

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Avoca Schools

April 22, 2010

The Board of Education met in regular session on April 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Marie Murphy School Community Room, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The President called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll. The following members were present:

William Bazianos
Jeffrey Greengoss, President
Henry Kingwill
Michael Knippen
Rosanne Ullman, Vice President
Sherry Wallingford
Rick Zelinsky

Absent: None

Also Present: Kat Cetrone, Video Recorder
Beth Dever, Business Manager
Cindy Devin, Pupil Services Director
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Principal/Avoca West Elementary School
Madeleine McCloskey, Board Recorder
Dr. Joseph Porto, Superintendent/Secretary
Dr. Deanna Reed, Asst. Supt./Principal, Marie Murphy School

Visitors: Susan Geidner, ITC Director, Avoca West
Kathy Mazur, Teacher, Marie Murphy
Robert Schnurlein, Teacher, Marie Murphy
Boys' Varsity Volleyball Team and Family Members
Read-A-Thon Fundraiser Organizers and Family Members
Storytube Contest Winners and Family Members

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The 13-member boys' varsity volleyball team was recognized for its first-place win in the North Shore Independent Conference matches and tournament and overall 10-3 record for the season. Also recognized were several Marie Murphy School students and their advisors for organizing 3 on 3 Basketball and Read-A-Thon fundraisers and a teacher and her group of Avoca West Elementary School 4th graders who won awards for submitting original videos of their favorite books to the 2010 Storytube National Contest. A break was then called, during which the students and their families were treated to some refreshments provided by the Board.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Dr. Porto requested adding two discussion items to the beginning of the agenda regarding a local realtor's sign and a Technology Site Visit budget issue.

Realtor Signage

Superintendent Dr. Porto had been told that a realtor's for sale sign was placed in front of an Avoca residence in Winnetka that included a mention of Avoca District 37 being an award-winning school district. Dr. Porto indicated this could be considered a positive, third-party affirmation of the District's high quality for people interested in moving into that neighborhood.

Technology Site Visit Update

This month's Board auditor noticed that total expenses incurred by the recent NSBA Technology Site Visit slightly exceeded the \$36,500 that had been raised by the District to cover the event. Since it was the intent not to use District funds, it was suggested that a small fund-raising event be held by the students in the fall to cover the shortfall.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Kingwill moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2010
- MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT WITH A TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF \$12,522,606.17, AND EXPENDITURES INCLUDING MARCH PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$671,854.42, MARCH FIXED CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$114,251.89, APRIL EDUCATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$154,262.81, APRIL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,647.64, APRIL TRANSPORTATION FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,037.51, AND APRIL TORT FUND EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68.00
- MARCH ENROLLMENT REPORT
- APRIL PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Zelinsky seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos aye, Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye, except abstaining from the March 18, 2010, open and closed meetings minutes; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. The motion was carried. Mr. Zelinsky will audit the books for the month of May.

DISCUSSION ITEMSSuperintendent Search Update

Superintendent Dr. Porto, President Greengoss and Vice President Ullman gave a brief summary of their meeting with representatives from BWP and Associates regarding the upcoming superintendent search. A timeline was provided to Board members that included the following search activities to take place between May and December: Focus groups; profile report; online vacancy announcement; advertisements in educational publications; application deadline; BWP screening interviews; Board first and second interviews; site visit; contract signed; and selected candidate introduced. BWP and Associates indicated they would continue to be available to mentor the new superintendent after he/she begins work in July 2011. It was pointed out that a new law was recently passed in Illinois that may negatively affect future employment contracts with out-of-state candidates. Mrs. Dever indicated she would investigate the matter and report back to the Board. A letter of understanding for BWP's superintendent search services was prepared for Board approval later in the meeting.

Avoca Community Preschool Update

Superintendent Dr. Porto provided an update and recommendations for long-term financial stability for the Avoca Community Preschool. He also provided current 2010-2011 enrollment figures for the two classes, which included the number of typically developing students and students with IEPs. Actual enrollment

several tasks that were completed and also listed upcoming activities for next year. She reported that the 2010-2011 enrollment numbers indicate the District's preschool program is now a first choice for many families in the community and surrounding area, and the current families are overwhelmingly pleased with the program.

Bus Leasing Recommendation

Business Manager Beth Dever provided the Board with her recommendation for a five-year, municipal bus leasing plan along with several related documents. Her recommendation was based on the fact that the current fleet of buses was between seven and twenty years old and required an average of \$3,000 per year in repairs and maintenance for each bus. After extensive research, she recommended that the District contract with Midwest Transit Equipment Company to lease four buses as follows: Lease two 66-passenger buses and one 53-passenger bus in April and one more 53-passenger bus in July. She also recommended trading in five buses, bringing the fleet down from 11 to 10. Mrs. Dever said the leasing plan would provide more dependable buses to transport the students. It was reported that the Board's Finance Committee approved the leasing recommendation in March, and the Administrative Team also recommended Board approval of the plan. A resolution authorizing the municipal lease agreement and the leasing contract itself were to be voted on by the Board later in the meeting.

