COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 218
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:  Marco Corsi, President
           Tom Kosowski, Vice-President
           Karen Burmeister, Secretary
           Randy Heuser
           Donald Prati
           Johnny Holmes (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)
           Larry Harris

           Dr. John Byrne, Superintendent
           Dr. Ty Harting, Asst. Supt., Human Resources
           Mrs. Gail O'Dea, Secretary to the Board
           Mrs. Karen Hill, Pending Approval Future Secretary to the Board

ABSENT:

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:  16
Mr. Corsi asked if there were any agenda items that the Board Members would like removed from Consent. Hearing none he moved forward with the Commendations.

RESOLUTIONS AND COMMENDATIONS

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL
LEO CLUB

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Whereas, the Leo Club from Eisenhower High School annually volunteers for many worthy projects in the Blue Island area; and,

Whereas, led by faculty sponsor Amy Stevens, the Leo Club this year has helped Blue Cap raise money to support its programs for special needs children, students, and adults; and,

Whereas, Leo Club also sponsored a very successful food drive just prior to Thanksgiving.

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 service to others, offer sincerest thanks to faculty sponsor Amy Stevens and Leo Club for their efforts, which have brought much honor to themselves, their families, Eisenhower High School and Community High School District 218.
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Adopted this 20th day of January 2015, by order of the Board of Education of Community High School District 218.

SHEPARD HIGH SCHOOL
NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Whereas, Shepard High School staff members Jim Benes, Brad Fisher, Kristine LaRocco, Erin McLean, Esther Roth, and Shirley Jones; National Honor Society; and the Jewel Food Store in Palos Heights and the Dollar Store in Crestwood collaborated on a pair of massive service projects recently; and,

Whereas, these individuals, organizations, and businesses donated much time, energy, money, and food to the Jerry Lemon Needy Family Food Drive just prior to Thanksgiving; and,

Whereas, they also collaborated on the Adopt-A-Family project just prior to winter break; and,

Whereas, these projects provided food, clothing, and gifts for hundreds of needy residents, many of whom are families of District 218 students.

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 service to others, offer sincerest thanks to Jim Benes, Brad Fisher, Kristine LaRocco, Erin McLean, Esther Roth, Shirley Jones, National Honor Society, the Jewel Food Store, and the Dollar Store for their efforts, which have brought much honor to themselves, their families, Shepard High School, and Community High School District 218.

Adopted this 20th day of January 2015, by order of the Board of Education of Community High School District 218.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS
There were no comments from the public related to agenda item.

BOARD MEMBERS' OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC
No comments were made.

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. Holmes, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Corsi and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

Approval of Consent Agenda continued and included the following:
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Meeting December 15, 2014
Closed Session December 15, 2014

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

CHSD 218

The following disbursements were presented for approval: District 218: $2,474,892.00; December Payroll, $4,983,712.79; and a Grand Total of $7,457,604.79.

MACS PAYABLES

Moraine Area Career System
Educational Total - $405,917.40

PERSONNEL LIST 2015-#1

The Personnel List consisted of one certified appointment, two certified retirement, two certified leave of absences, and five classified appointments. In addition, the personnel list will include a classified retirement and classified appointment.

Mr. Corsi recognized Gail O’Dea for her years of service to the district, wishing her all the luck on her pending retirement. He then introduced Karen Hill as her replacement.

AMERICAN TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

Charles Territo from American Traffic Solutions showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Cross Guard System. School bus arm cameras are mounted to capture videos if a vehicle goes around a bus. The cameras have been very effective in changing driver behavior. There is no bus driver interaction, it is 100% automated and completely camera mechanized. A number of pilot programs are currently taking place in Illinois. Mr. Kosowski asked if other school districts are using this service, Charles replied yes.

Mr. Corsi requested Mr. Daley create a proposal and present to the board next month.

Mr. Kosowski had concern if a lawsuit was place against the district would a representative from ATS be available and Charles confirmed yes.

Cost neutral fee is the value of service which is $800.00 per unit/bus, a month. ???
No upfront cost to the district. All police departments have access to this system; they work with the cook county sheriff’s office to handle multiple municipalities.

Mr. Daley should contact local bus companies to see what the cost
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FINANCIAL REPORT
The financial report as of December 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.

Dr. Prati questioned the supplemental machines for PARCC testing. Mrs. Keigher explained in order to accommodate the 300-400 students participating in the PARCC assessments 32 laptops per building (64 in total) need to be purchased.

Mrs. Keigher will provide in next month’s technology report information regarding the distance learning plan.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT
A report outlining the current projects at all of the buildings was presented to the Board for their information and review.

Dr. Byrne noted we are still in design mode for the performing arts Richards’s project. We are surveying the staff for wish lists and plan to present a status update soon. Mr. Corsi requested that we down scale the design on the theatre to save on cost. Mr. Kosowski noted there are other stakeholders involved, i.e. Oak Lawn Park District, who have not been represented at any meetings thus far. Discussion continued about the finances on the performing arts center.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT
The district student enrollment report was presented to the Board for their information review. The total district enrollment as of December 31, 2014 was 5,421 students. The individual building totals were Eisenhower, 1,713; Richards, 1,688; Shepard, 1,798; Delta Learning Center, 74; and Summit, 67 students. The Outplacement for ABS, 32; DDE, 29; and HLR, 20 was also included.

DIRECTOR OF SECURITY MONTHLY REPORT
A summary of incidents that occurred at each of the buildings was presented to the Board for their information and review.

Mr. Holmes asked what discipline was given for the Shepard student for the weapons altercation, the student has been displaced.

Mrs. Burmeister questioned what was taking place at Shepard on 12/26 during that incident; it was during the basketball tournament.

BUSINESS MANAGER’S UPDATE
Mr. Daley submitted an update for the Board’s review and information. Issues presented included the following:

➢ The tax levy was filed in the Cook County Clerk’s Office on Dec. 18.
➢ A mid-year fund analysis is included under the reports section.
➢ The Worth Township Treasurer’s investment report is in the reports section.
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➢ Transportation Bid: A requested to bid transportation services is on the agenda.
➢ Band uniform Bid: A recommendation to award the bid is on the agenda.
➢ Mechanical Bid: A recommendation to award the bid is on the agenda.
➢ State Grants: The state made seven grant payments to us totaling $1,487,474 in December.
➢ Construction Costs Repayment: The bond sale was completed in Nov.
➢ 2014-15 Budget: Next month, we will ask the Board to designate the business manager to prepare the budget.

MID-YEAR FUND ANALYSIS
Using the December financial statements, Mr. Daley prepared an analysis to look at the status of our revenues and expenditures as we are 50 percent of the way through the fiscal year.

Mr. Daley addressed the Board stating that we are almost identical to last year, noting we are about 1 million less in expenditures and revenue. We are in a good financial position. Mr. Corsi thinks it’s important to read a fine detailed report with regards to expenditures and revenue.

WORTH TOWNSHIP REPORT
Worth Township Investment/Summary Report was provided to the Board as information.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST
Under the Freedom of Information Act, we received the following requests. This information was provided within the time frame stipulated in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

➢ Deborah Fleming

➢ Dr. Vincent Miles
  • Closing records for each debt issuance of this district since January 1, 1984 through today.

➢ Erica Taylor
  • Plans and specifications for the 2015 Shepard roof replacement bidding project.

➢ Crystal Davis
  • Image Systems and Business Solutions. Copies of all active copier and printer lease agreements the district currently has as well as any corresponding and active service agreements for the district’s existing fleet of copier and printers.

➢ Garvey Associates
  • FOIA request on behalf of Michael Graham. Copies of Board policies.

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COOL PLACE
The first semester data regarding the COOL Place tutoring program was presented. Many students attend COOL Place for a supportive environment to do homework and receive assistance from a trusted adult.
Mrs. Burmeister noted attendance has a significant decrease from previous years and questioned if our tutors have decreased. Dr. Gavin attributes the decrease due to additional supports currently available for students as part of our district-wide RtI program. Dr. Gavin will review again 2nd semester and if it is a consistent pattern we will re-assess the program.

