

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
February 8, 2012

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 Monroe Middle School, 1855 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Rosemary Swanson, on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Barbara Intihar
 Ken Knicker
 Joann Coghill
 Jim Gambaiani
 Andy Johnson
 Jim Vroman

Absent:

Also in Attendance: Dr. Brian Harris
 Mrs. Faith Dahlquist
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Mr. Rodney Mack
 Mrs. Joanne Panopoulos
 Dr. Robert Rammer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jason Stipp led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOST SCHOOL

Mr. Stipp welcomed the Board, administration and community to Monroe School and thanked everyone for their support of the school. Mr. Stipp and Assistant Principal Susan Baldus-Strauss explained the pillars and core values of Monroe: Commitment, Sacrifice, Citizenship, Patriotism, Courage and Integrity. Ms. Baldus-Strauss explained a recent assembly that addressed bullying and described what Monroe is doing to help students and staff understand what bullying is and how it can be stopped. Students from Monroe spoke and shared what they took away from the assembly.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items

President Swanson stated that while the Board appreciates all questions and comments, it may not be prepared to respond at this meeting. Speakers were asked to confine their comments to three minutes or less. To ensure dignified and respectful presentation of all sides of any issue, it

is asked that audience representatives refrain from applause or other expressions of support or opposition to comments being made. President Swanson stated that no decision will be made at this meeting on the boundary issue. The Board will discuss the recommendation from staff at the next meeting and action will be taken at the following meeting. There will be a parent meeting in between.

Speaker	Brian Wells
Topic	Boundaries

Speaker	Judith Zapf
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Lynn Kadel
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Grace Rochferd, Bailey Wellen & Caroline Johnson
Topic	FMS Boundaries

Speaker	Jim Malles
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Bryan Kadel
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Danette Delco
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Karen Vuolo
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Megan Salgado
Topic	Redistricting

Speaker	Mary Ann Vitone
Topic	Professional Development

Speaker	Mike Poglitsch
Topic	Kindergarten

Speaker	Harold Lonks
Topic	Technology

Speaker	Mike Fitch
Topic	Professional Development/Instructional Minutes

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Harris reported the following:

- Seven CUSD 200 schools made the 2011 Illinois Honor Roll by earning Academic Excellence Awards. The Academic Excellence Award is a commendation from the Illinois State Board of Education. The seven schools are Edison, Emerson, Lincoln, Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier, and Wiesbrook.

- The district received \$2.4 M in categorical monies from the State of Illinois. These are funds that were due last September, but the district is glad to have received this money.
- Dr. Harris and Mrs. Dahlquist attended a LUDA conference in Springfield. The conference focused important topics that the district is facing, such as the reauthorization of ESEA, the NCLB waiver process, and Race to the Top. The State Superintendent spoke about his budget and reported that pension reform is a big topic right now. It appears that the intention of the State is to transfer the pension burden back to the local level.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval to Post Teaching Materials for New High School Science Class – Recommend approval to post the teaching materials for new high school science class as presented for 30 days for public review and comment.
2. Approval to Post Board Policy 4.22, Fund Balance, for 30 Day Community Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post the policy as presented.
3. Approval of a Resolution to Issue an RFP for Performance Contracting – Recommend the approval to issue an RFP as presented.
4. Approval of the Fee Schedule for the 2012-13 School Year – Recommend approval of the fee schedule as presented.
5. Approval of Transportation Contract Extension – Recommend the approval of the contract extension for one year with no price increase as presented.
6. Approval to Add Serious Safety Hazard Bus Route – Recommend the approval to add the bus route as presented.
7. Approval to Open Previously Closed Minutes – Recommend the approval to open some minutes in their entirety, open some minutes with redactions, and keep some minutes closed as presented.
8. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend approval of the bills payable and payroll reports as presented.
9. Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2012 Open and Closed, January 25, 2012 Committee of the Whole, and Approval to Destroy the Recordings of Closed Sessions Prior to September 2010 as Allowable by Law - Recommend that the minutes be approved as presented and the approval to destroy the closed session recordings as permissible by law. The closed session minutes will remain closed.
10. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

There were questions about the one year extension of the transportation contract versus going out for bid. Mr. Farley explained the current law on transportation contracts and Dr. Harris stated that going out for bid could cause an unintended consequence of the cost going up. The current provider was willing to extend the contract with no increase and staff believes this is a good situation.

Dr. Harris reported that the fee schedule presented is the same as this current school year with no increases. The fund balance policy proposed is a step toward meeting the Board goal of fiscal responsibility.

MOTION

Member Intihar moved, Member Vroman 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.**

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Professional Development/Collaboration Time

At the January 25, 2012 Committee of the Whole, there was a discussion regarding the need for structured professional development time at the elementary, middle, and high school level to implement common core standards and improve instruction. A priority was made to create professional development time with no cost and minimal loss of instructional time. At the elementary level, many schools are finding time but new consistent solutions will be pursued during contract negotiations. At the middle school level, time already exists if teaching schedules are made to maximize planning time between teachers of same courses. At the high school level, a change in school day will need to take place 1-2 times a month. This will be done by having a delayed start twelve days during the 2012-13 school year. Busses will run at regular times so that parent/student routines need not be changed. Students will have the choice of arriving at regular time or at the delayed start time. A sample schedule is below.

Team Collaboration:	7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
1st Period	8:38 a.m. – 9:12 a.m.
2nd Period	9:17 a.m. – 9:51 a.m.
4th A/B	9:56 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
5th A/B	10:45 a.m. – 11:29 a.m.
6th A/B	11:34 a.m. – 12:18 p.m.
3rd Period	12:23 p.m. – 12:57 p.m.
7th Period	1:02 p.m. – 1:36 p.m.
8th Period	1:41 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

It is recommended that the Board approve professional development time to implement professional learning communities at all levels.

There was discussion about this proposal and concerns about reducing classroom teaching time. At the middle and elementary levels, time can be found within the school day to accomplish the collaborative time necessary. Through the negotiations process the hope is to find ways to formalize how this happens. At the high school level, it is harder to find time when the teachers can collaborate. The collaborative time will be spent working from a targeted agenda and will be monitored by administrators. Teachers will be looking at data and individual students to make sure they are learning to their fullest potential. Staff is concerned about the loss of teaching time and will work to find ways to gain some of this time back through negotiations and potential changes to the school calendar.

Board members shared concerns about the loss of teaching time. Some Board members stated they are willing to lose a small amount of teaching time if there is measurable improvement in the level of learning. It will take time to develop trend data, but staff will be monitoring not only how the collaboration time is used, but also the level of student improvement.

MOTION

Member Coghill moved, Member Knicker seconded to approve the professional development time to implement Professional Learning Communities at all levels as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5 (Coghill, Knicker, Intihar, Vroman, Swanson), Nay 2 (Gambaiani, Johnson). **The motion carried 5-2.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Franklin Attendance Boundaries

Dr. Harris gave a recap of the process staff used to develop the recommendation and a summary of the issues heard from parents. Staff looked at lots of data and focused on four main criteria:

1. Limit the number of students moved
2. Consider that this is an isolated issue at Franklin
3. Keeping neighborhoods together
4. Minimize any increase in transportation costs

The group looked at natural boundary dividers, considered information about potential new construction areas, high mobility areas and looked for the area that will move the right mix of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Dr. Harris reviewed the data listed in the board report.

