

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**  
**March 24, 2010**

The second regular meeting of the month of March of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Edison Middle School, 1125 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Andy Johnson, on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 7:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

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

Also in Attendance:  Dr. Chuck Baker  
                             Dr. Lori Belha  
                             Mr. Bill Farley  
                             Dr. Robert Rammer

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. David Kanne led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOST SCHOOL**

Mr. David Kanne, Edison Principal, welcomed the Board, administrators and community to the school. Mr. Kanne stated that he is grateful for the effort put forth by the students of Edison School, the daily hard work of the teachers, the work of all of the principals that helped get the Edison students to where they are, the supportive parents and the Board of Education for their support of our students. Mr. Kanne enjoys the great kids he gets to work with every day.

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The Superintendent's Report was moved to immediately after the Consent Agenda.

**RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The weekend of March 13 & 14, the Flying Tigers Special Olympics Basketball team participated in the Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament and came home with Second Place in their Division. It was a great event for all and as always, the students had a wonderful time and played extremely well. Thanks to the friends from the SSC who made sure that each student had a locker poster to encourage them the week before and "treat bags" that were a huge hit with the players and their families. It has been an incredible season. Our students have experienced great team work, friendship, skill building and a sense of belonging that has

enhanced their high school experience and exciting basketball too.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items**

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	Mary Ann Vitone
Topic	Budget

Speaker	Bryce Cann
Topic	Budget/ WWEA Contract

Speaker	Mark O. Stern
Topic	Budget

Speaker	Lisa Seleski
Topic	Budget

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Acceptance of Gift to WWSHS Tiger Dance Team – Recommend the acceptance of the gift to WWSHS Tiger Dance Team as presented.
2. Approval of Appointment of Auditor, Fiscal Year June 30, 2010 – Recommend the appointment of Baker Tilly as the district auditor and accept the proposal for audit services for fiscal year end 2010 as presented.
3. Approval of Occupancy Permit, New Hubble Storage Facility – Recommend the approval of a request to the Regional Office of Education for an occupancy permit as presented.
4. Approval of Bill of Sale New Hubble School – Recommend the approval of the bill of sale to the City of Warrenton for the road improvements along Herrick Road and Galusha Avenue as agreed and presented.
5. Adoption of Resolution for Reduction in Force, Dismissal, and Termination of Certified Staff – Recommend the approval of the resolutions as presented.
6. Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2010 Public Forum, March 10, 2010 Open and Closed, and Approval To Destroy Recordings of closed Sessions Prior to October 2008 as permitted by law. The closed session minutes will remain closed.
7. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

### **MOTION**

Member Intihar moved, Member Slater 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.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Baker outlined an overview of the budget process that was followed. He included the recommendations of the District’s Community Finance Committee and identified that virtually all of those recommendations were incorporated in his final summary.

Dr. Baker presented the final budget reduction summary to the Board. A copy of his presentation can be found on the District's website. Dr. Baker and the president of the teachers' union announced that the District and the union have reached a tentative contract agreement. This agreement, if ratified by the union and approved by the Board, combined with the proposed reductions, would provide a balanced budget for next year.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### Approval of Administrative Budget Reduction Recommendations

The process of identifying budget reductions for fiscal 2011 started in November 2009. The process engaged all levels of employment throughout the District. Draft proposals were discussed with the Board, in public sessions, on February 10th and 24th. On March 3 the Board held a public forum which generated significant information, opinions and suggestions. Final recommendations were posted to the Board agenda for the March 10 Board meeting. The Finance Committee, which had been meeting since January, presented its recommendations. The Board discussed both recommendations. The Board directed administration to integrate the Finance Committee recommendations with the Administrative recommendations as much as possible.

The administration has exercised extensive involvement to create a list of specific reductions. While the goal was to minimally impact students, any reduction will have an impact on student services. Class sizes at all levels will increase. Some services will be altered in the delivery model. Some programs will be eliminated, but in those instances, the administrative view is that replacement opportunities and/or alternatives exist. The reduction process is only one part of a larger process to create a financial system which can support the educational expectations of the professional staff and the communities served by the schools. Current revenues do not match the expectations of the professional staff or the majority of the community. Reductions are just one vehicle used to close that gap.

It is also important to understand that many of the reductions are based on declining enrollment, program elimination, delivery modification, and administrative adjustments, all of which needed to proceed regardless of the budget challenge. The goal remains to create a balanced budget and these reductions, many of them difficult to endorse, are the important step toward that end.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Administrative Budget Reduction Recommendations as presented.

