN, AS PRESENTED.

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

Approval of 2010-2011 Bus, Books/Materials and Technology Fees

The school fees were discussed at the February Board meeting, and the Board was now asked to vote on the matter.

Ms. Ullman moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2010-2011 BUS, BOOKS/MATERIALS, AND TECHNOLOGY FEES, AS PER THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Kingwill 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. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; and Mr. Knippen, aye. The motion was carried. Following a short break, the Board moved into closed session at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:40 p.m.

ACTION ITEM II

Approval of March Personnel Report

The Board discussed the March Personnel Report, including amended Resolutions of Non-Reemployment, in closed session and was now asked to vote on the matter.

Mr. Zelinsky moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATTACHED MARCH PERSONNEL REPORT AND RELATED NON-REEMPLOYMENT RESOLUTIONS, AS AMENDED.

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

Ms. Ullman moved that the meeting adjourn, and Mr. Zelinsky seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary