

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**  
**October 25, 2006**

The second regular meeting of the month of October of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Emerson Elementary School, 119 S. Woodlawn, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Andrew Johnson, on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at 7:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members:        Andrew Johnson  
                             Rosemary Swanson  
                             Marie C. Slater  
                             Barbara Intihar  
                             Joann Coghill  
                             Ken Knicker  
                             John Bomher

Also in Attendance:  Dr. Gary T. Catalani  
                             Dr. Lori Belha  
                             Mr. Bill Farley  
                             Mrs. Linda Knicker  
                             Dr. Margo Sorrick

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Laura Thomas led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATION WITH HOST SCHOOL**

Mr. Dan Bostrom, Principal of Emerson School, welcomed the Board, Administrators and community members to the school. Mr. Bostrom stated that it was a pleasure to host the Board meeting and thanked them for their leadership. Mr. Bostrom also thanked Dr. Catalani for his years of leadership to the district and stated that Dr. Catalani will be missed. Emerson school has a relationship with a sister school that was hit by the hurricane in New Orleans. The Emerson students are creating a video to send to the students of that school to let them know that the students of Emerson School are thinking about them. Gifts are being made for the staff there too. This is all being done as a part of Make A Difference Day. Mr. Bostrom stated that the School Improvement Plans drive what we do as a school, but Emerson tries never to lose sight that they are a premier school.

## **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Swanson requested that the oral presentation on the audit and the state testing report be moved up on the agenda to just after the Recognitions and Achievements section of the agenda. All Board members were in agreement.

## **RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Board recognized the National Merit Semifinalists from the two high schools.

## **ORAL REPORT**

### Audit Report

Mr. Tim Cole from Virchow Krause & Company reviewed the results of the annual audit. Mr. Cole reported that the District 200 finances are in very good condition. The audit reflects that the tax payers of the school district pay the majority of the educational costs and very little of the funding comes from the state and federal governments. The district is running very close to breaking even financially and that is about as good as it can be with the current funding of schools in Illinois. The district has good sound control of expenses. Mr. Cole commended the Business Office staff stating that they were very professional and knowledgeable.

### State Testing Data Report

Dr. Margo Sorrick presented information regarding the district's state testing results. Dr. Sorrick stated that District 200 did very well; however, the test data is preliminary at this time and the PSAE results are not yet available from the state. As soon as the test reports are available, they will be sent to the Board of Education.

Dr. Catalani had Dr. Sorrick introduce the administrators from the Department of Educational Services. Dr. Catalani stated that because of the direction of Dr. Sorrick and the hard work of her staff working with principals and curriculum leaders, the district sees good things happening for students. This district will not rest until all 100% of the students meet and exceed the state standards.

Dr. Catalani reported that Edison Middle School is the first middle school in the state to receive the Blue Ribbon award for its health program from the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance. The school was notified of the award last week and will be honored at the group's annual meeting in November. Edison was announced as the winner after a team visited the school to assess the health program against a long list of criteria and standards. Congratulations to Edison and to health education teacher Cheryl Martines.

Another honor went to the Edison community recently when Principal David Kanne earned second runner-up status in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Administrator of the Year competition, sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group and School Library Journal. With the honor comes \$2,000 in prize money that will be used to promote reading and support library programs.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Johnson 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.

Speaker	Pam Nielsen (minutes from Lisa Bradley, Mike Milnamow, Chris Fieweger, Jeff Nielsen)
Topic	Big Picture

Speaker	Dub Rutledge
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Joseph B. Mahady
Topic	FOIA Requests

Speaker	Michelle Senatore (minutes from Rey Senatore, Ryan Senatore, Mary & Jim Stamatopoulos)
Topic	Consent Agenda Item/McNaughton Property/Hubble

Speaker	Ed Paschke (minutes from Mark Stern)
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Betty Welker (minutes from Mike Vettraino and Jill Quintana)
Topic	Communication

Speaker	Laurie Meisner (minutes from Cindy Knoll, Joseph Meisner, Tina Ciner, Vimala Menon)
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Paul Colgan (Linda Pille)
Topic	Hubble – Dirk Enger statement

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Catalani reported the following:

- One of the Board’s high priority goals for this year is the formation of a Citizen’s Finance committee, which will be charged with recommending a long-term financial plan. This plan will be based on what residents said they want and value in their public schools. We are now seeking volunteers to serve on that committee and invite anyone interested to contact Bill Farley, Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations. The committee will begin meeting in the next month or so.
- Since staff last reported to the Board, the district has received several Freedom of Information requests. They were related to contracts, Hubble, the Herrick Road property, and the four middle schools.
- Dr. Catalani gave a PowerPoint update on Hubble and timeline of the journey to date. The presentation is available on the district’s web site.

### **REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval to Post the Seventh & Eighth Grade Family and consumer Science Curriculum – Recommend the approval to post the curriculum as presented.

2. Approval to Change the Location of the December 13, 2006, and May 9, 2007, Board Meeting Locations – Recommend the approval to change the meeting locations as presented.
3. Approval of Minutes – October 11 Open and Closed and Approval to Destroy the Closed Session Recordings of Meetings Prior to April 2005 - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented and approval to destroy the closed session recordings from meetings prior to April 2005. The closed session minutes will remain closed.
4. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

Mrs. Swanson requested that the Approval of Minutes – October 11 Open and Closed and Approval to Destroy the Closed Session Recordings of Meetings Prior to April 2005, be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate action.

#### **MOTION**

Member Slater moved, Member Intihar seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented minus the approval of minutes and destruction of closed session recordings. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

There was a discussion about the destruction of the closed session recordings. Dr. Catalani reported that these recordings can, by law, be destroyed after 18 months. Furthermore, only a judge can subpoena the recordings and only a judge can listen to the recordings. The hard copies of the minutes are kept for 99 years.

#### **MOTION**

Member Swanson moved, Member Bomher seconded to approve the October 11 Open and Closed Session minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **MOTION**

Member Intihar moved, Member Knicker seconded to approve the destruction of the Closed Session Recordings of Meetings Prior to April 2005. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5 (Intihar, Knicker, Coghill, Slater, Johnson), NAY 2 (Bomher, Swanson). **The motion carried 5-2.**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### Acceptance of Audit

The audit of the financial statements of the district is prepared annually by an independent audit firm. Each year, the audit firm expresses an opinion based on the combined financial statements of the District. It is recommended that the Board accept the 2005-06 audit of Virchow Krause & Company as presented.

#### **MOTION**

Member Swanson moved, Member Intihar seconded to accept the 2005-06 audit of Virchow Krause & Company as presented. Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### Approval to Retain Jenner & Block LLP

In the matter of the Herrick Road property, a special counsel is required to advise the Board on the alleged environmental, health and safety risks related to the proposed site for the new middle school. It is recommended that the Board approve the engagement letter of Jenner & Block for this work.

Dr. Catalani stated that a risk analysis will be completed and he will be bringing a request to approve a contract as soon as proposals and quotes have been developed. The landowner has requested a comprehensive NFR from the IEPA, which is the highest level the EPA gives on land. A NFR is not typically requested if the Phase I and Phase II testing do not show reason for concern. However, in light of the objections from Educate 200, the landowner will request this ruling. This will delay the process because the EPA ruling could take more than of 90 days.

Mrs. Coghill asked if staff feels confident enough that a land agreement will be reached to justify the expenses. Dr. Catalani stated that the landowner is willing to do the testing and believes that this is an indication that he wants a successful contract.

Mrs. Swanson stated that she is not sure she supports the idea of missing the March referendum to do more due diligence on the due diligence. The District is spending more money, potentially spending another year, the construction costs keep going up, and the students don't benefit. When does leadership kick in and the Board says they have done all they need to do and let the community vote? President Johnson stated that he believes the process should be started for the testing, but that the Board should not give up on the idea of a referendum in April. Dr. Catalani stated he believes this additional work will give people a reason to vote yes on the referendum.

### **MOTION**

Member Slater moved, Member Intihar seconded to approve the engagement letter of Jenner & Block for special counsel regarding the Herrick Road property. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **WRITTEN REPORTS**

#### FY 07 Grant Report

#### Report on the State of Technology in the District

These reports were provided for information only.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### Superintendent Search – Criteria Sought

President Johnson distributed a draft of the search criteria. These criteria were developed by the search firm. The criteria include the information from the recent community forum and the ranking submitted by the Board of Education. Board members are asked to review the criteria and let President Johnson know of any objections or desired changes.

### **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

A highly qualified enthusiastic staff is necessary to ensure each student's success.

The Board deferred discussion of this statement until a later Board of Education meeting.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members were given copies of the IASB Resolutions that will be acted on at the upcoming annual state conference. Board members are asked to review the resolutions. At the November 8 Board meeting, the Board will select a delegate to represent them at the conference. The Board will decide which resolutions they will vote to accept or deny.

Member Intihar announced that the team working on the Vision/Mission statements are almost finished with their work on developing a new logo and hope to present it to the Board at the November meeting.

Member Knicker stated that he attended a Parent University parenting seminar presented by the district social workers. The seminar was held on Saturday and 90 people attended. Two years ago 58 attended and last year 63 attended. The social workers spent their whole day educating parents. These same social workers sponsor three lunch time meetings for parents as well. Member Knicker commended the social workers for what they do. Dr. Catalani stated that he and Mrs. Knicker went to a meeting of the social workers and he thanked them for their contributions to the district, students and parents. This is another indicator of success that is not measured by NCLB. Member Coghill requested that a representative of the social workers come and do a short presentation of what they do, especially with regards to bullying issues. Mrs. Knicker reported that the SEA 200 group is sponsoring a bullying session for parents that will be facilitated by Donna Kozica, a social worker in the district. Board members are welcome to attend the November 7, 7:00 PM session at Monroe Middle School.

## **TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Hubble Goal  
Superintendent Search  
Goal Setting

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Regular Meeting – November 8, 2006 – Hawthorne Elementary School

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session items are listed for possible action  
Student Discipline 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9)

## **MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Bomher seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Student Discipline 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Personnel 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1), and Potential Land Acquisition 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.** The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 10:45 PM.

Action is expected following the Closed Session.

## **MOTION**

Member Bomher moved, Member Intihar seconded to reinstate the rules and reconvene in Open Session. Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION**

Member Slater moved, Member Knicker seconded to uphold the suspension of student S2006-07-02. Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Coghill seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 PM.

---

**Barbara Intihar, Secretary**

---

**Andrew Johnson, President**