The Board discussed the proposed budget reductions. Specifically, the Board asked questions about the proposal to move the middle school B level sports to the Wheaton and Warrenville Park Districts.

President Johnson asked if Board members wanted to remove any items from the itemized list of reductions for separate action instead of being approved as a part of the entire recommendation. Member Intihar requested that items 2b (Middle School B Sports Program) and 5f (SSC/Administrative Restructuring/Reductions) be removed from the list for separate action. Member Swanson requested items 3a (Elementary FTE) and 3c (Kindergarten PE) be removed for further conversation prior to action.

## **MOTION**

Member Slater moved, Member Bomher seconded to approve the administrative budget reduction recommendations, which include the Finance Committee recommendation, as presented minus items 2b, 3a, 3c and 5e. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### Budget Reduction Line Item 2b - Middle School Sports

Member Intihar asked that this item be tabled to give the administration time to develop an implementation plan and a better understanding of where the district is heading with the whole middle school athletic program. Several Board members want to see a more detailed plan in place before a vote is taken. The Board discussed the possibility of moving both A and B level sports to the control of the park districts. Members Knicker and Swanson stated that they want to see this addressed this year. Dr. Baker will have discussions with representatives from both park districts and will try to bring information back to the Board at the April 14, 2010 Board meeting.

#### Budget Reduction Line Item 3a – Elementary FTE

Member Swanson stated that she has reviewed lots of information on this item and supports the reduction. However, Member Swanson has read that research shows the main benefit to small class sizes occur in grades k-3, if at all. She would like to be assured that if cost savings are found to add back staff, the lower grades would be given priority. Dr. Baker gave information to the Board that indicated projected enrollment numbers for next year. This scenario would keep numbers lower at the K-2 levels and raise them slightly at grades 3-12.

#### **MOTION**

Member Swanson moved, Member Slater seconded to approve the reduction of twelve FTE at the elementary level as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### Budget Reduction Line Item 3c – Kindergarten PE

#### **MOTION**

Member Bomher moved, Member Knicker seconded to approve the elimination of kindergarten PE.

There was discussion about the benefits of physical education at the kindergarten level versus the financial benefits of eliminating kindergarten physical education for a reduction of two FTE. Kindergarten PE teacher, Judy Kennedy, addressed the Board and stated that kindergarten includes much more curricular work than it used to and these small children need time to run around and expel energy so that they can come back to the classroom and concentrate again. Ms. Kennedy requested that the Board consider reviewing the entire physical education program and possibly take a few minutes off the PE classes for all students instead of just eliminating PE for kindergartners.

After the discussion, Member Bomher withdrew his motion.

#### **MOTION**

Member Intihar moved, Member Bomher seconded to add the study of the physical education program at all levels to the list of sustainable strategies for the purpose of reducing expenditures by \$120,000 without diminishing the benefits of the health and welfare of all students.. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion passed.**

## Budget Reduction Line Item 5F – SSC/Administrative Restructuring/Reductions

### **MOTION**

Member Intihar moved, Member Johnson seconded to reduce the figure on line item 5f to \$400,000 and to further study some of the recommendations.

Member Intihar stated that she believes the Board needs to leave more leeway in the administrative restructuring to avoid sacrificing a long term effect for a short term solution. Without good leadership there will not be a good district. Member Intihar would like to see the staff reductions included but take time to look at the benefits package going forward. Member Intihar would also like to see staff development restored and travel allowances removed. Member Intihar does not agree with the people that have said we should not be concerned with what our benchmark districts offer. If we are not competitive, neighboring districts will attract away the young new administrators. Member Slater asked if this is one of the budget targets that might not be reached. Dr. Baker stated that over two years the district could get to this level and if Dr. Harris restructures the administration, the number could be higher. It is hard to develop an administrative formula because some of the grants that support some programs require a certain administrative level to run the program and obtain the dollars. There was a discussion about whether the Board should call the \$686,000 a target instead of a firm figure or set a range that the reduction would be between \$450,000 and \$686,000. Member Slater and Member Coghill were opposed to reducing the number because the community was very clear about administrative salaries and benefits. Member Bomher stated that he believes that the administrators are critical to the success of the district and he does not want to be penny wise and pound foolish. Member Bomher wants to see a re-evaluation of the administrative program and would like to see higher salaries to administrators and put the benefits more in line with industries. This is a time to re-evaluate and phase in over a year or two so that there is not an immediate significant impact on administrators' families. Members Intihar and Bomher want a clear understanding that the \$686,000 is a target and to have Dr. Baker come back to the Board with a specific plan to achieve that savings. Member Coghill stated that the administrators represent 6% of employees and they will be taking a 9.7% piece of the reductions [*sic - administrators represent 3.5% of employees and they will recognize 9.5% of the budget reductions*].

