

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
February 13, 2008

The first regular meeting of the month of February 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 Andy Johnson, on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Legat representatives Patrick Brosnan and Paul Pessetti led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH HOST SCHOOL

Dan Bostrom, Principal of Emerson School welcomed the Board, administrators and community members to Emerson School. Mr. Bostrom recognized the Emerson staff members that were present and thanked the PTA President for the treats at the meeting. Mr. Bostrom introduced Curriculum Leader Beth Gunther. Ms. Gunther stated that the curriculum in the district is fun and challenging for students. A fifth grade teacher and four fifth grade students led the Board in a game of *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader* to demonstrate how Smart Boards are used in the classroom.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ali Winberg – WWSHS
Christine Ward – WNHS

The students reported on activities and events at the high schools.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Kevin Shallcross, a student at WWSHS, has been selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Annually, up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become Presidential Scholars. Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community – and represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America’s youth. Students who are selected as Semifinalists and Scholars will be listed on the United States Department of Education web site. Semifinalists will be posted in early April and Scholars in early May. We are proud of Kevin and wish him well.
- The Franklin Future Cities team won 1st place in the recent competition held in Chicago. The team will be heading to Washington D.C. for the National Championship this Saturday, February 16. The team won several special awards: Excellence in Mobility Technology, High Rise Award, Best Fire Protection Engineering, and Best Essay. The team was also featured on the NBC morning news. Team members include Cole Manschot, Jenny Birman, Karen Suarez, Susan Bywaters, Mari Tader, and Kale Hanavan. We wish them the best of luck in the competition this weekend.
- Four WWSHS students participated in the 34th annual Regional Bridge Building contest held at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. The contest challenges students to use the principles of physics and engineering to construct a bridge with the highest structural efficiency. The efficiency is determined by dividing the amount of weight the bridge will hold by the actual weight of the bridge. For the first time in over 20 years, the top 3 places were awarded to students from the same school – WWSHS. Senior Jon Gray took 1st place at the IIT competition, Senior Evan Binkerd took 2nd place and Senior Dan Kim took 3rd place. Jon Gray and Evan Binkerd will compete in the International Bridge Building contest that will be held at IIT on April 26, where they will compete against similar winners from other regional competitions from around the United States and the world. Top prize at the competition is a half-tuition scholarship, renewable for 4 years to IIT; a value of over \$50,000.
- The Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) Technology Educator of the Year award honors ICE members who have made outstanding contributions fostering and integrating technology in education. Christy Marchessault, a first grade/bilingual teacher at Johnson School, has received this award and will receive it during the county wide institute day on February 29. Congratulations to Christy.
- We are proud to announce that six of our elementary schools have been awarded Academic Excellence Awards of 2007 by Illinois Honor Roll; the schools are Emerson, Longfellow, Sandburg, Pleasant Hill, Whittier and Wiesbrook. Illinois Honor Roll is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and recognizes 166 schools that have sustained very high performance levels. These schools have sustained very high performance for at least three years and met the following criteria:
 - 90% of students met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least 3 consecutive years
 - Made AYP for the past three years on the No Child Left Behind standardized achievement tests, including: at least 55% meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics, maintained a 95% participation rate in state assessments for all students and each subgroup, and maintained an attendance rate of at least 90%.

We applaud the students, teachers, school leaders, parents and community members that all contribute to sustaining high level academic performance.

- Friends of the Schools Co-Chairs Ralph Heatherington and Lynn Bryenton, Treasurer Jeanne Hoffer, along with committee members, Donna Budlong, Sue Cahalan, Cindi Copeland, Ginna Ericksen, Mary Ellen Kolbe, Dwight Lund, Vivian Lund, Brad Paulsen, Debbie Perisho, Linda Pille, Mary Plepel, and Jim Vroman, were all recognized for their work on the successful referendum campaign.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President 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	Jim Fulcher – deferred minutes to discussion of topic
Topic	Lowell Redistricting

Speaker	Cathy Mousseau (with minutes from Vimal Menon)
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Ralph Heatherington
Topic	Hubble Referendum

Speaker	Beth O'Malley - deferred minutes to discussion of topic
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Lisa Fister – deferred minutes to discussion of topic
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Mark O. Stern
Topic	Referendum

BELIEF STATEMENT

The community has high expectations for the quality of education in its public schools.

Dr. Margo Sorrick presented information on the work of the Education Services Department to support this statement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Drury thanked the community for their dedication to children and their education. The passage of the referendum affirms his belief that he came to an outstanding district. Dr. Drury thanked Dr. Beth Sullivan and Dr. Bob Rammer, and Mr. Bill Farley for their endless work on the referendum to educate people on the facts. The referendum afforded Dr. Drury the opportunity to meet many people from the community that represented both sides of the issue. Dr. Drury is looking forward to the new building. The next 18 months will put lots of work on the shoulders of Mr. Farley.

Mr. Farley state that he is very excited about the new school. It will be a labor of love. Mr. Farley distributed a timeline and schedule for the building project. This is a working document and will be revised and modified as needed. Mr. Farley has contacted the City of Wheaton to begin the discussion of the sale of the current property.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSENT AGENDA

1. Acceptance of a Gift to WNHS – Recommend the acceptance of the gift to WNHS of novels valued at \$350.28 as presented.
2. Request to Post the High School English Language Learners Program and Housing Recommendation – Recommend the approval to post the high school ELL program and housing recommendation as presented.
3. Approval to Reschedule the February 27, 2008 Board of Education Meeting to February 26, 2008 – Recommend approval to move the meeting as presented.
4. Approval of Recommendation on Closed Session Minutes – Recommend approval to keep all Closed Session minutes closed based on the recommendation of the review committee.
5. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend the approval of the bills payable and payroll as presented.
6. Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2008 Open - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented.
7. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