2010-2011 Board and Committee of the Whole Meeting Dates Established

Superintendent Dr. Porto provided the Board with a tentative schedule of regular Board and Committee of the Whole meeting dates for the upcoming fiscal year. It was the consensus of the Board to follow the schedule as it was presented.

Report on FOIA Request

Business Manager Beth Dever reported to the Board on a Freedom of Information Act request she received, for which she had complied. Online Data Service, LLC requested District records regarding contact information about our vendors and bid responses.

Avoca Benefits Committee Report

Business Manager Beth Dever reported on the two Avoca Benefits Committee meetings held to date. This was the seventh year since the committee was first formed. Gallagher Benefits Services, Inc. administers the various plans for the Educational Benefits Cooperative (EBC), of which District 37 is a member. Ms. Dever indicated that enrollment in the benefit plans was consistent with last year's numbers. She went on to report on six topics covering the District's health, life, dental, disability, flex and 403(b) plans. The following premium renewal changes were to be voted on by the EBC Board in April: PPO – 1.5%; Life – 0%; Dental – 1.9%; and HMO – 5.1%.

NSBA Conference Report

Board member Rick Zelinsky provided the Board with a summary of three breakout sessions he attended at the recent National School Boards Association Conference held in Chicago. They included: 1) Superintendent Succession and Transition Planning – Research Findings and Best Practices; 2) Motivation Gold – Strategies to Recognize Teaching Excellence and Improve Performance; and 3) District Dashboard – A Progress Monitoring and Reporting Tool to Improve Student Achievement and Organizational Performance. Mr. Zelinsky discussed each session in depth and said the first session was especially relevant, as it coincided with the District's own superintendent search and offered some helpful information.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Intervening in Three PTABs

Business Manager Beth Dever reported that the District's legal counsel had offered to intervene on the District's behalf on three pending 2008 property tax assessment appeals (PTAB). The Administrative Team recommended Board approval.

Mr. Knippen moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LAW FIRM OF ROBBINS, SCHWARTZ, NICHOLAS, LIFTON & TAYLOR, LTD. TO INTERVENE ON THE DISTRICT'S BEHALF ON PENDING 2008 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS BY KATE STEVENSON FOR HER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 95 WOODLEY RD., WINNETKA, IL, JAMES DEYOUNG FOR HIS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 22 INDIAN HILL RD., WINNETKA, IL, AND PIONEER PRESS FOR THEIR INDUSTRIAL APPEAL ON THEIR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 275 NORTHFIELD RD., NORTHFIELD, IL.

Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky; aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; and Ms. Ullman, aye. The motion was carried.

Adoption of Bus Leasing Resolution

The President reported that a proposal had been received from Sovereign Leasing, LLC to enter into a Municipal Lease Agreement whereby the District leases school buses pursuant to Section 10-22.25a of the *School Code*, and that the Board of Education would consider adoption of a resolution providing for the approval of such Municipal Lease Agreement.

Mr. Kingwill moved that

THE BOARD ADOPT THE RESOLUTION APPROVING A MUNICIPAL LEASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEASE OF SCHOOL BUSES FOR AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 37, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Bazianos seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Zelinsky; aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; and Mr. Bazianos, aye. The motion was carried.

Approval of Municipal Bus Leasing Agreement

The Municipal Lease Agreement between lessor Sovereign Leasing, LLC and lessee Avoca School District #37 was recommended for approval by the Board.

Mr. Bazianos moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL LEASE AGREEMENT PLUS ADDENDUM FOR AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT #37 TO LEASE FOUR SCHOOL BUSES FROM MIDWEST TRANSIT EQUIPMENT, INC. FROM 4/23/10 TO 7/15/15, AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Wallingford, aye; Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; and Mr. Zelinsky; aye. The motion was carried.

Approval of Superintendent Search Firm Letter of Understanding

B.W.P. and Associates was officially selected by the Board at the March meeting to conduct the superintendent search for the District. The Administrative Team recommended approval by the Board.

Mr. Kingwill moved that

THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATTACHED LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN B.W.P. AND ASSOCIATES AND AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT #37 IN REGARD TO CONDUCTING A SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH.

Ms. Wallingford seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Kingwill, aye; Mr. Knippen, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; and Ms. Wallingford, aye. The motion was carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Knippen moved that

THE BOARD MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS.

Mr. Kingwill seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Knippen, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Wallingford, aye; and Mr. Kingwill, aye. The motion was carried.

Following a short break, the Board moved into closed session at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Bazianos moved that the meeting adjourn, and Mr. Zelinsky seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

President

Secretary