

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
October 12, 2012

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the Jefferson Early Childhood Center, 130 N. Hazelton, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Rosemary Swanson, on Friday, October 12, 2012, at 8:30 AM. Local legislators were present at the meeting to discuss educational issues and state legislation and the effects on District 200 with local officials.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Barbara Intihar
 Joann Coghill
 Jim Gambaiani
 Jim Vroman

Absent: Andy Johnson
 Ken Knicker

Also in Attendance: Dr. Brian Harris
 Mrs. Faith Dahlquist
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Ms. Erica Loiacono
 Ms. Joanne Panopoulos
 Mr. Rodney Mack

Elected Officials Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, ROE
 Mr. Robert Berlin, DuPage State's Attorney
 Mr. Bob Grogan, DuPage County Auditor
 Mayor Mike Gresk, Wheaton Mayor
 Mrs. Jeanne Ives, City of Wheaton
 Mrs. Evelyn Pacino Sanguinetti, City of Wheaton
 Mr. John Rutledge, City of Wheaton
 Mr. Phil Suess, City of Wheaton
 Mr. Don Rose, City of Wheaton
 Mr. Mike Benard, Wheaton Park District
 Mr. Ray Morrill, Wheaton Park District
 Mayor Davie Brummel, Warrenville Mayor
 Mr. John Coakley, City of Warrenville
 Mrs. Emily Larson, City of Warrenville
 Mrs. Diane Dillow, Warrenville Park District
 Mr. Colin Wilkie, Warrenville Park District
 Mr. Jeff Christiansen, DuPage County Sheriff's Office

Dr. Brian Harris led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION

Member Vroman 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.

President Swanson thanked everyone for attending and read the District 200 Vision and Mission Statements.

Introductions were made around the room. Documents were provided to the legislators that included information about a new Jefferson Early Childhood Center, the District 200 Annual Report, materials that highlight things going on in District 200 and legislative issues.

Dr. Harris stated that he was glad to have all of the local officials in the same room for discussion. Dr. Harris informed the group that the Jefferson Early Childhood Center has been on the district's plate for a very long time. The End of the Year Report includes a survey to gather input from the community regarding this capital project. A PowerPoint was shown that contains information about the Jefferson history, program and needs. The presentation included a video of the school in action and three concept plans. Information was also shared about the possibility of addressing issues at the SSC, Woodland, facilities and technology. Cost scenarios and ways to pay for these concepts were shared.

The following topics were discussed:

- The fact that the district would have to go for a referendum even if no money was being sought
- The possibility of sharing maintenance facilities with the city or park district
- The need to educate the community that the district is required to have a program like Jefferson and if they do not they must pay to send the students to another program
- There have been changes to the laws and to meet those laws more and appropriate spaces are needed
- Vast majority of the community have no idea what goes on at Jefferson and the vital function of the building
- The building is not adaptable to the program being run
- The district is responsible by law to educate students with special needs from age 3 to 22 in the least restrictive environment
- Concern of park district about losing open space
- The architects are beginning to look at the concept plans and suggest changes based on feedback from the forums that were held
- The fact that people are moving to this community based on the reputation of the program at Jefferson which adds to property values

Dr. Harris and Mr. Farley reviewed the district's budget. There was an explanation of the new board policy to address fund balances. There was discussion about the impact of late payments from the state for all governmental entities.

There was discussion about pension reform in Illinois and the potential impact if the financial burden is sent back to the local level. District 200 will be impacted by \$500,000 per year going forward and will no doubt increase over the years. There was conversation about the potential need for a referendum to help fund the pensions if this occurs. Dr. Harris stated that District 200 negotiated new contracts with the bargaining groups and removed the retirement incentives that were adding to the pension problems. There have been recent strikes in other districts over this very issue. It was noted that the professionalism of our teachers allowed contract negotiations to be successful.

Dr. Harris and President Swanson thanked all of the attendees for attending and participating in such great discussions.

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Vroman 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 9:55 AM.

Ken Knicker, Secretary

Rosemary Swanson, President