

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**  
**October 13, 2016**

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Whittier Elementary School, 218 W Park Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Jim Vroman, on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 8:15 AM. Local legislators were present at the meeting to discuss issues surrounding public education with local government officials who represent the school district.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members:     Jim Vroman  
                          Brad Paulsen  
                          Chris Crabtree  
                          Joann Coghill  
                          Jim Gambaiani  
                          Barbara Intihar  
                          Jim Mathieson

Also in Attendance: Dr. Jeff Schuler  
                          Mrs. Faith Dahlquist  
                          Mr. Bill Farley  
                          Ms. Joanne Panopoulos  
                          Dr. Robert Rammer  
                          Ms. Erica Loiacono  
                          Mr. Rodney Mack

Elected Officials     Robert Berlin – DuPage County State’s Attorney  
                          Frank Bibbiano – DuPage County Sheriff’s Office  
                          Richard Jorgensen – DuPage County Coroner  
                          James Zay – DuPage County Board Member  
                          Dr. Darlene Ruscitti – DuPage ROE Regional Superintendent  
                          Michael Gresk - City of Wheaton Mayor  
                          John Prendiville – City of Wheaton Councilman  
                          John Rutledge – City of Wheaton Councilman  
                          W. Thoreson Saline – City of Wheaton Councilman  
                          Todd Scalzo – City of Wheaton Councilman  
                          Mike Benard – Wheaton Park District Executive Director  
                          Jane Hodgkinson – Wheaton Park District Board President  
                          Ray Morrill – Wheaton Park District Board Commissioner  
                          John Vires – Wheaton Park District Board Commissioner  
                          Betsy Adamowski – Wheaton Public Library Director  
                          Janet Dumas – Wheaton Public Library Youth Services  
                          Christine Fenne – Wheaton Public Library Board President

David Brummel – City of Warrenville Mayor  
John Coakley – City of Warrenville City Administrator  
Leah Goodman – City of Warrenville Alderwoman  
Ron Mentzer – City of Warrenville Director of Community Development  
Tim Reinbold – Warrenville Park District Supt of Recreation  
Colin Wilke – Warrenville Park District Board President  
Sandra Whitmer – Warrenville Public Library Director  
Joseph Breinig – Village of Carol Stream Manager  
Anne Mareachen – Village of Winfield Clerk  
Steve Massie – Winfield Park District Board President  
Chris LeVan – Milton Township Assessor

## **MOTION**

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

## **Welcome**

President Jim Vroman introduced Dr. Schuler who welcomed all and the opportunity to have dialogue. This is a chance to provide an update on District 200. Dr. Schuler reminded the guests that feedback and questions are always welcome during the meeting, as well as outside of this format. Dr. Schuler emphasized that the strength of the district is the community - the active involvement from the students, staff and the leadership in the community.

Mr. Chris Silagi, Principal of Whittier School was introduced. Mr. Silagi welcomed everyone to Whittier School and thanked everyone for coming to this event.

Mr. Vroman also thanked everyone for attending and communicated the Board is proud of the relationships with all groups that were in attendance today, and shared a brief overview of the results of the District 200 community survey. The feedback showed that residents of the community are highly engaged in their schools and in all organizations that are represented here.

Dr. Schuler mentioned that WWSHS was recognized at last night's board meeting for being an Illinois Democracy School. The teacher that spoke on behalf of the school referenced that the school made a commitment to educate students on the importance of civic involvement and the value of learning how to become an active citizen. It is important that the next generation of adults understand civic involvement, which is why this meeting with local officials is so important. It is an opportunity to engage in dialogue sharing different strengths from different perspectives.

Dr. Schuler referenced the D200 profile sheet which was distributed to all attendees. This profile includes information on district enrollment, demographics, achievement, and district finances.