Mr. Holmes is concerned if the decline continues will this program be phased it out. Dr. Gavin responded it is not something we have discussed but conversation can start at the administrative level. Dr. Byrne noted this is not a program that we would phase out; there is still a high participation rate among students even though it is declining. Mr. Holmes suggested hiring more department specific teachers to help expand the program.

COMMON UNIT ASSESSMENT RESULTS: ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
A report containing the results for the last set of first semester common unit assessments in English, mathematics, and science courses was presented to the Board as information. Retest results were not included. This report provides the grade distribution for each assessment as well as the number and percentage of skills or objectives mastered.

Dr. Pratl has concern there are a number of items that are lacking at the end of the semester, so are students behind going into 2nd semester. Dr. Gavin stated a lot of time last month was used to discuss how to get these remedial skills addressed so students will be successful for 2nd semester. Dr. Pratl questioned if first semester final exam data will be following this trend. Dr. Gavin could not speak on behalf of this report yet as they are still compiling this data, the report will be available next month for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS
There were no committee reports.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AWARD FOR HLR BAND UNIFORMS
At the September 15, 2014 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the recommendation to bid the replacement of the Harold L. Richards High School band uniforms.

Mr. Harris noted band uniform bid submission is always lacking & not sure why this is a reoccurring issue. Mr. Daley responded it is comparatively to last year's bid.

Mr. Heuser moved, seconded by Dr. Pratl to approve the band uniform bid. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Heuser, Mr. Holmes, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Kosowski, Mrs. Burmeister, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

REQUEST TO BID TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
Illinois school districts are allowed, by law, to renew student bus transportation contracts with their current providers on a year-to-year basis, after the initial contract term (and a possible two-year extension), if no bidder provides timely notice that it wishes to bid on the District’s transportation business. It has been the past practice for competing bus companies to request to bid transportation services each Spring. However, an interested contractor has sent an early request this FALL that we bid our transportation services.
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Discussion continued among board members, Mr. Heuser questioned if this will be a combined bid vs the split like last year and Mr. Daley responded the split bid is best for the district. Mr. Harris noted we should petition for seat belts to be installed on buses.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to request bid transportation services. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

SENIOR EXAMS PETITION
The Eisenhower class of 2015 presented a petition with regard to being exempt from finals. In the past, student meeting state standards on the PSAE were exempt from taking final exams. They are upset that the privilege to be exempt from finals has been taken away because they were told that they would be exempt, which served as a motivation for them to try harder to get better scores and now that is being denied. It was further stated in the petition that previous classes had the opportunity to do so. These students feel that they are being treated unfairly and that they are the last graduating class to have taken the Prairie State Achievement exam. The petition received contained 203 signatures from seniors that are asking Administration to grant these seniors the privilege of being exempt from finals.

Dr. Byrne recommended since the Eisenhower students petitioned in a polite well-mannered request it should be honored. Dr. Pratl noted since this only effects 30% of our student population, there really isn’t any harm of these students not taking the finals.

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

RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD BID FOR 2015 MECHANICAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
The Mechanical Improvement Project to be performed at various locations hosted its bid opening on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 3:00pm at the Administration Center. The district received five sealed bids for the subject project.

Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mrs. Burmeister to award a $3.2 million bid to Bergen Construction Company for the 2015 mechanical improvement project. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
All board members recognized Mrs. O’Dea once again for her years of service with the district. They praised her for professionalism, wished her health & happiness and noted she will be missed tremendously.

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to go into Closed Session to discuss employment of a specific employee, and probable litigation. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Harris, Mr. Heuser, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Corsi, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Kosowski voting aye.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:45 p.m. Dr. Byrne and Dr. Harting were dismissed from the meeting.
At 10:02 p.m. Mr. Holmes moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to come out of Closed Session. The motion carried with Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Heuser, and Mr. Harris voting aye.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
There were no comments by the Board.

At 10:03 p.m. Mrs. Burmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Kosowski to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Heuser, Mr. Kosowski, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Corsi and Mr. Harris voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
President, Board of Education

[Signature]
Secretary, Board of Education