The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:  Marco Corsi, President  
Thomas Kosowski, Vice-President  
Karen Burmeister, Secretary  
Randy Heuser  
Larry Harris  
Johnny Holmes  
Donald Pratl  

Dr. John Byrne, Superintendent of Schools

ABSENT:

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: 38

Dr. Harting acknowledged the new hires that were in attendance stating several could not make it due to a previous commitment such as coaching for us. He welcomed the new hires stating that we have a great group and asking them to stand and introduce themselves.

Mr. Corsi asked if there was anything that one of the Board Members would like removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he proceeded with the commendation.

COMMENDATIONS:

LAUREN LAMASTER  
EDUCATOR’S LEGACY AWARD  

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Whereas, Governors State University recently presented social studies teacher Lauren Lamaster with its prestigious Educator’s Legacy Award; and,

Whereas, Shepard High School graduate Taylor Gentry nominated Ms. Lamaster for this award; and,

Whereas, Taylor wrote that Ms. Lamaster was “…not only my teacher, but a mentor … a dependable and trustworthy adult steer(ing) me into the right path” in her nomination; and,
Whereas, a former student nominating Ms. Lamaster for an honor such as the Educator’s Legacy Award represents perhaps the highest praise for a teacher.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education and Administration of Community High School District 218, in an effort to support and acknowledge professional excellence, offer sincerest congratulations to Lauren Lamaster for her award, which has brought much honor to herself, her family, Shepard High School, and Community High School District 218.

Adopted this 15th day of September 2014 by order of the Board of Education of Community High School District 218.

Mr. Corsi congratulated Lauren Lamaster and thanked Mr. McParland.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the commendation as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Holmes, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mr. Corsi, Mrs. Burmeister, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATED TO MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

No comments from the public.

BOARD MEMBERS’ OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND

No response needed.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Heuser moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Kosowski, and Mr. Heuser voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS THROUGH IWAS

MACS PAYABLES

Moraine Area Career System
Educational Grand Total - $2349.66
PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

The following disbursements were presented for approval: District 218: $4,634,092.19; August Payroll, $2,694,260.44; and a Grand Total of $7,328,352.63.

PERSONNEL LIST 2014-#9

The Personnel List consisted of one administrative retirement, one certified retirement, one certified appointment, two certified resignations, five certified leave of absences, one part-time certified position, ten classified resignations, 32 classified appointments, and one classified termination. In addition, fall coaching stipends for Eisenhower, Richards and Shepard were also presented.

Dr. Pratl thanked Dr. Harding for arranging to introduce the new certified staff. He further stated that he appreciated it very much. Mr. Kosowski also acknowledged the new staff and stated that they don’t have to sit through the entire meeting and kiddingly stated that they could all come in late tomorrow morning.

Mr. Corsi also acknowledged the new staff and stated that due to the length of our agenda they could leave at this time.

CRADLE TO THE CLASSROOM PRESENTATION

Mr. McParland, along with Kelli Mason from the district, and Julie Anderson and Roberta Hardy from District 130 gave the presentation. The program has been in place since 2010 when a group got together and discussed ways to motivate parents to become better motivational partners with their children. The program reaches out to parents of newborns to read to their babies and grow their baby’s brain. Reading to your baby at an early age enhances the child’s capacity to process information. They become effective communicators, processors of information, high achievers in school, and good problem solvers.

District 130 and District 218 have worked with the community libraries and hospitals to reach out to parents. Mr. Corsi thanked the group for their presentation stating “great job.”

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report as of August 31, 2014 was presented to the Board of Education for their review.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

A technology report along with a recap of the technology expenses throughout the district was presented to the Board of Education for their review.
BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT

A recap of maintenance at each of the buildings was presented to the Board for their review and as information. Included was the consulting report on the grounds and sports fields throughout the district.

SUMMER 2014 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

An update on the 2014 summer construction projects was presented to the Board for their review and as information.

Mr. Kosowski asked the status of the basement at Shepard. Mr. Ford stated that we survived the storm and didn’t take in any water.

Dr. Byrne stated that in the after-Board delivery the Board will receive a ‘Punch List’ prepared by DLA and that the majority of the items listed on the punch list have been resolved and we are within budget.

Dr. Byrne also stated that Sohol has been difficult but we are working with them and they are paying attention.