There was discussion about the following things:

- Would increasing class sizes solve the problem
- Middle schools bring kids from several feeder schools and students naturally meet students they have not previously been in school with
- Middle schools traditionally spend lots of time on transitioning
- No matter what students are moved, some parents will be concerned that it is not good for their student and want a different group moved
- Students remaining at Franklin deserve to have the overcrowding addressed
- Building capacities and using spaces designed appropriately for the class being taught
- Options for transitioning the new students and parents to Monroe
- Split matriculation patterns
- Moving the entire fifth grade from Washington
- Permissive transfers for current 6th and 7th grade students
- Transportation options

The Board asked that Dr. Harris come to the March Board meeting with his final recommendation based on what was heard at this meeting. A decision must be made in March in order to properly plan for next year.

The Board requested that the possibility of a new Kasarda study and a regular schedule for studies be added to the Parking Lot of topics for future consideration.

Red Grange Athletic Complex Fund

Dr. Harris reviewed the request of a parent volunteer group to seek donations and develop improvements to the athletic complex at WWSHS. The parent volunteer group is asking for Board support to hire a company to conduct a feasibility survey to gauge community support for the proposal and willingness to donate. This group knows that the Board would want considerable input into the entire process if this moves forward.

Mr. Vroman reported that when the group met with the Capital Development Committee they stated that the feasibility study would carry an expense that they do not want to incur if the Board is not interested in the possibility. Mr. Vroman stated that the parent group was made aware of the following concerns:

Possibility of putting too much emphasis on sports over academia

Equitable facilities at the two high schools

Scale of the proposal

Other Board members expressed the following:

1. Community members might think the District is providing less than desirable amenities at the schools
2. Possible side effect of the program taking importance over the students
3. Reduced funding for other district initiatives
4. Concern that survey questions could be skewed to get the answers desired
5. The scope of the proposal does not encompass the entire community
6. Too grandiose of a plan
7. Wrong timing when the district has been facing budget reductions and salary freezes
8. Absorbing too much staff time when they are already busy with other initiatives
9. Do the proposed improvements meet some of the known needs based on the capital development study
10. Why not make this a new foundation for the entire district

Mrs. Coghill stated that she does not understand the majority of the Board wanting to turn down something someone wants to give to the district. Mr. Vroman stated that he believes the Board should agree to the feasibility study with Board involvement, but if the majority of the Board will not support the proposal even if the feasibility study is positive it does not seem right to tell the group to invest in the study only to be turned down on the proposal.

President Swanson stated that she supports the feasibility study but has concerns about the dream concept. The majority of the Board concurred with President Swanson.

WRITTEN REPORTS

FOIA Report

This report was provided for information only.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Committee Reports

Educational Policy Committee

Member Intihar reported that the committee met to review the draft high school profiles, copies of which are included in the green folders given to Board members at this meeting. The committee is still discussing the amount of ranking information to be included in the documents. Board members agreed that the draft documents are a great improvement over the previous profiles.

Finance Policy and Fiscal Dashboard Committee

Member Johnson reported that the committee met and discussed the Fund Balance policy, the RFP for the auditor, and a financial dashboard. The fund balance policy was approved for posting at this meeting. The RFP for the auditor has gone out and the bid opening will be next week. The financial dashboard has been finalized and will be on the web site next week.

Other Board Reports

Member Swanson stated that the following items should be added to the Board's Parking Lot:

- Kasarda enrollment study
- Technology Policies
- A Process for Boundary Changes

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Common Core

Technology

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 22, 2012 – Committee of the Whole - SSC

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2012 – Wiesbrook Elementary School

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

President Swanson stated that while the Board appreciates all questions and comments, it may not be prepared to respond at this meeting. Speakers were asked to confine their comments to three minutes or less. To ensure dignified and respectful presentation of all sides of any issue, it is asked that audience representatives refrain from applause or other expressions of support or opposition to comments being made.

Speaker	Michael Callahan
Topic	Deferred comments from Agenda Item Public Comments - Boundaries

Speaker	Mark Stern
Topic	Boundary Strategy

**CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Vroman seconded to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Items 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

No action is expected following the closed session.

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 11:32 PM.

Ken Knicker, Secretary

Rosemary Swanson, President