

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Avoca Schools

May 3, 2010

The Board of Education held a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 3, 2010, at 5:40 p.m. in the Marie Murphy School Community Room, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Greengoss called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll. The following members were present:

William Bazianos (Exited meeting at 7:10 p.m.)  
Jeffrey Greengoss, President  
Henry Kingwill  
Rosanne Ullman, Vice President  
Sherry Wallingford

Absent: Michael Knippen  
Rick Zelinsky

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

Visitors: Diane Becker, Consultant, Avenue for Change  
Lourdes Cornelius, Parent  
Dr. Alina Fernandez, Parent  
Rina Kodendera, Parent  
Heather Koerber, Teacher, Avoca West  
Sophia Kondos, Teacher, Avoca West  
Jennifer Rachmiel, Teacher, Avoca West/Marie Murphy  
Daira Tramontin, Teacher, Avoca West  
Judy Trunsky, Parent  
Todd Webster, Teacher, Avoca West  
Several Representatives from Lundbeck, Inc. Pharmaceutical Company  
Four Science Olympiad Team Coaches  
Varsity & JV Science Olympiad Teams and Family Members

### STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Members of the varsity and junior varsity Science Olympiad teams were recognized for their first-place wins at the regional and state competitions. Coach Jim Gravagna gave a brief overview of both teams' successes thus far. Following a presentation of certificates of recognition, Dr. Fernandez, an Avoca parent and a Lundbeck, Inc. employee, read a letter from her pharmaceutical company's president, who expressed good luck to the team at the national competition and encouraged the students to continue educational pursuits in the science area. Following Dr. Fernandez' speech, Dr. Reed and the varsity team were presented with a \$5,000 check from Lundbeck, which will go toward defraying some of the costs connected with the trip to the national competition. An additional \$1,000 matching donation was also contributed by the company in conjunction with the team's successful car wash fundraiser. A break was then called, during which both teams and family members were invited to stay for refreshments.

DISCUSSION ITEMSExtra-Curricular Study Committee Report

Dr. Reed and several members of the Extra-Curricular Study Committee were on hand to give a final, in-depth PowerPoint presentation covering the following points: Action plan including timeframes for specific initiatives; mission statement and beliefs; legal requirements; student, administration and parent surveys and summary of results; conclusions; specific recommendations for 2010-2011; budget neutral options; and financial examples from neighboring school districts. Recommendations for Marie Murphy School included retaining the current extra-curricular line-up with the following changes: Eliminate Math Club; eliminate Open Gym; re-classify the Homework Club; combine Newspaper and Writing Clubs; add Girls on Track and Everybody Matters to the existing Girls Club; add a Debate Club; and add a Tech/Digital Photography Club. The Avoca West Elementary School recommendations included adding a few more offerings and changes to some that already exist: Girls on the Run; Lego League; Cooking Club; Book Club; Service/Leadership Club; Jr. Science Olympiad or Science Club; take over ownership of Chess Club; revamp the Art Club; and reclassify the Homework Club. It was suggested that the additional activities at Avoca West could be offered on a shorter-term basis and possibly be supported by parent volunteers. If the extra-curricular enhancements and changes are implemented at both schools as proposed, the committee anticipated that the current six-out-of-ten student participation rate may increase to a more desirable eight-out-of-ten participation rate for the 2010-2011 school year. After the committee receives input from Principal Jauch regarding the Avoca West recommendations, the next step would be to include the topic in the May Board meeting agenda for further discussion.

The President called a short break at 7:10 p.m., during which time Mr. Bazianos exited the meeting.

Social/Emotional Learning Report

Pupil Services Director Cindy Devin and Avenue for Change Consultant Diane Becker presented a succinct, formal report to the Board outlining the K-8th grade social/emotional curriculum, which is a state-mandated program. The report covered background on the program and accomplishments and recommendations for the first year of the three-year plan. Mrs. Becker said the specific measures taken this year were to establish a program focused on district readiness, whereby a shared vision was created and accepted and committees were established for steering the development and planning phases for the program. Goals for 2010-2011 are geared toward maximizing the unique potential of each student. During the third year, the goals will be to focus on implementation review and adjustment of activities for continuous improvement, along with sustainability factors. Mrs. Becker stressed that the program was not treated as an add-on to the curriculum, as it relates to everything the teachers are already doing in the classroom.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Ullman moved that

THE BOARD MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ISSUES.

Ms. Wallingford seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Ullman, aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. The Board moved into closed session at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:15 p.m.

Ms. Wallingford moved that the meeting adjourn, and Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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President

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Secretary