

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**  
**February 23, 2011**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the School Service Center, 130 W. Park Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Andrew Johnson, on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at 7:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

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

Absent:                Joann Coghill

Also in Attendance: Dr. Brian Harris  
                          Dr. Lori Belha  
                          Mr. Bill Farley  
                          Mrs. Linda Knicker  
                          Mr. Rodney Mack  
                          Dr. Robert Rammer  
                          Dr. Margo Sorrick

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Middle School Principals led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION**

Member Knicker moved, Member Slater seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn to workshop setting. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion carried.**

Dr. Harris stated that there are two presentations tonight. The first one is a technology update presented by Rodney Mack. When Mr. Mack was hired, he was told that he needed to look at technology across the district and do an internal audit to determine where the district is and where it needs to be.

The second presentation will be given by the four Middle School Principals and will outline the current middle school program and where the principals believe the program should be heading.

## **BUSINESS SERVICES**

### Technology Department Update

Rodney Mack presented a technology update and outlook for the future. A PowerPoint presentation was used to show where technology should be in 2011, where it is now, and a scenario to get there. Mr. Mack stated that “technology on the side” is a way of the past. Technology needs to be the foundation of what we do in the classroom. The presentation detailed the inadequacies of the current equipment and scenarios were presented showing how, over time, the district can get to where it needs to be to best meet the needs of students. There was a discussion about how to fund the technology needs. Dr. Harris stated that the district can do anything, it just can’t do everything. Whatever plan is implemented must be sustainable. Dr. Harris likened the necessary upgrades to technology to the process that would be used if a boiler needed to be replaced; this must be done to make 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning a reality for the students of the district and to streamline the way we conduct business. Board members would like to see a plan that gets the upgrades very quickly and asked about funding options. There was consensus that the 2011-12 budget proposal must include an increase in the long range percentage of the budget that will be allocated to technology. Currently, the technology budget represents 1.7% of the total budget and the average for school districts in the western suburbs is 2.5%. The Board requested that this be brought to them at the decision point so that they can move this initiative forward.

## **INSTRUCTION**

### Middle School Program

Dr. Harris reported that the Middle School Principals want to share information about the middle school program – where it is and where it needs to be.

Mrs. Knicker stated that the four principals have been working to determine what today’s students need to know and be able to do to be successful after high school. The district cannot continue offering old classes and achieve 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning. What they will present goes right along with the technology needs that were just presented.

The principals used a PowerPoint presentation to share information about middle school programming.

Dr. Sullivan shared the historical aspect of the last four middle school program studies conducted over the past 11 years. Mr. Kanne shared information about the current state of the middle school program and reported that the students are academically strong as evidenced in school report card data. Students are contributing to the school and community and meeting the district vision. Mr. Stipp reviewed the current elective choices and shared the direction the principals want to go with electives to meet the needs of the students. Some electives would be eliminated and replaced with electives that would help students reach the college and career readiness goals. Mr. Bendis explained teaming at middle school and shared the benefits of this approach. Mr. Bendis also reviewed the academic skills aspect of middle school. Mr. Kanne stated that the middle school principals want to continue having counselors for each grade level and outlined their role with the students. Future courses that need to be developed were outlined and steps to better prepare students for high school and college or careers were shared with the Board.

Dr. Harris thanked the principals for their work and leadership on this study and stated that it is easy to see their passion for what they do. The key is where the district is headed at this level.

There are still some unknowns to be addressed, but this team will continue to work to improve the middle school program.

There was a discussion about the need to fix the elective/band/orchestra dilemma at middle school. The principals stated that they are working to figure out a way to help students and offer the programs in a different manner to correct this problem.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items**

None.

**MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Committee Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Knicker 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 10:06 PM.

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**Barbara Intihar, Secretary**

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**Andrew Johnson, President**