Member Intihar withdrew her motion.

### **MOTION**

Member Bomher moved, Member Intihar seconded to approve the SSC/Administrative Restructuring /Reductions with a target amount of \$686,000 with the understanding that staff will come back with a plan to achieve that amount. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

President Johnson stated that there is a rumor going around that the Board is not following the Finance Committee recommendations. This is not true; all of the committee recommendations have been embedded in the proposal.

## Approval of the Fee Schedule for 2010-11 School Year

In 1994-95 the district instituted a basic fee schedule at all school levels that went into place for the 1995-96 school year. Annually, the administration reviews the fee schedule for the upcoming school year. A recommendation is then brought to the Board of Education for approval. In 1996-97 fee levels remained the same, however, new fees for late registration, and course change

requests were instituted. During the last eight years, the driver education fee was increased, a technology fee was added and increased, a fee was added for elementary calculators, athletic fees were increased and club participation and athletic attendance fees were included in the registration fee.

One of the recommendations of the District Finance Committee was to increase user fees to generate additional revenue. The Board was given the administrative recommendation for the 2010-11 school year. The report indicates the current rates for 2009-10 as well as the proposed rates and can be viewed on the district web site. There are recommended changes to the fee structure for the 2010-11 school year. As in the past, it includes a line item for additional course/classroom consumables, which indicates an at-cost charge. This line item serves only as an umbrella statement to our fee schedule to cover incidental costs.

The following fees would be increased/instituted for the 2010-11 school year:

- Increase Registration Fee \$25 for additional revenue of \$265,000
- Increase Athletic User Fee \$50 for additional revenue of \$105,000
- Increase Parking Fee \$50 for additional revenue of \$30,500
- Institute TCD Registration fee of \$100 for additional revenue of \$15,000
- Increase Graduation Fee \$5 to cover cost increase for cap and gown

It is also recommended that the family cap on athletic participation be eliminated. Participants on the swim team will pay more based on rental costs. The total additional revenue generated from all of these changes is estimated to be \$415,500.

In addition to the standard fee list, there is a list of the high school course consumable fees based on information provided by the schools. The Board is being asked to approve this list as these fees will be charged when students sign up for courses. The additional revenue has been a line-item in the budget reduction list with an estimated savings to the district of \$70,000.

All other fees would be kept at their current rates. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2010-11 Fee Schedules as presented.

## **MOTION**

Member Intihar moved, Member Knicker seconded to approve the 2010-11 fee schedules as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

## **WRITTEN REPORTS**

### FOIA Report

This report was provided for information only.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members thanked all those involved with the budget reduction process. The Board was committed to an open process and took some beatings from the public. The meetings were not easy but Board members listened to every comment and read every email. Thanks to the community for making District 200 a good place.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

April 17, 2010 – Chance to Chat

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

April 14, 2010 – Lincoln Elementary School 7:30 PM

### PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

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	Mark O. Stern
Topic	Auditor Selection

Speaker	Ed Fulton
Topic	Opportunity to Understand Reconfiguration of PACE Program

Dr. Baker clarified that originally the recommendation included the elimination of the PACE Reading program. This final approval maintains the current program but reduces staff. This is due to the fact that buildings with lower numbers in the program have been using the PACE teachers to do other work in the building. Under the new plan, PACE teachers will only teach PACE and will travel to more than one building. This will not result in a change to the program from this current year.

### MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Knicker seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Student Discipline 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Personnel Items 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1), and Collective Negotiating Matters 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2). 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 10:08 PM.

Action is expected following the closed session.

### MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Knicker seconded to reinstate the rules and reconvene in Open Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting was reconvened at 12:08 AM.

### MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Swanson seconded to uphold the expulsion of student E2009-10-07 for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year and the entire 2010-11 school year. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar

moved, Member Slater seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 AM.

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**Barbara Intihar, Secretary**

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**Andrew Johnson, President**