

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
October 8, 2003

The first regular meeting of the month of September of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Wiesbrook Elementary School, 2160 Durfee Drive, Wheaton, IL, by Board Vice President Rosemary Swanson, on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Andrew Johnson (by phone)
 Rosemary Swanson
 Barbara Intihar
 Ken Knicker
 Marie C. Slater
 John Bomher
 Bob Davis

Also in Attendance: Dr. Gary T. Catalani
 Dr. Bev Becker
 Dr. Lori Belha
 Dr. Margo Sorrick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Linda Knicker led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE HOST SCHOOL

Mrs. Dianne Thornburg, Principal of Wiesbrook School, welcomed the Board, Administrators and community members to Wiesbrook School. Members of the PTA and several students presented the final projects from last year's Artist in Residency program.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Item 10, the ISAT/PSAE report, was removed from the agenda.

RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Board honored the National Merit Scholar Semifinalists from WNHS & WWSHS and their parents. The two high school principals introduced the students and their parents to the Board and community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Catalani reported the following:

- In addition to the 14 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists honored at this meeting, there were 33 students that were recognized as commended students in the program. These students placed in the top five percent of the more than one million students who took the National Merit Qualifying Test last spring.
- Three public meetings are planned for the end of October to discuss the future of Hubble Middle School. We invite members of the community to join us as we discuss the various options for Hubble and then seek feedback from the audience. The meetings will begin at 7 PM and will be held on October 23 at Hubble, October 27 at Bower and October 29 at Wiesbrook.
- The Classics Show choir from WWSHS was notified this week it has been accepted to represent District 200 at the NSBA convention in Orlando in March. The group, under the direction of Gordon Krauspe, will perform during one of the conference's general sessions. Choirs from WWSHS will also perform this year at the American Choral Directors Association in Indianapolis and the Music Educators National Convention in Minneapolis.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Donation to Longfellow School – Recommend the acceptance of the donation of books to Longfellow School as presented.
2. Approval of Donation to Lowell School – Recommend the acceptance of the donation of \$500.00 to Lowell School to be used for materials and or/or opportunities for the students of Lowell School as presented.
3. Approval of Donation to Pleasant Hill, Washington & Hawthorne Elementary Schools – Recommend the acceptance of the 100 books donated to each of these schools from Jewel Foods in cooperation with Scholastic Books as presented.
4. Approval to Post High School Curriculum – Recommend the approval to post the high school curriculum as presented.
5. Approval to Post 2004-2005 School Calendar – Recommend the approval to post the 2004-2005 school calendar as presented.
6. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend the approval of the bills payable and payroll as presented.
7. Approval of Minutes – September 24 Open - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented.
8. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

Dr. Catalani reviewed the proposed calendar and answered questions from the Board of Education.

MOTION

Member Slater moved, Member Knicker seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

Item 9 – Approval to Purchase PACE Communication System

Getting information to parents quickly in case of school closings or other school emergencies is cumbersome. The District has relied primarily on calling trees at the elementary and middle school levels and word of mouth at the high schools. The Emergency Closing Network also is used to broadcast closings on Chicago area radio and TV stations. Staff has been looking at alternate sources to accomplish this task because the need to communicate with parents does not always occur at a time when the calling trees can be activated. A group of staff members recently met with a representative of PACE, a California based company that has created a voice communication system for schools. The web-based system allows schools to communicate with parents almost immediately in the event of an emergency or school closing. It also allows for pre-scheduled phone calls and attendance notification in addition to other features. The system is easy to use and can be activated from a phone or computer. Messages are delivered within minutes to all families or targeted groups such as specific schools or grade levels. The package being recommended will enable the district to call every student's home the equivalent of 13 times during the year. Staff believes this system will greatly enhance the district's communication with parents. It is recommended that the Board purchase and use the system for one year and then determine, based on parent responses, whether to continue the service into the next school year. The \$38,953.75 would come from the penalty funds paid to the district by Quest Turf. If it is decided to continue the service next year, staff will work with the PTA and the New 200 Foundation to determine their interest in helping to fund this program.

Dr. Catalani responded to questions from Board members and stated that before the contract is signed, staff will work with the company to make a trial call to one school to verify that the system is capable of doing the actions we expect. It was suggested that parents be surveyed at the end of this school year to get their reactions to the system.

MOTION

Member Davis moved, Member Johnson seconded to approve the purchase of the PACE Communication System at a cost of \$38,953.75. The system will be purchased with the penalty funds received from Quest Turf. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

WRITTEN REPORTS

Item 11 – Induction Programs Summary

Item 12 – August 25 Opening Day Summary

These reports were provided for information only.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Davis asked questions about a letter received by Board members regarding prevailing wages. Staff explained that this is something the district is required to abide by and every year the Board takes action to approve the prevailing wages.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Moving District 200 to higher levels of Greatness
2. Select & begin implementation of best long-term use of Hubble
3. Develop a long-term financial plan that leads to financial predictability & stability

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Regular Meeting – October 22 – Lincoln Elementary School
- Board members were asked to return the Joint Conference RSVP form to Mary Lou Sender
- President Johnson encouraged Board members to consider attending the *Good to Great* workshop at the conference.

There will be no Closed Session following this meeting.

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Johnson moved, Member Slater seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor. **The motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Ken Knicker, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President