

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
October 23, 2014

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 Barbara Intihar, on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at 8:00 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: Barbara Intihar
 Jim Vroman
 Brad Paulsen
 Joann Coghill
 Jim Gambaiani
 Jim Mathieson

Absent: Rosemary Swanson

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 Amy Grant, DuPage County Board Member – 4th District
 Gwen Henry, DuPage County Treasurer
 Darlene Ruscitti, ROE Regional Superintendent
 Alan Angus, Chief - DuPage County Sheriff's Office
 Anthony Romanelli, Lieutenant - DuPage County Sheriff's Office
 Michael Gresk, Mayor – City of Wheaton
 Don Rose, City Manager – City of Wheaton
 Todd Scalzo, Councilman – City of Wheaton
 John Rutledge, Councilman – City of Wheaton
 Phil Suess, Councilman – City of Wheaton
 Thor Saline, Councilman – City of Wheaton
 Jim Kozik, Director of Economic Development – City of Wheaton
 Mike Benard, Executive Director – Wheaton Park District
 John Kelly, President – Wheaton Park Board
 Christine Fenne, President – Wheaton Public Library Board

Betsy Adamowski, Director – Wheaton Public Library
David Brummel, Mayor – City of Warrenville
Leah Goodman, Alderman – City of Warrenville
Kathryn Davolos, Alderman – City of Warrenville
John Coakley, City Administrator – City of Warrenville
Colin Wilkie, President – Warrenville Park District Board
Frank Severino, Mayor – Village of Carol Stream
Joseph Breinig, Village Manager – Village of Carol Stream
Tim Powers, President – Carol Stream Park District Board
Chris LeVan, Assessor – Milton Township

Mr. Chris Silagi led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION

Member Paulsen moved, Member Vroman 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

Dr. Schuler thanked everyone for attending to dialogue on what we are doing. In many ways all groups represented have the same interests and concerns and the degree in which all of the groups work together on some common goals contributes to the success of all entities.

Dr. Schuler thanked Chris Silagi, Principal of Whittier for opening the school for this important gathering.

The goal of this meeting is to give the attendees some key take aways of what the district is working on and facts about the makeup of the district.

Common Core State Standards – Faith Dahlquist

Illinois is among the more than 40 states that have implemented new learning standards to improve college and career readiness for all students. The new Common Core State Standards establish clear expectations for what students should learn in English Language Arts and Mathematics at each grade level. The standards are rigorous, clear, and uniform to ensure that students are prepared for success in college and the workforce. District 200 has been working hard to align our curriculum to Illinois' new standards. We believe the current standards are more rigorous, more clear, and better than Illinois' previous standards. The standards also provide better alignment from kindergarten through 12th grade.

There was discussion about some of the controversies surrounding common core, especially in math. Common core helps to teach students what the math concepts mean and not just how to solve given problems. It develops critical thinking. There are resources available on the district web site and through classroom teachers to help parents learn how to help their student with their homework.

There was discussion about the nutrition and the federal guidelines and the connection between accepting those federal dollars and common core. District 200 has almost 30% of

our students that come from low income and that is what qualifies the district for federal dollars.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – Faith Dahlquist

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of 19 states working together to develop a common set of computer-based assessments in English and Math linked to the new, more rigorous Common Core State Standards. The PARCC assessment replaces the ISAT and PSAE beginning this year.

Previously, State tests required students to fill in the blanks. PARCC's computer-based assessments will be much more interactive and engaging. The test is designed to assess critical-thinking skills and students will not only have to solve complex problems, but show how they solved them. The idea behind PARCC is to ensure that every child is on a path to college and career readiness by measuring what students should know at each grade level.

eLo (Expanding Learning Opportunities) – Faith Dahlquist

The eLo Consortium consists of three unit districts – District 200, Naperville District 203 and Indian Prairie District 204. Our districts have joined forces to offer students additional personalized and innovative ways to learn in a virtual and blended learning environment. The mission of eLo is to engage students and ensure their success by providing a meaningful and high-quality online and blended learning experience in a locally supported environment.

The 2014-15 School Year is the first year eLo is offering courses to students. Currently, more than 200 students from all three districts are taking courses in Geometry, Mandarin, US History, Consumer Economics, Health, English and Coding. Courses are taught by certified staff from all three districts.

Community Engagement Update – Erica Loiacono

A copy of the Engage 200 Report to the Community from the Board of Education was distributed to all attendees. This document outlines the process from start to current. There were over 700 participants in the Engage 200 process.

Finance Update & Senate Bill 16 (SB16) – Bill Farley

A handout was distributed that contained information on the following:

- What is Senate Bill 16?
- How will SB16 affect District 200?
- Fiscal Responsibility in District 200
- What can you do?
- Attend a District 200 information session
 - Wednesday, October 29 – 7:00 PM at Monroe Middle School
 - Thursday, November 13 – 7:00 PM at Hubble Middle School

There was discussion about what the district will do if SB 16 passes and the pension reform pushes more expenses to the district. District 200 has begun those conversations. It is expected that if those things happen, they will be phased in over time. The district is looking at how to identify areas for reduction. Eliminating 132 teachers is used in conversations to draw an

analogy to what the money would translate to, but cuts will happen across all programs and people if necessary.

There were questions about a connection to SB16 loss of funds being connected to pension costs for Chicago Public School employees. There is language in the document that speaks to this but no one has said how that might play out. It was agreed upon that something has to be done with school funding in Illinois. However, it needs to be done in an equitable manner. It is everyone's obligation to educate all students in the state. Our focus is on our students, but all kids deserve an equal education. It is estimated that 62% of the districts in the state are in deficit funding. Illinois is 50th in the country for the way education is funded. This will be a crisis item for the district and will have a tremendous impact that will not be fully known until all the facts are in. We must find ways to help the community advocate for our schools.

The SB16 forums will be structured around a community conversation with the residents to help people understand what they can do to help with this complex situation. All school districts need to be part of the conversation.

There are three large issues facing the district at this time: the Affordable Care Act, the pension shift, and SB16. District 200 runs lean and mean. Discussion centered around the categories of employees, mandates and policies that are required and their impact on staff time, and how to effectively impact change outside of our community. The core of the discussion across the state has to address inadequacies in education funding. The conversation has to focus on what needs to happen to fix this problem and cannot become districts fighting against each other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Dr. Schuler stated that there was a recent article in the newspaper about his first 45 days in District 200. What he found is that District 200 is an amazing school district in spite of the challenges the district faces. Amazing things are going on in the classrooms and everyone he asked what makes you proud to be in the district responded that it is the quality of the people.

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Vroman moved, Member Paulsen 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 9:12 AM.

Brad Paulsen, Secretary

Barbara Intihar, President