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

Approval to Purchase Technology for High School Classroom Labs

District 200 is eligible on an annual basis for the Federal Perkins III Grant and the state Career and Technical Education Improvement Grant (CTEIG). These grants are designed to support and foster career and technical education activities that will improve student achievement, as well as promote the expansion of career development for all students. These grants will provide a total of \$107,808 for the 2007-08 school year. It is through this financial support that the majority of our high school business departments' supplies and materials are funded to deliver their critical content. A renewal cycle exists for the hardware and software for these classes. Primary computer labs in each high school are due for hardware upgrades this year. Each high school will receive a full classroom lab in their primary learning space for technology courses; 31 workstations. The used machines from the present labs will be cycled to a lab that has fewer demands for processing speed. The total cost of this upgrade for both high schools is \$59,706 and will be paid for from the grants. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the technology as presented.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Swanson seconded to approve the purchase of the technology for the high schools as presented using grant money. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Structural Steel Bid

Certain construction items have a long lead time and early bidding is required. As part of the new Hubble Middle School construction, a bid package for structural steel was released for public bidding. Four bidders submitted proposals. The low bidder was Lenex Steel. Bovis completed background checks on the company and submitted a letter of recommendation. It is

recommended that the Board of Education approve the bid for structural steel from Lenex Steel at a cost of \$4,014,817.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Coghill seconded to approve the structural steel bid from Lenex Steel in the amount of \$4,014,817. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Construction Color Schemes for New Hubble Middle School

The Board of Education reviews and approves final exterior color schemes as part of construction projects that include additions or new building project. The color schemes are reviewed and approved by the Construction Core Team before they are forwarded to the Board of Education for final approval. The Hubble Core team has reviewed and approved the exterior color schemes and Legat Architects will present them to the Board of Education for their approval. It is recommended that the Board approve the color schemes as approved by the Hubble Core Team and presented by Legat Architects.

Legat Architects presented information regarding the recommended color schemes and showed samples of each recommended item. Information was presented about building pieces and artifacts that might be removed from the current Hubble site and included in the new building or given to WWSHS. Member Swanson requested that parents be included in Core Team decisions as appropriate.

It was reported that there has been a discussion about a traffic light at Galusha and Herrick Roads. The final decision is up to the DuPage County Department of Transportation. The City of Warrenville has passed the results to the county of a study they conducted and the county has indicated that they will wait until the building is completed before they make a decision.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Slater seconded to approve the Hubble building exterior color schemes as approved by the Hubble Core Team and presented by Legat Architects. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

DISCUSSION ITEM

Lowell Redistricting

Speaker	Jim Fulcher
Topic	Lowell Redistricting

Speaker	Beth O'Malley
Topic	Redistricting

Dr. Drury stated that this proposal is not related to the new Hubble site. Last spring, parents requested that the district consider these changes. The primary reason for their request was that students from Lowell do not all matriculate to the same middle school as all other elementary buildings.

Dr. Drury met with parents of the neighborhoods that made this request, took votes from the attendees at the meetings and looked at distances and enrollment at all of the affected buildings. They requested busing to Lincoln for their students and they were told there would be no busing because the distance is less than the 1 ½ mile requirement. The district will look at busing the

middle school students from Danada North to Edison under a hazardous safety route since the students will cross Naperville Road at two locations. The attendance at the two Danada North meetings was 80 and 60 and they voted unanimously at both meetings to make the switch from Lowell to Lincoln.

Dr. Drury also met with parents from the Briarcliff North and South neighborhoods. This group also requested that their attendance area be moved from Lowell to Lincoln. Due to numbers, this request is not possible. Instead, they were offered the opportunity to change from Lowell to Wiesbrook and they would continue to be bussed. The parents were concerned about bus route times and the district committed to striving to maintain routes of no more than 30 minutes. These students would continue to attend Hubble Middle School. The parents voted at these meetings and the vote was 14-13 to make the change.

Both groups were offered the opportunity to stay at Lowell and not change their attendance area. Both groups were also told that students currently at Lowell would be grandfathered if they choose to stay at Lowell. If the redistricting is adopted by the Board, all future children enrolling in elementary school from these neighborhoods will attend the new location. The potential changes would relocate approximately 94 students from Lowell to Lincoln and potentially 179 students from Lowell to Wiesbrook. Lincoln, Wiesbrook and Edison can all accommodate the increase in enrollment without impacting programs or class sizes. The recommendation is that if a change is made, both neighborhoods redistrict or neither one redistricts. That is the only way to fix the issue of students from Lowell matriculating to different middle schools. The Board requested a chart that shows what the new enrollment numbers could look like by grade level at each affected building. Dr. Drury will provide that information to the Board.

The Board will vote on this proposal at the February 26, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

WRITTEN REPORT

Freedom of Information Act Report, July 2007-January 2008

This information was provided for information only.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Slater reported that she attended a meeting in Washington, D.C. and that she took the report on ELL student testing to the legislators. She has been assured that the legislators are working on ways to help the program. Member Slater met with Congressman Roskam and saw the draft of a letter that has been sent to District 200 regarding this topic.

Members Knicker and Intihar reported that they have been working on revisions to the process used for Public Comment at the Board meetings. They distributed a document that outlines some of their ideas and suggestions. Board members are to submit feedback on the document to Mary Lou Sender by February 20. Members Knicker and Intihar will then draft a policy revision to be posted for public comment and eventually adopted.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Public Comment Procedures

Acceptance of the 2006-07 Audit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

February 26, 2008 – Hawthorne Elementary School (note change of date)

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Swanson moved, Member Knicker seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Issues 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and Pending Litigation 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11). 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 9:53 PM.
No action is expected following the Closed Session.

Barbara Intihar, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President