

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**  
**February 8, 2006**

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 Washington Elementary School, 911 Bridle Lane, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Andy Johnson, on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, at 7:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

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

Absent:                    Barbara Intihar

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sandy Niemiera led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATION WITH HOST SCHOOL**

Mrs. Sandy Niemiera, Principal of Washington School, welcomed the Board, administrators and community to Washington School. Mrs. Niemiera recognized the staff and PTA and shared a PowerPoint presentation about an extended learning program run by teachers after the regular school day. This program is targeted to address the needs of students identified through the SIP plan as needing additional assistance to achieve at high levels.

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

President Johnson stated that the Vision & Statement action item is being pulled from the agenda until the March 8 meeting.

**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	Brad Paulsen
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Mark O. Stern
Topic	High School Signs

Speaker	Linda Worcester
Topic	Hubble

## RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

President Johnson stated that the Board has been receiving emails through the web site from community members regarding the Hubble goal. President Johnson applauded these community members for putting their trust in the elected Board members to make the right decision for students. Board members read some of the emails that have been received.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Catalani reported the following:

- Dr. Catalani referenced the series of articles that appeared in the Daily Herald Feb. 5-7 regarding the various ways school districts structure their bond sales. Because District 200 appeared in a chart that accompanied one of the articles, he clarified the District's bond sale procedures since 2000 as follows:

*Thanks to the Daily Herald for its series on bond sales that appeared February 5-7. Unfortunately, I believe the chart that ran on February 7 did not correctly convey the circumstances that impact District 200's bonded indebtedness. The chart failed to indicate how much money was authorized by the community and how much the District actually received. In all of our issues we never exceeded the amount authorized by and/or promised to our community. For example, we ran a referendum in 2003 asking for \$72 million to expand our high schools. We received \$72 million. Any premiums the District received were used to discount the principle amount of bonds issued and to pay the costs associated with the bond sale. Premiums did not impact our ability to access the lowest interest rates available at the time. In addition, we clearly communicated the impact the bonds would have on our tax rate and said in all of our presentations and written materials that we intended to extend the bond retirement schedule in order to take advantage of historically low interest rates, a practice known as backloading. In doing that we reduced the projected tax rate increase by one third. Since the article was critical of capital appreciation bonds and zero coupon bonds, our taxpayers should know we have not sold either type of these bonds. Finally, I'd like to remind readers that since September 2003 the District has saved taxpayers nearly \$5 million in interest costs by refinancing existing debt at lower interest rates. This is a complicated topic, but I feel compelled to assure residents that since I came to District 200 in 1999 we have honored our commitment to taxpayers and have never sold or collected more money than we asked the community to support.*

- There is a report to the Board in the green folders at the table that states the district received notification of the sale of the bonds as approved last August. The average interest rate on those bonds is 4.8%. The enclosed summary lists specific rates for each

bond refinanced. This refinancing saves the taxpayers \$2,262,000 and generates no new money. It also does not extend the length of the debt.

- Residents interested in learning more about school finance should attend a League of Women Voters sponsored meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 16 at the Community Center. City Manager Don Rose and Dr. Catalani will present the local perspective on this topic. Ralph Matire, executive director of the Center for Budget and Tax Accountability, will also participate in the panel discussion.
- A public hearing on the Board's intent to seek an extension to a waiver that allows students to attend school on Lincoln's Birthday and observe the President's Day holiday instead will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15 in the Board Room of the School Service Center. Public hearings on waiver requests are required to be held at a time other than a regularly scheduled Board Meeting. The Board will act to formally request the waiver extension at its March 8 meeting.
- The District received a FOIA request for a copy of administrative contracts and those of the assistant superintendents in addition to documentation of the repairs that have been done at Hubble since 1999. Dr. Catalani stated that in gathering the information for the request, it came to his attention that the reported \$4.6 million in maintenance costs for Hubble Middle School over the last six years included energy costs as well as fees for maintenance and capital improvements. Although the energy costs at Hubble are significantly higher than at the other three middle schools, these costs should be subtracted from the total we have spent on maintenance since 1999, bringing the number to \$2.7 million.
- More than 180 district middle school students participated Feb. 8 in a Career Day hosted by the Wheaton Chamber Education Committee in partnership with IIT. Students from Franklin, Monroe, Hubble, and Wheaton Christian Grammar School talked with many career presenters to learn more about careers available to them when they complete their education. The Chamber sponsors this event to help students better understand the ever-changing work world, the realistic aspects of a variety of jobs, and the skills needed to "make it" in the workplace. Expenses for this event are supported by career grant funds.
- Alison Stelatello, a seventh grader at Edison Middle School, was awarded the Gold Key for drawing, the highest award in the regional Scholastic Art competition last month. Alison's drawing will continue on to the national competition in New York with judging results announced in June. Edison was one of 30 schools and District 200's only school to compete in the 2006 regional Scholastic Art competition that is open to students in grades 7-12.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Acceptance of Gift to Lowell – Recommend the acceptance of the gift of \$500 to Lowell School from Exxon Mobil as presented.
2. Approval to Post High School Courses: Applied Math, College Literacy Skills, Geometry A Level, Geometry I Level, Reading for College, Topics in Geometry – Recommend the approval to post the curriculum as presented.
3. Approval to Purchase New Sound System Equipment – Recommend the approval to purchase new sound system equipment from Pentegra at a cost of \$9,930 as presented.
4. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage County – Recommend the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with DuPage County for work on Geneva Road between Gary Avenue and West Street as presented.

