

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board President Pat Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain and Gerry Blohm. Also present were Superintendent Jackie Krause and Principal Tim Mahaffy. Absent were Principal Karen Machroli and Board Member Tom Mollet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

BOARD OF EDUCATION EMAILS

Dr. Krause informed the Board that they had received four communications. One was from Mr. Warwak in which he listed four links -- one to a Northwest Herald article, one to a Pioneer Press article, one to a radio program and one to a product list indicating commodities that were diverted to the JTM Food Processing Co. (08-03-01). Dr. Krause explained that school districts could order raw meat and have this raw meat diverted to a food processing company to be made into nacho meat, meatballs, etc. School District 3, along with many other districts, diverted some meat to JTM Food Processing Co. The District received meat back, although it was not necessarily the same meat that we sent. No one has gotten ill from this meat. Also included in the email was a list of commodity meat delivered by Lanter to various schools. Neither the FRG Middle School nor Algonquin Road School is on this list.

Dr. Krause reviewed the purpose of the Board email site. It was originally designed to inform the Board of communications from community members. Dr. Krause stated that she was under the impression that the Board may not want to be put on a list serve for random articles (i.e., Feed Stuffs, Commentary by Trent Loos, etc.). Much discussion followed regarding the use of the emails for the flow of information. The Board decided to block emails from Feed Stuffs and Loos Lips but asked to be informed of any other list serve communication so they could decide whether or not to remain on these list serves.

WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Kindergarten teacher Beth Diller and community members Elisa Buss and Steve Pickering were introduced.

No one signed in to address the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Kris Germain to approve the consent agenda, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 25, 2008, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 25, 2008, approve the February 2008 Treasurer's Report, approve the March 2008 Bills and Payroll and approve the February 2008 Activity Accounts Report. Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Krause presented grade level estimates for 2008-2009 and class size suggestions to the Board (08-03-02). She recommended the following scenario for having two sections of students at the following grade levels: for kindergarten and first grade – 50 students (25 per class maximum), for second and third grades – 52 students (26 per class maximum), for fourth and fifth grades – 54 students (27 per class maximum) and for sixth, seventh and eighth grades – 56 students (28 per class maximum). The administration did not present this as policy but as a set of guidelines to help determine class sizes as smaller classes progress up the grade levels.

Dr. Krause stated that the Cary School District is trying to keep their kindergarten, first and second grades at 24 students per room, third through fifth grade between 24-27 students, and sixth through eighth grade between 28-30 students per room. Dr. Mahaffy stated that currently in Huntley the 8th grade class is averaging about 27 students per class. The Board requested Dr. Krause to get numbers on class sizes from surrounding districts and report back in April.

Dr. Krause reviewed current numbers for kindergarten for the 2008-2009 school year. Currently there are 48 students registered for kindergarten with an additional 7 students whose parents are undecided about whether or not their children will enroll, making a total of 55 possible students. These numbers will hopefully be more firm by the April meeting.

Dr. Krause and Dr. Mahaffy stated that class size should also be based on the dynamics of the class and the certification of teachers (especially at the Middle School). These figures are just starting points, and the Board can revisit these numbers as often as necessary.

Board president Pat Hughes stated that these numbers give the Board a guideline from which to consider class sections. Mr. Hughes wanted the word "maximum" removed from the guidelines. He also stated that these figures are great as long as the District has a 3-5% surplus but may not hold if the District begins to deficit spend.

Board member Gerry Blohm stated that, unfortunately, our district is always on the cusp of having too few or too many students in certain grade levels. He also stated that a class of 17, 18 or 19 is extremely low. Mr. Blohm also noted that since the referendum, we are in the 4th year of a 5-year plan, stating that the referendum would keep us solid for 5 years. The Board as a group will be making some hard decisions regarding finances and class size in the near future.

Dr. Krause stated that next year's 7th graders could be put into two sections, but this is the class that was in two sections already and the dynamics were not good. As a result, the District added a part time aide, thereby somewhat reducing the cost savings of having only two sections. When

the decision was made to put this class into two sections, there were 52 students in the class – not the 58 or so it grew to be.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that every class heading into next year is already at three sections; therefore, the District is not adding staff. If Kindergarten comes in at three sections, we will be at three sections across all grade levels. The only class at two is this year's graduating 8th grade class.

Dr. Krause stated that the District would be hiring one more teacher for the Middle School for next year since every grade level at the Middle School will have three sections. The question of Kindergarten will be decided next month after ARS Principal Machroli has an opportunity to contact the parents of the seven Kindergarten students in question to see if they have made a decision regarding enrolling their students for the FY09 school year. Some of these parents were waiting for the scores of their students from the kindergarten screening.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new volunteer coaches to approve. Mrs. Mollet, who already is an approved coach, will be assisting Mr. Zasadil with softball, and Mr. Mollet is going to help Mr. Woods with track.

Board President Pat Hughes would like to add the discussion of the age of volunteer coaches to the agenda for next month. He expressed that he thought 18 is very young to supervise our students and to be a representative of the District at other schools.

A motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Participation in the McHenry County Regional Safe Schools Program was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Gerry Blohm (08-03-03). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Krause reviewed the Capital Outlay Plan for School District 3 (08-03-04). Capital outlay for FY08 included converting the ARS art room to a kindergarten room, converting the kindergarten room to an art room, repairing asphalt at the front and back parking lot at ARS and behind the kitchen at the MS, installing camera systems at the MS, and replacing the gym curtain motor at the MS for a total of close to \$37,600. For FY09 Dr. Krause is recommending for ARS the replacement of sinks and cabinets in the second grade classrooms, the refurbishing of lockers, and the installation of a remote entry system at the front entrance doors. At the Middle School, it is necessary to reshingle the roof over the 5th grade classrooms. In addition, it is time to replace the lunch truck. These items should cost around \$36,500.

Board member Knar requested Dr. Krause to get more than one estimate for the roof replacement in order to look at a couple of different proposals. This does not need to go out to bid.

A motion to approve the FY09 portion of the Capital Outlay Plan for School District 3 was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

POLICY

A motion to approve the first reading of the following revised policies – Policy 4:110, Transportation and Policy 8:25, Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities, was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Lisa Anderson (08-03-05). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Algonquin Road School -- Dr Krause – Cary-Grove High School students will be presenting “Fractured Fairytales” to students at 9:00 a.m. on March 18th. Report cards go home on April 9th. There is an early dismissal on April 18th due to parent/teacher conferences that afternoon. ARS had 17 students submit entries to the 8th Annual Young Authors Project. Ian Masukevich in grade 1 and Colin Enstrom in grade 2 both won honorable mentions for their stories. Their stories will be published in the McHenry County Living magazine. Congratulations to our students! All projects are on display at the public library.

Fox River Grove Middle School -- Dr. Mahaffy – The 7th graders went on a field trip to the Naper Settlement (underground railroad) on March 5th in lieu of the Springfield trip. The students enjoyed the trip and the students represented our school very well. On March 10th the volleyball tournament began and our 8th graders took the trophy. They are back-to-back champions. Congratulations to the girls and Mrs. Mollet for a great season. The scholastic team under the direction of Mrs. Carr is having a great time and progressing nicely. The PTO sponsored climbing wall, Cliff Hangers, is returning the first day after spring break. Chorus members will be going on a field trip to see “Wicked” on April 2nd. On April 14th the District will be hosting a Track Meet at Cary Grove High School. There will be an inaugural chorus festival under the direction of Mrs. O’Reilly-Greene consisting of Wauconda Middle School, Matthews Middle School and FRG Middle School scheduled for Saturday, April 19th. This should be a great event and everyone is invited to attend.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Krause reported that once again the District received the Bright Apple Award from SchoolSearch. This award is based on five criteria: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary. SchoolSearch recognized 91 of 871 (10.4%) Illinois districts this year.

Dr. Krause requested the Board to consider whether or not the after-school gifted program for third and fourth graders should be continued. Test results are used to qualify students for this program. Over the years, fewer students are participating in this program. One of our former teachers runs the program, since none of our teachers have expressed a desire to do this. This year the teacher elected to take a smaller stipend because there were only 12 students participating. At this time, there is no state funding for this program and the interest level seems to diminish after third grade.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue this program for another year if we have a teacher and enough students come forward to participate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board member Gerry Blohm and Superintendent Krause attended the bi-annual SEDOM governing board meeting on Wednesday, March 5th. Mr. Blohm stated that SEDOM is experiencing some lean times with a decrease in enrollment and budget problems. SEDOM eliminated the operations manager. They also did a program needs analysis. State test scores to be used as a benchmark were also reviewed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Krause stated that ARS fourth grade student Kelsey Krigas was one of 11 students in the state who received an honorable mention for her artwork that was submitted to the statewide contest that takes place annually during Illinois Art Education Week. Congratulations, Kelsey!

A thank you card from Doctors without Borders was shared with the Board. A donation was sent to this cause in memory of Karen Widdowson's mother.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:19 p.m. to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district or litigation was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved

There will be action.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to return from executive session at 8:49 p.m. was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to re-employ the following faculty for FY09 – Beth Achey, Stephanie Barham, Jennie Bebbler, Mary Ellen Bebbler, Pat Beebe, Alisa Bruns, Kathleen Cooker, John Danley, Jackie Grosse, Greg King, Rick Knapp, Lora LeGrand, Don Lewan, Sharon McAtee, Larry Merkel, Mary Beth Miller, Paulette Nichols, Katrina O'Reilly-Greene, Bonny Patterson, Amy Picuch, Laura Richards, Barb Savage, Cindy Shaw, Shirley Slater, Donna Stick, Jane Szybowicz, Marge Tietz, Debbie Wagner, Kathy Wagner and Debra Yester – was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Gerry Blohm (08-03-06). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to re-employ 4th year non-tenured faculty for FY09 thus granting tenure – Kim Scherzer – was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Lisa Anderson (08-03-06). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to re-employ non-tenured faculty for FY09 – Matt Benrus, Shaina Blau, Norene Carr, Beth Diller, Kathy Gira, Gina Martucci, Destiny Sadoski, Karen Widdowson and Laura Winterton – was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Steve Knar (08-03-06). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Kris Germain, Gerry Blohm and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Steve Knar. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye – All ayes. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

Patrick B. Hughes
President
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lois M. Bowman
Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION