

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board President Pat Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson, and Pat Hughes. Also present were Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principal Eric Runck. Absent were Board members Tom Mollet and Gerry Blohm and ARS Principal Karen Machroli.

WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Board President Pat Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone would like to make any public comments at this time.

Mr. John Talkington, FRG Rec. Council representative, stated that due to a continuing decrease in the number of participants, length of travel for games and increased costs for the program, the Rec. Council is entering into an agreement with Cary Youth Baseball to combine the baseball programs. In doing so, the Rec. Council would like to pursue the continued use of the District's baseball fields for that purpose. Dr. Mahaffy proceeded to read an email that was addressed to the Board and Dr. Mahaffy from Mr. Pat Riley. Mr. Neal, also representing the Rec. Council, stated there will be a need to hold a meeting with the Village, the School District and the Rec. Council to discuss the current Joint Field Usage Agreement and what changes would be needed to this Agreement. The Rec. Council would need to contact Athletic Director, Janet Mollet, to discuss the softball schedule and maintenance for using the fields. There is a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd at New Hope Church at 7:00 p.m. to handle any additional questions. Representatives from both the Rec. Council and Cary Youth Baseball will be in attendance. Dr. Mahaffy or a representative will also be at this meeting.

Mr. Runck introduced library aide, Mrs. Cole and play director, Mr. Pickering.

Dr. Mahaffy introduced ARS staff members – Mr. Eric Rovin, Mrs. Diller, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Lombardino, Ms. Blau, Ms. Von Bergen and Mrs. Martucci.

There were no other comments or questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Devin Bright to approve the consent agenda, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 25, 2010, approve the closed

minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 25, 2010, approve the January 2010 Treasurer's Report, approve the Bills and Payroll from January 23, 2010 to February 19, 2010, and approve the January 2010 Activity Accounts Report. Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

REQUEST FOR RECORDS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A review of class sizes has been on the agenda since late fall/early winter. The projected numbers have remained stable. At this time, the projected Kindergarten students have been revised to 39 students. Overall, the District will be down 23 students at Algonquin Road School and with the exiting 8th grade and the incoming 5th grade the Middle School will increase by five students. As indicated on the Class Size Summary Sheet (10-02-01), the average class size for three sections would range from 13 students to the highest class at 21.67. Also shown on the sheet is the average class size for two sections as well as the class size recommendation guide. The average class size per classroom, if all classes stayed in three sections, would be 18.56. If everyone went into two sections, it would be a 27.83 average per classroom. Class sizes are beginning to remain smaller in the lower grades. Dr. Mahaffy stated that the Board will need to continue to look at class size and the number of sections to save revenues. The Board will also need to decide whether or not to rehire an ARS PE teacher. This would require the Kindergarten class going to two sections next year and the movement of a current staff member who is certified in PE to fill this position internally. If a Reduction in Force (RIF) is necessary, this would need to be done at the March Board meeting. At that time there will be more current figures for the upcoming Kindergarten class. The Administration will need direction from the Board on how to proceed.

Board member Lisa Anderson stated that the Recommendation Guide on the class size summary sheet may need some re-evaluating on the maximum number of students in a section.

Board member Devin Bright stated that he had studied class sizes across McHenry County and that even our maximums fall lower than many other districts.

Board President Pat Hughes stated that the District's low class size has been a great advantage for educating our students as long as the District can still afford to do that.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that if the Board decides not to replace the ARS PE teacher, then one grade would need to go to two sections. This scenario does not have anything to do with whether Kindergarten will be at two or three sections – this decision is based on the number of students that will enroll; but another grade would need to go to two sections. The question to the Board is where and when do you want this to happen. In order to save extra revenues now, Option 1 would be to decrease a grade to two sections now. Option 2 would be to wait until a lower size group hits the Middle School and then from that year forward with the decreased enrollment in the lower grades, the Middle School grades would continue to be in two sections. The impact of waiting to decrease to two classes at that time, is that the District will really need to begin to make cuts if the projections on revenues remain the same as they are now. The taxpayers in the

community are paying a lot towards our schools. The Board will need to decide on saving a little more money now or wait till the classes with the lower enrollment begin at the MS and start decreasing the number of sections then. These are a couple of options that need consideration.