5. Approval of High School Sign Bid – Recommend the approval of the bid of Parvin-Claus in the amount of \$137,657, less the alternate bid of \$54,855 for a total of \$82,802.
6. Approval of Change Orders – Recommend the approval of the change orders as presented.
7. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend the approval of the Bills Payable and Payroll as presented.
8. Approval of Minutes - January 25 Open - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented.
9. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

Member Swanson requested that the High School Sign Bid item be removed from the Consent Agenda of separate discussion and action.

### **MOTION**

Member Slater moved, Member Swanson seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented minus the Approval of the High School Sign Bid. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### Approval of High School Sign Bid

Member Swanson asked for clarification on the bid and the rationale for purchasing these signs with district dollars instead of having them bought by the Booster Clubs. Mr. Farley explained the Excel worksheet that was given to the Board outlining the bids. Paul Pasetti from Legat Architects described the signs and explained that they were always a part of the overall project budget. Because the costs are about \$2000 over the budgeted amount, the Board is being asked to approve this at this time. Mr. Farley stated that there is still money in the contingency funds and the schools continue to work on their wish lists for this money. Board members discussed the benefits of the signs and Mrs. Swanson's concern about spending this money.

### **MOTION**

Member Knicker moved, Member Bomher seconded to approve the bid of Parvin-Claus in the amount of \$137,657, less the alternate bid of \$54,855 for a total of \$82,802. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5 (Knicker, Bomher, Coghill, Slater, Johnson), NAY 1 (Swanson). **The motion carried 5-1.**

#### Approval of High School Curriculum: Percussion Ensemble/Studies, Wind Ensemble, Jr. Varsity Women's Chorale/Trebel Chorus, Men's Chorale, French 2 & 3, German 2, Spanish 2 & 3, and Communication Studies

This curriculum has been on display for 30 days on the District 200 website. No comments have been received on this curriculum. It is recommended that the Board approve the curriculum as presented.

### **MOTION**

Member Swanson moved, Member Coghill seconded to approve the curriculum as posted and presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### Approval of Vision and Mission Statement

One of the Board's high priority goals is the development of a new vision and mission statement. A series of focus group sessions was held last year to get feedback from the community regarding their values for the public schools. A community survey was subsequently conducted and confirmed the finding of the focus groups. A writing team was appointed by the Board to draft the vision and mission statement based on the feedback from the focus groups and survey. The first draft was presented to the Board in December with comments invited prior to the first January meeting. On January 11, the Board discussed the statement and agreed on several changes or edits. Meanwhile, the staff and community were invited to offer their comments on the proposed draft. Approximately 30 individuals responded by mail or email. The writing team met again on February 1 to review the comments and make final edits to the document. It is recommended that the Board adopt the proposed vision and mission statement as presented by the writing team with the proposed changes.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

### Approval to Renew Novell Software License Agreement

Novell is the district operating system. It is required to allow sharing of printers and files across the district. This is a yearly license agreement and the cost is based on student enrollment. The total cost of the license is \$35,432.50 based on a \$2.50 per student charge. It is recommended that the Board approve the renewal of the Novell Software License Agreement in the amount of \$35,432.50 as presented.

### **MOTION**

Member Slater moved, Member Coghill seconded to approve the renewal of the Novell Software License Agreement in the amount of \$35,432.50 as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### Approval of Resolution in Connection with Monroe Overpass Project

The Board of Education, along with the Wheaton Park District and several other governmental entities, has been involved in the Monroe Overpass Project since the mid '90s. At this point in time, the Wheaton Park District has determined that an extension in the timeline for completion has to be sought. This request for an extension must be approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). The Wheaton Park District presented the resolution to the Board, and once the Board of Education approves the resolution, the Park District will submit it to the ICC. It is recommended that the Board approve the Resolution petitioning the ICC for an extension of time for the overpass project.

### **MOTION**

Member Coghill moved, Member Knicker seconded to approve the resolution petitioning the ICC for an extension of time for the Monroe overpass project as presented by the Wheaton Park District. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### **WRITTEN REPORTS**

Recommended 2006-2007 Student Fee Schedule

This report was submitted for information only. This item will be presented to the Board for approval at the March 8 meeting. Board members are asked to submit any questions regarding the fees in writing to Mr. Farley.

### **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Member Slater reported on a conference she attended in Washington DC. The group met with the Legislators and received very positive responses to their discussions. Member Slater thanked Mr. Farley and Dr. Sorrick for the information they prepared for her to take to these meetings. Each of the Legislators requested copies of those materials and Member Slater was able to hand them information in an easy to read format.

Member Swanson reminded the Board members about the upcoming Cook/DuPage Division meeting.

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

Hubble Goal  
Superintendent Search

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Regular Meeting – March 8, 2006 – Jefferson Preschool
- Governance Workshop – February 15, 2006 – SSC
- Closed Session – February 22, 2006

### **MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Bomher moved, Member Swanson seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Potential Land Acquisition 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.** The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 9:01 PM.

No action is expected following the Closed Session.

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**Barbara Intihar, Secretary**

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**Andrew Johnson, President**