

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
June 28, 2006

A special joint meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, and the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the Arrowhead Golf Club, 26W151 Butterfield Road, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Andy Johnson, on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at 7:02 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

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

Park Commissioners: Jeffrey R. Cook
 Paul M. Fullerton
 David Blankenship
 Jack R. Breese
 Jerry Nichilo

Absent: Steve Fieweger
 Mark C. Schobel

Also in Attendance: Dr. Gary T. Catalani
 Mr. Rob Robinson

PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Slater seconded to open the Public Hearing on requesting a waiver to hold school on Casmir Pulaski Day. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion carried.**

President Johnson asked for any comments from the Board or attendees. There were no comments.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Knicker seconded to close the Public Hearing. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion carried**.

Paul Fullerton, President of the Park Board, thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Fullerton stated that while the two entities already have an Intergovernmental Agreement, this meeting is a commitment to renew the spirit of cooperation between the two groups. The Park Board wants the School Board to know that the door is always open and School Board members can contact them anytime.

Andy Johnson, President of the School Board stated that the feeling is mutual. President Johnson stated that the Monroe overpass is a wonderful example of the various groups working together.

Introductions were made around the table and all present expressed an interest in working together.

Dr. Catalani commended the Park Commissioners for hiring Mr. Rob Robinson and stated that Mr. Robinson is a great person to work with and that he always keeps the interest of kids at heart.

President Johnson mentioned the various ways in which the Intergovernmental Agreement has given the park district and the school district opportunities to share spaces. President Johnson described the features of the two new high school field houses and the benefits of the turf on the two high school football fields.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the vision of the Park District for the next few years. Mr. Robinson stated that the main purpose of this meeting was to get to know each other a little bit better. The Park District is very proud of the opening of the new building at Arrowhead. This building is a great way for the park district to generate revenue and the facility has already surpassed a year's revenue of two years ago. Northside Park is the next place to be looked at for improvements. At the last meeting of the Park Board, a decision was made to pledge money to match a grant to install synthetic turf at Graf Park and the Board has been looking into the irrigation of some fields. The Community Center is 18 years old and will need some new life and updating. Like all government entities, the Park District has some financial challenges and the Board and staff are looking at ways to alleviate them. The new vision plan is about communication. The Park District intends to go out to the community with a blank sheet of paper and ask them what the Park District is doing well, what things they are not doing well and what things would they like to see added. Mr. Robinson had all of the staff members in attendance introduce themselves.

Mr. Robinson stated that the Park District does not want to see Dr. Catalani retire. His "spirit of cooperation" leadership comes through from all of his staff. Shared facilities will be critical for the Park District to reach its vision. While the Park District appreciates District 200 letting them use the school facilities, Mr. Robinson pledged that the Park District will never take that for granted, especially from a safety perspective.

School Board Member Slater stated that really all of this ability to partner is a result of a supportive community that passed the referendum to allow the improvements.

School Board Member Swanson reported that the School District just posted a wellness policy. Part of this policy addresses the need for physical activity and the need for the schools to open their doors and facilities after hours for community use. Working together with other entities to provide opportunities to the community will help support this new policy.

Dr. Catalani reported that last school year was spent determining what kind of school district the community wants. Focus groups were held where the attendees were asked what type of district they want. That information was then sent to an outside group that put together a phone survey to ask the same questions of 500 randomly selected people. The Board of Education then took that information and synthesized it into a new vision and mission statement that was adopted this spring. The survey results showed that the community values what the district does and they do not want to see services diminished, in fact they want to see it increased. Now the district will have to find a way to make the vision and mission statements come to life. The first step towards doing this will be the creation of a financial committee to figure out what it will cost to provide the services requested through the focus groups, what the deficit is and how money can be raised to support them. The next step then will be to put together a plan to carry that out. The 20 principals have been challenged to develop a plan for their individual buildings to make the plan come to life within their communities.

One of the big issues for the district is the ultimate resolution of the Hubble Middle School issue. The district is currently putting together a plan with the land owner of the designated property to move the school to a new location at the southwest part of the district.

The third big issue is to begin the second round of the curriculum renewal cycle. The first round, started in 1999, is completed and so now it is time to start over again.

Another issue that is vital to discussion is how to accommodate all of the school district and park district activities at all of the buildings. Ray Morrill said there is a way to do this if we put our heads together. The Park District has first choice at 17 of our locations to use the facilities whenever the school district is not using them. A big part of this will be the artificial turf at Graf Park. Another partnership idea brought to Mr. Robinson is the fitness rooms at the two high schools. The proposal calls for a partnership with the Park District to furnish these fitness rooms and then add an agreement to the Park/School Agreement that the Park District can take over use of these rooms at 6:30 PM everyday. The School District would request that all District 200 citizens, regardless of what town they live in, could use the rooms for the same fee as Wheaton residents. This agreement would be a strong statement of the new spirit of cooperation.

One final big issue for the school district is the superintendent search. The search is in the planning stage and community forums are being scheduled to find out what the community wants in the next superintendent.

Dr. Catalani stated that the District was honored earlier this evening by the Rotary Club of Central DuPage AM. The district, particularly Dr. Catalani, was recognized as the Honorary Business of the Year for 2005-06. This recognition is for his leadership and that of the administrative team and school board to successfully implement the business plan to strengthen the community through education.

Mr. Robinson reported that the Park Board will address the fitness equipment purchase at their July meeting. There was a discussion about supervision and training for users of the equipment. Both boards expressed a desire to have qualified trainers on the premises to supervise correct use of the equipment.

Park Board Member Dave Blankenship stated that the Park District has to look at what they can do with the spaces they have to give the community ways to have fun. The turf at the high schools has made a big difference in creating space. The Park District knows they are going to lose space and has to look at how they can recoup some of that space. The better the two groups can work together, the better both groups can serve our constituents.

There was a discussion about the possibility of the Park District taking over the running of the intramural sports at the high schools. Mr. Robinson said that one key to this working is to not duplicate services. Dr. Catalani said this will take a strong commitment and a real spirit of cooperation between the two groups to give up ownership of the programs and embrace a joint spirit.

Mr. Robinson stated that he believes the purpose of this meeting was accomplished. A process has begun to address the Hubble issues. The Park District has had fair notice and they are working together to find other options.

At some point the two entities will have to put pressure on the Forest Preserve to use some of their open space. The Park District has had a meeting with the Forest Preserve Board to start a similar process.

School Board Member Knicker suggested that the two groups consider meeting jointly on a semi-annual basis. It was agreed upon that the key to success in a partnership is follow through.

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Boards in Open Session, Park Board Member Blankenship moved, School Member Slater seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion carried**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Barbara Intihar, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President