

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
January 9, 2008

The first regular meeting of the month of January of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Madison Elementary School, 1620 Mayo Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board Vice President Rosemary Swanson, on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Barbara Intihar
 John Bomher
 Ken Knicker
 Joann Coghill
 Marie Slater

Absent: Andrew Johnson

Also in Attendance: Dr. Richard W. Drury
 Dr. Lori Belha
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Dr. Robert Rammer
 Dr. Margo Sorrick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Drury led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Driver Education Fee Waiver Request

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Bomher seconded to open the Public Hearing regarding the request for a driver education fee waiver. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Community member Mark Stern spoke about this waiver request. Mr. Stern stated that he believes the district should consider outsourcing this program instead of staffing with higher paid teachers.

No other community members spoke.

Mr. Bill Farley shared some background information about the program and the state code on driver's education. Mr. Farley stated that the district provides a fantastic program but is only reimbursed for about half the cost per student of running the program. The state changed the requirements of the program and now time spent on a simulator machine no longer counts towards driving time requirements. This means that the cost to the district to run the program

increases to meet the 6 hours of on the road driving time per student. The state mandates that districts offer at least one session of driver's ed at each high school. There are districts that charge \$500 per student, but the state will currently only approve up to \$250 fee waivers. In fact, the state is considering raising the limit to the \$250 amount from the current \$50 amount. Even though the program with the increased time requirements will cost the district more money, staff recommends requesting the \$250 fee waiver.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Slater seconded to close the Public Hearing regarding the request for a driver education fee waiver. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

COMMUNICATIONS WITH HOST SCHOOL

Mr. Gene Sikorski, Principal of Madison Elementary School, welcomed the Board, administrators and community to the school. Mr. Sikorski introduced Curriculum Director John Pilkington. Mr. Pilkington spoke about the recent annual multicultural day held at Madison School. The PowerPoint presentation showed slides of each grade level celebrating the customs of the country they studied. Mr. Pilkington stated that there were approximately 200 volunteers that helped make this celebration a success, and invited the Board members to attend the celebration next school year.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Nick Novasad - WWSHS

Nick reported on the recent and upcoming events at WWSHS.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Vice President Swanson stated that Board members recently received copies of two articles. One was an article in the *National School Safety Magazine* regarding the work of the District 200 Safety and Security Task Force under the leadership of Dr. Lori Belha. The other article, printed in *Educational Research Today*, was written by Dr. Bob Rammer on the need for superintendents to look at certain criteria when hiring principals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Swanson stated that the public comments are valuable and important to Board members. However, it is the Board's policy not to take action on any items until time has been taken to gather adequate information and objectively discuss available options. Lack of action on comments made at this meeting does not imply any lack of interest in what has been said.

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| Speaker | Vicki Austin |
| Topic | Wheaton Chamber of Commerce Support of Hubble Project & Referendum |

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| Speaker | Charles Pfiester |
| Topic | Referendum & Request for Information |

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| Speaker | Mike Benard |
| Topic | Hubble |

BELIEF STATEMENT

Well maintained facilities support the instructional program and promote student learning.

Mr. Farley gave an overview of what the district is doing to meet the objectives of this belief statement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Drury reported that he had the opportunity to meet Mr. Bob Donesch, a community member and organizer of the Christmas Sharing Program. Mr. Donesch spoke with the administrators about the program and invited their support. Dr. Drury, Dr. Rammer and Mayor Gresk were given a tour of a couple of the distribution sites and met many of the volunteers that make it happen. Mr. Donesch has been organizing this event for 20 years and seeks no recognition for his work. Dr. Drury read a letter of thanks to District 200 from the Christmas Sharing committee for the efforts across the district to help make this event successful.

Dr. Drury read a letter from Warrenville City Manager, John Coakley regarding a resolution passed by the Warrenville City Council. The resolution encourages the district to build a new Hubble Middle School on the proposed property in Warrenville.

Member Intihar asked for an update on the replacement of the IMAGE test with ISAT testing for the ELL population. Dr. Sorrick reported that the state has posted accommodations for administering the tests to these students. Dr. Sorrick still struggles to believe this will really help our students. The goal of the district is to provide the best academic support while protecting the students from a frustrating experience that will upset and embarrass them. Member Slater stated that the Executive Director of IASB meets weekly with the state superintendent to remind him of the concerns in this area. The Board requested a written update from Dr. Sorrick as time goes on and any suggestions of what Board members can do to help.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Acceptance of Gift to Lowell School – Recommend the acceptance of the gift of \$500 to Lowell School from Exxon Mobil as presented.
2. Acceptance of Gift to Monroe Middle School – Recommend the acceptance of the gift of \$500 to Monroe Middle School from the BP Amoco Fabric of America Fund as presented. Acceptance of Gift to Lincoln School from the PTA – Recommend the acceptance of the gift of a laminator, two digital cameras and two ELMO projectors to Lincoln School from the PTA as presented.
3. Adoption of Resolution to Begin the 2008-09 Budget Cycle – Recommend adoption of the resolution to begin the 2008-09 budget cycle and that Bill Farley be designated to prepare the 2008-09 budget.
4. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend approval of the bills payable and payroll as presented.
5. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2007 Open and Closed Minutes, - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented. The Closed Session minutes will remain closed.
6. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

MOTION

Member Knicker moved, Member Coghill seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

Approval to Apply for a Waiver of State Code – Drivers Education Fee

Illinois Code defines the fee for drivers education in schools to be \$50. In 2003, the District obtained an initial waiver of that code and raised the fee for drivers education to \$250. That waiver expires at the end of this school year and the district must reapply for this waiver. It is recommended that the Board direct staff to reapply for the waiver of the Illinois School Code to allow the fee for drivers education to be maintained at \$250 per student.

The Board supports the \$250 fee waiver request, but wants staff to investigate the possibility of outsourcing the program and speaking with legislators to determine if driver's ed is something school districts should be required to offer. Member Slater suggested that this topic be brought to the local legislators to see if any of them would be willing to suggest a change to the law.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Slater seconded to approve the application of drivers education fee waiver request to maintain the fee of \$250 per student. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of an Interfund Loan to Education Fund from Working Cash Fund

Annually, the Board approves interfund loans from the Working Cash Fund to relieve the cash shortfalls so that expenses can be paid. Even though the district has taken aggressive measures to reduce the operating deficit in the Education Fund, the anticipated cash balance at May 31, 2008 will be negative without a loan transfer. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution authorizing a loan of up to \$22,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund.

At the request of Member Slater, Mr. Bill Farley stated that the balance in the Working Cash Fund is just over \$27 million.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Bomher seconded to approve the interfund loan to the Education Fund from the Working Cash Fund in the amount of up to \$22,000,000 . Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of an Interfund Loan to Transportation Fund from Working Cash Fund

Annually, the Board approves interfund loans from the Working Cash Fund to relieve the cash shortfalls so that expenses can be paid. Even though the district has taken aggressive measures to reduce the operating deficit in the Transportation Fund, the anticipated cash balance at May 31, 2008 will be negative without a loan transfer. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution authorizing a loan of up to \$2,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund.

MOTION

Member Bomher moved, Member Coghill seconded to approve the interfund loan to the Transportation Fund from the Working Cash Fund in the amount of up to \$2,000,000 . Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of an Interfund Loan to Building Fund from Working Cash Fund

Annually, the Board approves interfund loans from the Working Cash Fund to relieve the cash shortfalls so that expenses can be paid. Even though the district has taken aggressive measures to reduce the operating deficit in the Building Fund, the anticipated cash balance at May 31, 2008 will be negative without a loan transfer. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution authorizing a loan of up to \$7,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Building Fund.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Slater seconded to approve the interfund loan to the Building Fund from the Working Cash Fund in the amount of up to \$7,000. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

DISCUSSION ITEM

Appointment of Board Representative for Wheaton Sesquicentennial Year of Celebration

The City of Wheaton is creating a committee to plan activities fore Sesquicentennial Year of Celebration. They have requested a representative from the Board of Education. Member Coghill volunteered to be the representative.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Bomher seconded to accept Member Coghill's offer to serve on the Wheaton Sesquicentennial Year of Celebration Committee as the Board of Education representative. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion carried.**

WRITTEN REPORT

Grant Report FY08

This report was provided for information only.

The Board thanked Mary Clifford, Director of Grants, for her efforts in obtaining the grants and tracking the money and grant requirements.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Coghill reported that she attended the WNHS Booster Club meeting. The Booster Club auction will be held on March 1 and more information will be coming. Member Coghill also reported that she spoke to the group about the facts of the upcoming referendum.

Member Swanson reported that she attended a parent information session sponsored by the SEA 200 group. Close to 200 people attended this very informative session.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Public Comment Procedures
Acceptance of the 2006-07 Audit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

January 23, 2008 – Hawthorne Elementary School

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Bomher moved, Member Intihar seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Issues 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

No action is expected following the Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 8:45 PM.

Barbara Intihar, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President