

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
September 27, 2006

The second 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 Madison Elementary School, 1620 Mayo Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board Vice President Rosemary Swanson, on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Marie C. Slater
 Barbara Intihar
 Ken Knicker
 John Bomher

Absent: Andrew Johnson
 Joann Coghill

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Mark Kohlmann led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATION WITH HOST SCHOOL

Mr. Gene Sikorski, Principal of Madison welcomed the Board, administrators and community members to the school. Mr. Sikorski invited the Board and community to attend the 6th annual Multi-Cultural Day at Madison School on November 10.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Pleasant Hill Elementary School was named a Blue Ribbon School this week by the U.S. Department of Education. The award, given to 15 Illinois schools and 250 schools nationwide, recognizes the school's high scores on state tests and their incremental improvement over the past three years. In addition, the school was selected to be a presenter at the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November. Principal Mark Kohlmann, Curriculum Leader Ann Piccione and Dr. Margo Sorrick, Assistant

Superintendent for Educational Services, will speak to the national audience on “The Impact of an On-Site Curriculum Specialist on Student Achievement.” Congratulations to Pleasant Hill School, its teachers and staff, and the students.

- Edison Middle School eighth grader Laura Van Oss is a published author who has been making the circuit of regional book stores to sign her recently released children’s book, *Indigo’s Gift*, which she wrote for her sister. She was inspired to write the book as a fourth grader at Lincoln Elementary School. Congratulations Laura!
- Vice President Swanson recognized the members of the Madison staff that were in attendance at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Swanson 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	Karen Henk
Topic	Posting of homework online

Speaker	Mark Stern
Topic	Buses

Speaker	Paul Yousif
Topic	Utilization of Property

Speaker	Linda Pille (minutes from Deb Durrbeck)
Topic	Proposed Hubble Site

Speaker	Sheila Rutledge (minutes from Dub Rutledge, Vimala Menon, Cindi Copeland, Cathy Mousseau)
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Michelle Senatore (minutes from Jill Quintana, Betty Welker, Mike Vettrano)
Topic	Hubble

Speaker	Joseph Mahady
Topic	Hubble

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Dr. Catalani reported that he contacted the author of the EPA letter referred to by Mrs. Senatore, and informed him of the steps the district has taken to test the proposed land site at Herrick Road and Galusha. The author of the letter stated that the District has met the requirements. Dr. Catalani asked what Federal Superfund Relief means. The answer is that it is the difference in liability of purchase between doing the testing and not doing the testing and the district has done the required things, which are conducting a Phase I test and a visual drive-by. The author suggested getting a legal council review of the report, which the district will pursue.

- Another point in the letter referred to emissions issues and the response was that all of the risks identified with the BP property have been addressed.
- The District is very pleased with the reports. Dr. Catalani clearly indicated the Environment, Inc. was hired by the landowner and their work was done before the district hired Mostardi Platt. There was no collaboration between the two firms. Dr. Catalani stated that he is very offended by a quote in the paper that the “fix is in” regarding the reports. To suggest that Dr. Catalani, the Board or Mr. Farley have the ability to convince two admired firms to fix their results is very offensive. From the very beginning, the opposing sides have always agreed to disagree.
- Since the last report, the district has had two Freedom of Information Requests. One asked for information regarding the size and use of each of the district facilities. The other requested the names of bus drivers and policies related to the release of student information. Both of these requests were filled.

Vice President Swanson stated her thoughts regarding the Hubble discussions. Mrs. Swanson sees two levels to the discussions. The first one is the health issues. It was decided that the concerns should be checked out and it was agreed that verifiable data would be used. This has now been completed and all of the facts have been investigated. Discussion of this topic should be finished now. The data is out there and people can look at it and decide how they want to interpret the data. The harder and more important level is how we define ourselves as a community and district. Are we a community of students or a group of students from a community? All people have an allegiance to where they live, but we are all part of a broader community as we change roles. The school district is the community. Mrs. Swanson believes the community has moved on from who lives where and who gets what. Where do we want to see ourselves as a district in the future?

Mrs. Intihar stated that during her employment at BP Amoco, she participated in management training based on the work of Peter Drucker. In his book, *The Effective Executive*, Mr. Drucker stated that “Time is the most valuable resource and is inelastic. It must be managed. Time is the scarcest resource, and unless it is managed, nothing else can be managed.” Mr. Drucker also says “The effective manager makes decisions based on opinions (not pseudo facts and pre-judgments) and uses other’s opinions to form a case for each side.” Mrs. Intihar stated that the time the district has with Dr. Catalani is limited and she believes his time must be used to the best possible advantage. The facts on the property are in and now decisions must be made based on the facts. The Board and staff need to spend their time on other equally important items. It is time to move on. The Hubble issue has become personal and character attacks have been made. Now is the time to move on.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSENT AGENDA

1. Acceptance of Gift to Lowell School – Recommend the acceptance of the gift of \$601.99 from Target Corporation as presented.
2. Approval of Parent Mentor Contract – Recommend the approval of the contract as presented.
3. Approval of Occupancy Permit, Washington Modular Unit – Recommend the approval of the Occupancy Permit as presented.

4. Approval of High School Change Orders – Recommend the approval of the change orders as presented.
5. Approval of Minutes – September 13 Open and Closed and Approval to Destroy the Closed Session Recordings of Meetings Prior to March 2005 - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented and approval to destroy the closed session recordings prior to March 2005. The closed session minutes will remain closed.
6. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Bomher seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The closed session minutes will remain closed. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

All Students Can Learn Beyond Expectations

The Board discussed this item from the Belief Statements contained in the Vision/Mission Statement. The Board agreed that it is important for teachers to raise their expectations of all students and encourage them to try new and harder things. Staff needs to continue monitoring the number of students taking AP classes. Dr. Catalani stated that the district needs to look at our system and see where we are working against our goal and find ways to take away things that put limits on students. Raising the bar will be a learning experience for staff and also for our community. The district has to give teachers tools to deal with parents of students that expect high grades regardless of student efforts. The Board discussed the constraints of being tied to traditional calendars and timelines to complete a course. The Board also discussed that need for a variety of learning levels in the classroom to spur discussion and motivate students.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy Myers was thanked for her efforts in planning the presentation for the recent IASB DuPage Division Dinner meeting.

Mrs. Intihar reported that members of the Vision/Mission Statement committee met with four citizens that are designing a new District 200 logo. The hope is to bring a proposed logo to the Board in November.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION/ACTION

Hubble Goal
Superintendent Search
Goal Setting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Regular Meeting – October 11, 2006 –Whittier Elementary School

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session items are listed for possible action
Personnel 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Slater moved, Member Intihar seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Issues 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.** The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 9:07 PM.

No action is expected following the Closed Session.

Barbara Intihar, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President