Board President Hughes asked if there was any other Old Business and there was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Eric Rovin, ARS Psychologist and Special Services Coordinator for the District, presented first semester data on AimesWeb and the MAP assessments. This is a requirement for the Response to Intervention mandate. Mr. Rovin explained Response to Intervention (RtI) stating that there are three essential components – required to provide a high quality research based instruction and intervention to match each student, need to use data when deciding the learning rate over time in order to know what to expect from the student individually, as a class and as a school and these decisions need to be made based upon each student’s response to instruction or intervention. AimesWeb is just one piece to RtI. Mr. Rovin stated that instructional interventions can be initiated for students as soon as the data becomes available. The earlier the intervention the more crucial it is for the success of that child in their long term outcome. RtI allows both special and general education educators an opportunity to collaborate on how to work with students. All staff are involved with Response to Intervention. RtI focuses on all students and ensures that they are all moving forward. It is a regular education initiative under the Illinois Disabilities and Education Act. Mr. Rovin stated that the analysis of the data is crucial. Mr. Rovin stated that District 3 has a three-tiered program using differentiated instruction, Touch Math, Heggarty Phonemic Awareness, Reading Naturally, Reading Mastery, Great Leaps, Reading Plus, corrective reading and guided reading. Mr. Rovin is researching programs that can be used at both ARS and the MS. Benchmarking is used three times a year to measure the effectiveness of our own curriculum and how it impacts our population. Eric Rovin acknowledged staff members from the audience, Beth Diller, Amy Von Bergen, Shaina Blau, Beth Lombardino, Gina Martucci, and Paulette Nichols for their work using various instruction methods for RtI. Mr. Rovin reviewed data on our students from the Benchmarking. The District no longer needs to rely solely on ISAT results. Mr. Rovin stated that the District must have a formal process to guide the decision making, must develop educational materials, information and training for the parents of the community, develop a process for communicating this information and involving them in the process, more interventions must be established at the MS and monitor our progress for implementation by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

A motion to adopt the 2010-2011 School Calendar was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Susan McGarrigle (10-02-02). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the Assessment for Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for a maximum of \$500 non-refundable fee pending policy approval was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Devin Bright (10-02-03). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Devin Bright. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There were no Volunteer Coaches to approve at this time.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that as a requirement of the Open Meetings Act (OMA), the Board must designate individuals who will take the on-line training which is administered by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Attorney General's office. Board members Susan McGarrigle and Lisa Anderson, Superintendent Dr. Mahaffy and Board secretary Lois Bowman will take this on-line training. Dr. Mahaffy will report this list to the Attorney General's Office.

Dr. Mahaffy discussed the Resolution Authorizing Membership in the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) for natural gas (10-02-04). We currently belong to the IEC for our electricity. This is through Ameran Energy. Through this membership, the District is able to participate in buying natural gas in bulk and save on billing and spikes in billing. The IEC for energy purchases is recommended by the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), ISASBO and the School Board Association of Illinois. Dr. Mahaffy did have the school attorneys review the entire contract and they fully recommended approval. Dr. Mahaffy will verify that we are under Option A.

A motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Membership in the Illinois Energy Consortium for natural gas contingent on being Option A as presented was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Pat Hughes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Board President Hughes asked if there was any other New Business and there was none.

POLICY

A motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised policies – 2:200 – Types of School Board Meetings, 2:250 – Access to District Public Records, 5:10 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, 6:60 – Curriculum Content, 7:10 – Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 – Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:50 – School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools and 7:180 – Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Kris Germain (10-02-05). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson, and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Algonquin Road School – Dr. Mahaffy – Third quarter mid-terms will be sent home on February 25th. The AC Rock “Singing is Cool” assembly will be held on February 26th followed by the Mother-Son Dance on February 27th. ISAT testing begins on March 2nd through the 5th with make-ups the following week. Kindergarten registration and pre-school screenings will be held on March 8th and 10th. This registration should give us a firmer confirmation of the Kindergarten numbers anticipated for next year. An update will be presented at the March Board meeting. A tornado drill will be held on March 9th. The ARS January attendance was at 96.4%. Dr. Mahaffy commended the ARS staff on their work with RtI (Response to Intervention).

Fox River Grove Middle School – Mr. Runck – ISAT testing also begins at the MS on March 2nd. Students who completed ISAT pledge sheets, have perfection attendance and are on task during the testing time will enable them to participate in the assembly (teacher-student volleyball game) held on Friday, March 5th. The girls and boys volleyball tournaments begin also the first

week of March. Again this year, District 3 will be hosting the 8th grade girls' volleyball tournament. Tryouts for girls' soccer, track and softball will be held from March 15th-17th. The 7th graders will be taking a field trip to the Naper Settlement on the 16th. The 3rd quarter ends on March 24th. MS student, Cameron Scott, placed 2nd at the regional spelling bee held on February 11th. He will be competing next at McHenry County College on March 10th. The MS staff and students raised \$1,777.90 during the "Change for a Change in Haiti" campaign. This money will be given to the "Save the Children" Foundation. The MS Music Organization earned over \$1,000 for their spaghetti dinner. Many students, parents and staff volunteered their time and did an excellent job cooking, serving and cleaning up at this event. Band and chorus students also participated in the solo and ensemble contest held at Cary Junior High this weekend and received 4 perfect scores going to perfect solo – Sammi Spakowski, perfect duet – Blaise Mollet and Sang Seo, and perfect vocal solo – Maggie Sciortino. Former student, Preston Fox, will be representing our school at the National Young Leaders State Conference.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mahaffy stated that the District will be switching to an online credit/debit card system to be more convenient for parents for the payment of any fees. This Illinois Funds E-Pay System is set up through the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer. There is no cost to the District, but there is a convenience fee to the user.

Dr. Mahaffy presented a chart showing the financial comparison of revenues to expenditures for 2009-2010 with the fiscal year being 50% completed. Dr. Mahaffy further discussed the district's financial health, revenues, the revenue stream and revenue concerns with the future being uncertain (10-02-06). The five year financial operational goals created with the assistance of Tammie Beckwith Schallmo of PMA included the following: continue to achieve "Financial Recognition" status from the Illinois State Board of Education; develop and implement a responsible financial plan while maintaining high quality educational programs; maintain a Working Cash Fund balance, achieve operating fund balances that are at least 40% of expenditures; and to maximize access to state revenues. Dr. Mahaffy explained the District's past and present financial profile designation as well as why it is necessary to have cash on hand. The District needs to maintain capital for various projects including the replacement of a boiler at ARS, MS concrete work, parking lot drainage, roof repairs, desks, flooring and buses, insurance increases and the avoidance of issuing TAW's (Tax Anticipation Warrants). Dr. Mahaffy discussed the three formulas for General State Aid – flat, alternative and foundation. Dr. Mahaffy went on to review graphs showing all funds and current cash flow with revenue and expenditures for the first and second quarter. The construction project for Algonquin Road School with CTS is not included in any of the charts (both revenues and expenditures). Dr. Mahaffy stated that if he is able to come to the Board each quarter showing that the District is maintaining 40 percent in the fund balances, the District will be able to avoid TAW's. This is the healthy part of our District. Dr. Mahaffy reviewed the sources of revenues – state, federal and local – and the reliability and percentages of these revenues. The District did receive some ARRA money (federal stimulus money) and that is part of our revenue and expenditure calculations. Had the District not received this money, the revenues would be much less. Due to the uncertainty of the economy, Dr. Mahaffy stated that it will be extremely hard to budget for the future. Budgets can no longer be based on previous trends. A review of Illinois mandated categorical payments and lack of payments to the District was addressed. Currently, the District is behind in receiving approximately \$200,000-\$250,000 in payments from the State. Dr. Mahaffy discussed General State Aid, the Alternative Formula versus the Foundation Formula

and the Hold Harmless Provision. The District's enrollment history from 2002-2003 with a peak of 681 students to the projected enrollment of 511 students for 2010-2011 was discussed. This is a decline in enrollment of 170 students. The reliability of the revenue sources in the future will continue to be a big concern of the District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:14 p.m. to consider information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, or dismissal of specific employees of the District and collective negotiations between the District and the FRGEA was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to return from executive session to open session at 10:39 p.m. was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the re-employment of Karen Machroli as ARS Principal for a three-year period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013 was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Susan McGarrigle. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Devin Bright. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Board President Pat Hughes asked if there were any other items and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Lisa Anderson. 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