

January 17, 2006
WILMETTE, IL

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Alan Dolinko called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members Present: Alan Dolinko, Shelagh Donoghue, Bruce Lyon, John Relias (7:15 p.m.),
 Timothy Scherman, Judy Schnecke

Members Absent: Greg Polan

Administrators Present: Glenn "Max" McGee, Ray Lechner, Martin McConahay, Alice Reardon, Toni Shinnars

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2005 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LEVY AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Mrs. Donoghue moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to accept the revised minutes of the December 19, 2005 Public Hearing on the Levy and Regular Board Meeting. These were approved by **General Consent.**

PRESENTATIONS FROM AUDIENCE

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Written Communication

None

Art Work

The beautiful wildlife watercolors created by Ernie Sheridan's seventh grade art students reflected a mastery of the elements and principles of fine artistic expression.

Administrative Announcements

Dr. McGee recognized District 39 chess team members and their coaches Jim and Margie Drier. He presented certificates to the four state championship and two runner-up teams from the All Grade Level Tournament. It was also announced that the District 39 team placed second in the K-8 team championship from the Latin School.

Dr. McGee then commended the Wilmette Gumballs from Highcrest, a Lego team, who came in third out of fifteen teams at the First League Regional Tournament, and expressed his appreciation for the parent volunteers. He said that test scores are only one measure of success of a school district pointing to the importance of the students involvement in these teams, as well as a published letter to the editor of the *Chicago Tribune* written by Laura Montenegro, a fourth grade student from Central School.

He recognized Barb Unger, Central School, for her recent appointment as a Regional Consultant with Active Learning Systems. And then he spoke about the recent visit to District 39 of the Regional Representative from the U.S. Department of Education, Kristine Cohn.

Dr. Lechner explained that the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) results will be available soon and that the District will communicate to parents and staff how to read these results and what they mean. He said there will be three presentations, one for staff and two, one in the evening and one daytime, for parents. Dr. Scherman suggested that the powerpoint presentation be available on the web for parents to access. Dr. Shinnars said that the ITBS results will be mailed on January 20th with a parent guide enclosed.

Mr. McConahay said the landscape bids solicitation was in the newspaper that week. The bids will be opened on the 10th of February.

Legislative Report – Excellence Task Force Report

Dr. McGee said the education section of the upcoming Governor’s State of the State and Budget addresses will probably concern construction, consolidation and calories. He said the Governor will introduce a new fund for construction for new schools. He will also propose significant incentives for consolidation of elementary and high school districts and for consolidation of elementary districts. He said the Governor may also propose legislation for a junk food ban. Dr. McGee reported that the Excellence Task Force sent the Governor its report that morning which included three highlights – Pre-school to grade 16, establishment of a “Cradle to Career” committee to help promote a seamless education system with the most innovate proposal being the Educational Venture Capital Fund. Second was the Educational Leadership provision. He explained that there are not many good schools without good leadership. This would help identify the most effective leaders and have them work with those that are less successful. The final highlight was the provision for increasing the special education reimbursements by \$1,000 per year per student for the next ten years. The District is still receiving \$8,000 for each student, which was established back in 1985.

There was Board discussion of the report with Mrs. Donoghue expressing her disappointment with the Task Force’s suggestion to promote and use gaming to help fund education. Mr. Dolinko thanked Dr. McGee for his work with this committee.

Parent Telephone Survey

Dr. McGee said the main purposes of the survey are to gauge parent satisfaction, to identify if the District is improving, to see if the District’s mission is being realized, to gather parental reactions to upcoming changes and to garner ideas they might have for the District. He said the survey and results from three years ago were included to be reviewed with changes suggested by the PTO/A presidents and Ad Council members. He said the WEA and Village-Wide PTO will have input after this meeting.

He explained the suggested changes to the last survey, saying that the PTO/A presidents suggested not to ask questions about things where resources are not available and not to ask about things that have been

accomplished. He discussed questions regarding tutoring, communications, parent conferencing and staff members' responsiveness to students' social and emotional needs.

Dr. McGee said that the District is looking at a dual process of collecting input. The main resource is the phone sample because 300 answers from parents will be gathered, 100 – elementary, 100 – middle school, 100 – junior high. Also he said a survey will be posted on the website for ten days so that any parent can answer the survey, but these two results will be presented separately. The final phone survey with a contract proposal will be presented for approval by the March meeting. The phone survey should be conducted the two weeks after spring break and the results may be reported as early as May.

Mrs. Schnecke introduced Board discussion regarding Caller ID and the phone survey. Discussion followed about tutoring within the District, which many times is used to help students excel and not strictly for remediation. Suggestions were made concerning the wording of a question regarding conferences during Thanksgiving break. Dr. McGee replied to a question stating there would also be a staff survey with the possibility of a student survey. Mr. Dolinko said it was important to keep some of the statements identical to the baseline to receive the most accurate results. Mr. Relias recommended keeping the same questions regarding remedial tutoring so that comparisons could be made.

FY07 Budget Calendar

The FY07 Budget Calendar was presented to the Board by Mr. McConahay. The monthly budget topics covered spanned from January 2006 through August 2006. He noted that the dates of the summer meetings were tentative based on the assumption that these meetings would follow the traditional "third Monday" pattern. He noted that a companion action item was included on the evening's consent agenda to officially adopt the fiscal year, direct the superintendent to create a FY07 tentative budget and to approve the proposed budget calendar.

January 1, 2006 Child Count

Dr. Lechner explained that this report is required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) each year and is used for generating special education funding and for monitoring trends in disability identification. He said that 15% of District 39 students receive disability services; 542 Wilmette District 39 students have IEPs with 112 of these not enrolled in District 39 schools. He highlighted a new breakdown in the report of disability by gender saying the common occurrence fact that boys over represent in the areas of disabilities is also true in District 39 and that District 39 has a full continuum of services.

There was Board discussion regarding the report. Dr. Lechner said that boys are generally more identified because of their outward behavior. He said that in District 39 many times there is a dual enforcement of the need for disability services because parents present private tests to the District to support the need for services for their student. Mr. Relias commended a very efficient, well-run program. Mr. Lyon said he had received very positive feedback regarding the integration of special needs students within District 39.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Donoghue moved, seconded by Mr. Relias to approve the revised Personnel Report dated January 17, 2006, which included the certificated full-time employment of **Melissa Mruz**, effective January 3, 2006; **Jennifer Thompson**, effective January 17, 2006; **Kristin Vasilenko**, effective January 11, 2006; the non-certificated full-time employment of **Melanie Mallin**, effective January 3, 2006; **Elizabeth Miner**, effective January 10, 2006; **Kara Smith**, effective January 6, 2006; the non-certificated resignation of **Linda Diekman**, effective January 29, 2006; **Michele Mench**, effective January 19, 2006; the tenure leave of absence of **Thomas Miller**, effective January 3, 2006; to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between December 20, 2005 – January 17, 2006, in the following amounts: Educational Fund, \$252,128.43; O & M Fund, \$68,961.75; Transportation Fund, \$25,684.54; Capital Improvements Fund, \$22,060.00; Total All Funds, \$368,834.72; to approve the manual checks issued between December 20, 2005 – January 17, 2006, in the following amounts: Educational Fund, \$146,375.53; Tort Immunity Fund, \$1,240.00; O & M Fund, \$66,769.77; Transportation Fund, \$12,501.08; Capital Improvements Fund, \$2,431.30; Total All Funds, \$229,317.68; to adopt the resolution establishing the school district FY2007 fiscal year and directing the Superintendent to prepare a tentative budget; and approve the budget-planning calendar as written.

On a roll call vote on the motions, voting “aye” – Tim Scherman, Shelagh Donoghue, Bruce Lyon, Judy Schnecke, John Relias, Alan Dolinko; voting “nay” – none; absent – Greg Polan. **Motion Carries.**

Approval of 2006-2007 School Calendar

Mrs. Donoghue moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to approve the 2006-2007 school calendar.

Mr. Lyon moved to amend the motion, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, saying that since District 39 has more required school days than New Trier the District should have school on the Friday before Christmas, December 22, 2006. The “meet and greet” would be on Monday, August 28th with Tuesday, August 29th being the first full student attendance day and to end school with a full student attendance day on Thursday, June 7th.

Dr. McGee said that we must have a Public Hearing on the Application for Modification of School Code Mandates on a day that is not a regularly scheduled Board meeting. This must be accomplished by the time the District submits next year’s calendar.