The following was noted:

- Enrollment numbers are down slightly, but pattern is stable and should be consistent
- Demographics continue to change in the district
- The percentage of low income students has increased from 25% to 30% since last year
- The number of English learner students with second language is 9%

- The district is required by law to service English learner students, as well as those with disabilities
- ACT composite score for D200 was 23.5 in 2016. The district continues to perform well with benchmark districts in the area
- 95% of the 2016 graduating class were moving on to continue their education
- The district had 11 National Merit Finalists
- There were 1,431 students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses in 2015
- Emerson and Longfellow were both Blue Ribbon schools last year
- The seal of biliteracy was offered at both high schools last year
- The district introduced a new set of science standards in our schools (NGSS)
- Inspiring Excellence - There were 200 students that enrolled in AP classes for the first time
- “Universal Access” was unveiled to ensure all kids have access to the technology they need – this includes 4700 chromebooks, upgrades to network and infrastructure, partnering with Sprint and other agencies
- The district has been focusing on social emotional learning (SEL) to ensure our kids are healthy
- There has been a collective focus on the development of a master facility plan for the district

Dr. Schuler introduced Mrs. Faith Dahlquist, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, who talked about FIT (future of instruction and technology), and how schools and classrooms need to change as technology changes. There are skills that cannot be measured on achievement tests, such as creativity and collaboration. There needs to be balance in the learning environment. The district wants to ensure that students do not lose the ability to interact due to focus on technology. We need to equip the students with the skills they need for learning and the desire to continue learning. A short video was shown to the group on FIT.

Dr. Schuler added that FIT and the direction the district is headed with the concept is a reflection of what was expressed by the community during the community engagement process.

Financial information was shared from the District 200 profile, including the following:

- The district received the highest financial recognition from the State of Illinois as to how we are managing finances in the district
- The fund balance continues to grow slightly
- The district has a balanced budget
- D200 has a strong bond rating
- The FY16 operating cost per student is comparable to the state average and has been consistent

Dr. Schuler talked of the district focus on facilities and summarized the Master Facility Plan which the Board of Education has been working on for the last year-and-a-half.

The following was communicated with regard to the plan:

- The process of assessing and analyzing the needs on the capital side
- How do learning spaces need to transform based on the learning environment we are targeting?
- Refinements are currently being made on the plan

- Breakdown of the \$154M in identified need
- The results of the community survey were presented to the Board last night
- \$154M in identified need does not mean that is the referendum number
- The fund balance floor is 25%
- The decision to go to referendum will be made in January 2017

There was discussion with the local officials on the following:

- Sources of funding other than the State
- Capital asset replacement program
- The challenge for the Board is to look at all options, but must fund need and deliver quality education
- Moving forward with level assessments
- Update on SB16 – good news as compared to a couple of years ago and a firm commitment as to hold harmless concept
- Cost per student – D200 compared to other DuPage County districts shows that we are on the low end of the spectrum compared to our benchmark districts
- Heroin prevention is a big issue and the steps the district has taken to tackle this issue were detailed by Dr. Rammer
- The importance of social emotional learning (SEL) and helping kids make good choices. The focus on decision making is important and contributes to a well-rounded education
- Highlights from the community survey include:
  - The level of satisfaction with the district is high,
  - The perception that students are prepared for the next level when they leave the district.
  - With regard to individual projects, there is overall support for the individual projects. The two projects with communication work include the Monroe performing arts center and the Early Learning Center.
  - Financial impact: 58% support for a potential referendum that would result in a tax increase of approximately \$175 for the owner of a median-valued home in the district
- “Early Learning Center” and what that encompasses for the district:
  - The legal requirement of offering services to accommodate children with identified needs at age 3
  - Doing it because we want to not because we have to
  - Kindergarten readiness – not just an academic issue
  - Jefferson and satellite locations
  - Preschool expansion grants
  - Tuition based students
  - The effectiveness of one centralized location

Mr. Vroman commended the Board on receiving the Board Governance award last week and noted that District 200 is the only school board that has received this award three consecutive times.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

Dr. Schuler and President Vroman thanked everyone for attending and sharing.

**MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Crabtree moved, Member Mathieson 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 9:20 AM.

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**Chris Crabtree, Secretary**

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**James Vroman, President**