BUSINESS OFFICE UPDATE

Mr. Daley presented a Business Office update to the Board for their review which included the following:

- 2014-2015 Budget
- Health and dental insurance renewal
- School bus purchase
- Transportation contract
- Cardio equipment bid request – second-half
- HLR band uniform bid request
- Levy
- Update on audit
- DDE-LRC Furniture request to rebid

Mr. Harris questioned the school bus purchase and whether or not leasing would be cost effective and if there are any concessions for transportation purchases linked to the Transportation Fund. Mr. Daley noted that there is no extra money in the Transportation Fund and that we will spend less money if we contract through Illinois School Bus. Purchasing the bus will be cost effective. It was noted that the buses are 12 years old and we maintain them. Dr. Byrne stated that we have not had any breakdowns and the maintenance is outsourced through Spitfire. These buses are ready to go for staff which is a positive.

Mr. Kosowski asked just how long the district has been working with McGladrey on the audit. Mr. Daley responded that he believes McGladrey has been with the district for 25 years and we work in conjunction with the Township Treasurer’s office regarding auditors and they also use McGladrey.
Mr. Kosowski suggested that we look at who was the auditor for the Cook County Regional Office of Education during their difficult times and make sure it wasn’t McGladrey.

MONTHLY SECURITY REPORT

The monthly security report was presented to the Board of Education for their review.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

A revised report was provided to the Board at tonight’s meeting.

The district student enrollment report was presented to the Board for their information and review. The total district enrollment as of August 31, 2014 was 5,565 students. The individual building totals were Eisenhower, 1,787; Richards, 1,700; Shepard, 1,820; Delta, 85; and Summit, 65 students. Outplacement for ABS was 34, for DDE 53 and for HLR 21 students.

EVALUATION OF NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

On August 4, 5, 6 and 7th, twenty-three new certified staff members attended District 218’s New Faculty Orientation Program. Administration’s goal is to have new certified staff members understand clearly what teaching and learning mean in our district and to understand our Shared Vision of who we are and what we believe in as a district. We also want to ensure that new faculty members are familiar with the building and central office administrators, understand basic policies and procedures, and are prepared for the first few days of school.

In summary, Administration believes that this four-day program was a solid introduction to the district, and we look forward to continuing with our New Faculty Induction Program during the 2014-2015 school year.

EVALUATION OF INSTITUTE DAYS AUGUST 12 and 13, 2014

The 2014-2015 school year began with two Institute Days on August 12 for all staff at Shepard High School and the 13th for certified staff members at their home schools. The first Institute Day consisted of two parts: a district-wide meeting with all staff members and individual department meetings. Dr. Byrne began the district-wide session welcoming the staff back to the new school year and communicating to them his desire to continue to improve as a district.

In summary, the majority of those that responded to the evaluation gave favorable reviews for all categories – 67 percent felt the district meetings will lead to improved learning for the students and 61 percent felt the day’s events provided participants with the knowledge and skill to collaborate.
REQUIRED THREE YEAR ASBESTOS RE-INSPECTION

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, at least once every three years, the district must conduct a re-inspection of all friable and non-friable known or assumed asbestos containing building materials in each school building that they own or otherwise use as a school building. Each re-inspection will be conducted by an inspector who is licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the results of the re-inspection shall be reviewed by a Management Planner who is licensed by the IDPH. We anticipate the work to begin at the end of September and have set a completion date of October 24, 2014 with a cost for the work estimated at $10,000 to $12,000.

Mr. Corsi questioned whether or not this process is really necessary. Lisa Krueger responded that these inspections have always been required but had not been done in many years.

Dr. Byrne stated that such regulations are in place to ensure that staff will be protected and that key is identifying and containing asbestos. We are required to inspect our facilities for asbestos containing materials, prepare management plans and perform response action for the removal of the asbestos. We put a plan in place based on the information from the inspector. Mr. Ford stated that we are mandated to keep the plan in place and available to the public. We do have residents that come in and ask to view the plan. This plan will identify asbestos and subsequently limit asbestos exposure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Pratl asked about the audit field work which has begun. Mr. Daley stated that the auditor looks at state and federal grant money, state aid calculations, TRS, IMRF and they review the Board minutes - no stone goes unturned. Mr. Daley confirmed that everything is going along smoothly.

Mr. Corsi stated that Board Members may get a call from the auditor and these calls would be based on random tests.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

The Annual Application for Recognition of Schools will be submitted as a web-based application for the 2014-2015 school year and must be approved by the Board of Education. Once approved at the Board of Education meeting and reflected in the minutes, this application will be submitted electronically through IWAS. The report from all three schools was in compliance and included a response to assurances listed regarding para-professionals and teacher/principal applicable statutory references.

Mr. Corsi stated that this item was approved in Consent.
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
SECOND READING

Mr. Ryan addressed the Board stating suggested policy updates recommended by PRESS were brought to the Board at tonight’s meeting as a second reading. These included the following:

- 4:100 Insurance Management – Student insurance a new section.
- 4:175 Convicted Child Sec Offender, Criminal Background Check and/or Screen Notifications (This is referenced separate from Safety)
- 5:280 Duties and Qualifications – Updates and conforms requirements for TA’s.

Mr. Heuser moved, seconded by Mr. Kosowski to approve the policies as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

NEW POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy 5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity was presented as a ‘First Reading’ in August and at tonight’s meeting Administration will ask the Board to approve.

Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Kosowski to approve the new policy 5:180 as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Holmes, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD MEDICAL INSURANCE RENEWAL

The district has just completed its eighth year of medical insurance with Blue Cross/Blue Shield as recommended by Mesirow Financial Insurance Services. The renewal proposal was sent to each Board member via e-mail and is included here. Renee Formell of Mesirow met with the Administration to present it and was at tonight’s meeting to address the Board.

Mesirow went out to market and asked fourteen companies for a quote. Eight quotes were provided that were much higher than our BC/BS renewal number and six companies declined because they could not be competitive. The current costs and the renewal were reviewed by the superintendent, the assistant superintendent and the business manager with a recommendation to renew.

Ms. Formell stated that the total annual fixed costs for the aggregate premium, specific stop loss premium and the administration fees are increasing by 5.5 percent. The original renewal had an 11.3 percent increase in the fixed costs but Mesirow negotiated it down. The expected claims are projected to increase 3.8 percent.
It was also noted that because we have a self-funded health insurance program, we avoid the Affordable Care Act transitional reinsurance fee which would have been $112,000 plus this year. Ms. Formell recommends that the district renew with BC/BS. Discussion continued among the Board Members and Mr. Corsi stated that he, Dr. Pratl and Mr. Heuser participated in a telephone conference call regarding the insurance renewal which went very well. Dr. Pratl thanked Renee for the ‘heads up’ regarding items discussed during the recent telephone conference call and the discussion at tonight’s meeting. Mr. Heuser restated the changes that could be expected regarding the Affordable Care Act which include penalties to the district. The district could incur penalties should any of its employees have to spend more than 9.5 percent of their annual salary on the annual cost of single health insurance. Mr. Heuser wanted to make sure that the Board Members understand the penalty. Ms. Formell stated that the penalty could be as much as $3,000 per employee and could be in place next year.

Mr. Corsi thanked Ms. Formell for her presentation. It was the consensus of the Board to stay with BC/BS and the current stop loss premium.

Mr. Heuser moved, seconded by Mr. Kosowski to approve the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Heuser voting aye. Mr. Harris recused himself.

REQUEST TO BID REPLACEMENT OF SECOND HALF OF THE DISTRICT’S CARDIO EQUIPMENT

Mr. Daley addressed the Board - The cardio equipment that is currently used in the three campus buildings’ fitness rooms was purchased along with weight equipment and floor matting after the approval of the FY08 bid award to Direct Fitness Solutions. Many of the cardio equipment items are now in disrepair and need to be replaced. Half of this equipment was replaced last year. It was recommended that the Board direct the Business Office to bid the second half of the district’s cardio equipment at this time.

Discussion continued among the Board Members and Mr. Kosowski asked if this new equipment will help keep our insurance costs down. Dr. Byrne confirmed that staff does use the weight rooms.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mrs. Burmeister to approve the Business Office to bid the second half of the district’s cardio equipment and replace. The motion carried on roll call with Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Harris and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

REQUEST TO BID BAND UNIFORMS FOR HAROLD L. RICHARDS HIGH SCHOOL

The uniforms currently being used for band and choir at Harold L. Richards High School are showing the effects of many years of use, weather and frequent cleaning. They are in need of replacement and are used for band and choir. They are now 13 years old. They were acquired after the bid process was completed in November, 2001. Specifications are being prepared to give the uniform a specific look, the durability to last for many years and to accommodate alterations for various sizes.
Chuck Martin and Dr. Carol Baker presented a sample of the new band uniform and answered questions from the Board Members. It was noted that the new uniforms are adjustable for different lengths, machine washable, lighter weight fabric, darker color and water resistant. No uniforms go home and they are laundered at the end of the school year at a local cleaners who will also store for the summer.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Business Office to bid the band uniforms for Harold L. Richards High School. The motion carried on roll call with Dr. Pratl, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Corsi, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

RECOMMENDATION BID FOR LIBRARY FURNITURE BID PACKAGE AT EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

The Library Furniture Bid Package hosted its bid opening on Thursday, August 14 and we received three sealed bids for the project. At the August 18 Board of Education meeting the Board tabled the bid until more research was performed on the apparent lowest responsive bidder. The lowest bidder was Hertz Furniture. A site-visit to the showroom where the Hertz Furniture was showcased was done. The craftsmanship and overall quality did not meet our expectations. Administration is recommending that we re-bid the LRC furniture using only Base Bid – Option A.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to approve Administration to reject the original bid and re-bid the LRC furniture using only Base Bid – Option A for the library furniture package at Eisenhower High School. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Holmes, Dr. Pratl, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Corsi, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

PROPOSED AND POTENTIAL 2015 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

A list of 2015 construction projects for each of the buildings was presented to the Board for their review and discussion. Lou Noto from DLA was present to answer any questions the Board might have.

The following projects were discussed:

- Roof Replacement Phase 2 at ABS
- Air Handler Replacement 11 of 21 Units at ABS
- Condensing Pump Replacement 12 Pumps at DDE
- Band Room Air Handler at DDE
- Running Track and Fence Replacement at DDE
- Office and Fitness Room Conversion/Remodeling at DDE
- Handicap Accessible Entrance at DDE
- Air Handler Replacement (4 of the 14 Units at HLR
- Running Track and Fence Replacement at HLR
- Exterior Door Replacement at HLR
- Main parking Lot Replacement at DLC/SLC
- Garage/Storage Addition at DLC/SLC
- Performing Arts Center (PAC) Addition and Interior Remodeling Project at Harold L. Richards.
Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to bring this agenda item to the floor for discussion. It was noted that there would be no need to officially approve.

Mr. Harris questioned the irrigation issues at Eisenhower and asked what we have done to remedy the situation. Mr. Ford stated that this year we made sure the fields were watered manually and will look further into this next summer. He further stated that projects like this are done in-house.

Storage issues that were mentioned earlier were also discussed by the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that Administration look into whether or not the National Guard Armory adjacent to DLC/SLC is currently being used or if this facility is no longer used. If this facility is no longer going to be used the Board would like to look into purchasing or renting this facility for additional storage.

Dr. Byrne would like to prioritize these projects and look to the future to develop a plan. Dr. Byrne further stated that we need to continue our efforts to renovate all of our buildings.

Mr. Harris asked about the status of the possibility of partnering with the park districts and the proposed Performing Arts Center. Dr. John stated that he has met with the Director of the Oak Lawn Park District, Maddie Kelly and in turn she reached out to Representative Flowers and Senator Collins to bring them on-board. In addition, Dr. Byrne has reached out to the Public Building Commission of Chicago and they have offered to help us put the project in place. This commission would act as the project manager picking two or three contractors and going out to bid. The Public Building Commission has a history of community participation in its programs and projects, with a commitment to economic sustainability and is structured to plan, design, construct, and manage facilities for the County of Cook and the City of Chicago.

Discussion continued among the Board Members with a concern that scheduling events/activities between the district and the park district could be a problem. In addition, the Board discussed the possibility of creating a partnership with all of the park districts that feed into the district.

Dr. Byrne will bring additional information to the Board as he receives it. Dr. Byrne will also move forward to get better prices for the projects that were discussed earlier.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Heuser wanted to let everyone know that the Foundation’s 218 Arts Extravaganza is available on public television (ATT and Blue Island TV) on channels 4 and 99 at 11:00, 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. until the end of the week.

There were no other comments from Board Members.

At 8:45 a.m. p.m. Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to go into Closed Session to discuss probable litigation and the employment of a specific employee. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Kosowski, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Harris and Mr. Heuser voting aye.
CLOSED SESSION

At 9:50 p.m. Mr. Holmes moved, seconded by Dr. Pratl to reconvene into Open Session. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Kosowski, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to direct Administration to contact PROACT Search LLC and move forward with the process of working with the search firm in the selection of a new superintendent. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Kosowski, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Harris and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments from Board Members.

At 9:55 p.m. Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on roll call with Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Harris and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education