On a roll call vote to amend the motion, voting “aye” – Tim Scherman, Shelagh Donoghue, Bruce Lyon, Judy Schnecke, John Relias, Alan Dolinko; voting “nay” – none; absent – Greg Polan. **Motion Carries.**

On a roll call vote on the amended motion, voting “aye” – Tim Scherman, Shelagh Donoghue, Bruce Lyon, Judy Schnecke, John Relias, Alan Dolinko; voting “nay” – none; absent – Greg Polan. **Motion Carries.**

Approve the Adoption of Resolutions for Repayment of Inter-fund Loans and Execution of Permanent Transfers

Mrs. Donoghue moved, seconded by Dr. Scherman, to adopt the resolutions calling for repayment of inter-fund loans in the following amounts:

\$150,000 to the Operations & Maintenance Fund,
 \$250,000 to the Transportation Fund, and
 \$800,000 to the Working Cash Fund

made to the Educational Fund in Fiscal Year 2005; and,

adopt the resolutions calling for the permanent transfer of funds in the following amounts:

\$500,000 from the Transportation Fund, and
 \$500,000 from the Working Cash Fund,

to the Educational Fund; and,

adopt the resolution calling for a one-time transfer of excess interest in the following amount:

\$461,753 from the Bond and Interest Fund

to the Educational Fund.

Mr. Dolinko clarified that the motion was correct and the resolution had been corrected since the Public Hearing to match the motion.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “aye” – Tim Scherman, Shelagh Donoghue, Bruce Lyon, Judy Schnecke, John Relias, Alan Dolinko; voting “nay” – none; absent – Greg Polan. **Motion Carries.**

Approve as a First Reading Revisions to Policy 2:10 School Board: School District Governance and 2:210 School Board: Organization; Policy 2:30 School Board: School Board Elections; Policy 6:60 Instruction: Curriculum Content; Policy 2:200 School Board: Types of School Board Meetings and revisions to Policy 2:220 School Board: School Board Meeting Procedure to Replace Existing Policy 2:240; Policy 4:170 Business and Non-Instructional Operations: Safety; Policy 5:10 General Personnel: Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; Policy 5:30 General Personnel: Hiring Process and Criteria; Policy 7:100 Students, Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students; Policy 6:140 Instruction: Education of Homeless Children

Mrs. Donoghue moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to approve as a First Reading:

- Revisions to Policy 2:10 School Board: School District Governance and 2:210 School Board: Organization; Policy 2:30 School Board: School Board Elections;
- Policy 6:60 Instruction: Curriculum Content;
- Policy 2:200 School Board: Types of School Board Meetings; Policy 2:220 School Board: School Board Meeting Procedure to Replace Existing Policy 2:240;
- Policy 4:170 Business and Non-Instructional Operations: Safety;
- Policy 5:10 General Personnel: Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment;
- Policy 5:30 General Personnel: Hiring Process and Criteria;
- Policy 7:100 Students, Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students;
- Policy 6:140 Instruction: Education of Homeless Children.

There was Board discussion regarding these policies with the recommendation to establish an ad hoc legislative committee to review the policies and bring them back to the next Board meeting for a first reading. Mr. Relias requested that counsel review the policies before the Board votes on them.

Mrs. Schnecke moved, seconded by Mr. Relias, to table the motion.

On a roll call vote on tabling the motion, voting “aye” – Tim Scherman, Shelagh Donoghue, Bruce Lyon, Judy Schnecke, John Relias, Alan Dolinko; voting “nay” – none; absent – Greg Polan. **Motion Carries.**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Reports

Dr. McGee reported on the Community Review Committee and spoke about the sub-groups and what is being accomplished.

Mrs. Donoghue said the insurance committee received the fourth (summer) quarter review.

Dr. McGee said that Cathy Flemming attended the Foundation in his absence and she reported to him that was the last meeting before the approval of the first draft of its Strategic Plan which he highlighted.

Board Agenda Items

Mr. Dolinko said a public hearing would be scheduled on February 8, 2006 regarding the holiday exemptions for the school calendar. Dr. Scherman requested feedback regarding elementary recess supervisors.

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Schnecke commended Ernie Sheridan, art teacher at Wilmette Junior High, for his fine work and service.

Mrs. Donoghue mentioned that the Summer Bulletin was out and it was time to register the students. Mr. Dolinko invited all to the McKenzie PTA blue jean ball on January 28th at the Woman’s Club of Wilmette.

Mrs. Donoghue moved, seconded by Mrs. Schnecke, to adjourn to executive session to discuss matters pertaining to specific personnel.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “aye” – Tim Scherman, Judy Schnecke, Bruce Lyon, John Relias, Shelagh Donoghue, Alan Dolinko; voting “nay” – none; absent – Greg Polan. **Motion Carries.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:26 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 10:16 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Schnecke moved, seconded by Mr. Relias, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 10:17 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary