

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
October 9, 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 Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 7:30 AM. Local legislators were present at the meeting to discuss educational issues and state legislation and the effects on District 200.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

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

Absent: Ken Knicker

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

Legislators: Senator Kirk Dillard
 Senator Carol Pankau
 Representative Mike Connelly
 Representative Mike Fortner
 Representative Sandra Pihos
 Ms. Janet Hurtado from Congressman Roskam's Office

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

MOTION

Member Johnson 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.

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 drew attention to the annual report and stated that it was just sent to the community. This document gives a broad overview of what went on in District 200 over the last year. On page 6 there is information about Jefferson Early Childhood Center. This information is the reason this meeting was held at Jefferson. Jefferson needs significant change. The district is going to the community for input on the proposal for Jefferson and a few other facilities in the district. District 200 will be looking for as many funding opportunities as possible. A video about Jefferson was shown.

The district status report covers three main topics:

- The financial status of the district
- Balanced budget for three consecutive years
- Generated a positive fund balance

Representative Fortner asked the district to supply him with a list of the unfunded mandates that impact District 200 and what that impact is. Mr. Farley stated that transportation, special education hold harmless, driver's education car safety requirements, and the new laws surrounding bandwidth to accommodate the new state assessments are some of the most noticeable. Mr. Farley will develop a comprehensive list and get it to Representative Fortner.

Representative Pihos asked what the impact would have been for the district if the proposed change to funding had passed. Mr. Farley reported that the district would have probably received double the amount of the current funding.

Dr. Harris reported that the district recently settled a three-year teacher contract. This contract removed a retirement incentive and replaced it with a pension plan that does not increase the salary, which would in turn obligate the pension program. By the third year of the contract, salary increases will be tied to the CPI. The contract contains a re-opener clause if the pension scenario changes at the state level during the three- year term of the contract. It was noted that the professionalism of our teachers allowed contract negotiations to be successful.

Mrs. Dahlquist shared information about PLC's and how they are being implemented in the district. Handouts were shared that reflect data for the high schools and the high achievement on AP exams and ACT composite scores.

Dr. Harris talked about the high school profiles that were updated last year. These profiles tell the story of how well the District 200 students do and how prepared they are for college and/or careers.

Representative Pihos asked about the level of participation by District 200 students at the Technology Center of DuPage. Dr. Harris reported that approximately 75 students from each high school attend the Center.

Dr. Harris stated that the pension reform bill is on the minds of District 200. The district does not have the money on hand if the costs are transferred back to the district and would have to decrease by approximately 10 teachers if that were to happen next year. Representative Fortner

asked when the district would have to consider an ed fund rate increase if the shift does come to the districts. Dr. Harris replied that it would be talked about immediately and would probably happen within 2 years. The district has a fund balance because the 2003 construction grant finally arrived in the spring and the district has already restricted programs to have a balanced budget. This district has not had an ed fund increase since 1987.

Member Intihar stated that many cuts were made to balance the budget. If professional development is reduced and class sizes are increased the district will see test scores decline. It will negatively impact the district if the rules for pensions stay the same but the burden shifts to the district.

Senator Dillard asked for a list of mandates the district would like eliminated if the costs shift from the state. Local control should be considered and the government should not be making rules from 200 miles away. Structural changes must be made to the system that is broken. Dr. Harris said that staff will create that list and get it to the legislators.

Member Swanson stated that it is troubling that funding is different for Chicago Public Schools and they make the rules that all other districts must follow. Senator Dillard stated that we must make sure that all districts get everything Chicago gets.

Senator Pankau stressed the importance of the Board keeping their voice heard. The organizations the district belongs to do a great job of representing them, but individual voices are very important.

Representative Fortner presented information on HB 6204 which he authored to address pension reform. Other legislators suggested that this plan might be the best alternative and be a real solution, not just a shift of burden.

There was a discussion about late payments from the state and their impact to the district.

There was a discussion about the issue of election filing and the deadline being 5:00 PM on December 24 and the deadline for appeals being 5:00 PM on New Year's Eve.

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

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Vroman moved, Member Intihar 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 9:22 AM.

Ken Knicker, Secretary

Rosemary Swanson, President