

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. 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, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, and Pat Hughes. Also present were Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principals Karen Machroli and Eric Runck.

III. WELCOME TO VISITORS, GUESTS, COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Board President Pat Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms. Machroli introduced staff members Mrs. Achey, Mrs. Jennie Bebber, Mrs. Mary Ellen Bebber, Mrs. McAtee, Mrs. Diller, and Mrs. Ireland.

Mr. Runck introduced audience members Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Hoffman and Mr. Pickering.

Dr. Mahaffy, on behalf of the Board, Administration, staff and students, presented Mr. Pickering a certificate for all his volunteer work that he has done on the Middle School play over the years.

Board President Pat Hughes, on behalf of the entire District, thanked and presented a gift to retiring P.E. Teacher, Mrs. Sharon-Diane McAtee, for all she has done for our students, parents and community over the years. Mr. Hughes stated that it is an honor to recognize her and her accomplishments.

Dr. Mahaffy also thanked Mrs. McAtee for all her hard work and leadership throughout the years.

Two people signed in to address the Board. Mrs. Skof and Mrs. Fath signed in to address the Board regarding the upcoming Kindergarten class going from three sections down to two sections.

Mrs. Skof felt that a section with 25 students could be pretty chaotic. She further stated that she is very proud of the fact that the District has been able to keep class sizes lower and feels the education is better because of that. Mrs. Skof stated that she respects the teachers but does feel

that something has to give with having 7-8 more students in their classroom if the class size goes to 50 or more students.

Board President Pat Hughes stated that the discussion of Class Size is again listed under Old Business. This Class Size topic continues to be reviewed monthly and has been for about the past two years. The Board and Administration are quite concerned about this issue as they have students in our District as well. The Board is very aware of class size and what the effects are when going from three sections to two sections. Mr. Hughes stated that a class size of about 25 is where the District would like to be; ideally, less would be better. The challenge with a district of our size is that each grade level is around 50 students. When this amount is broken into two sections, the class is around 25 or more students. Currently there are 42 students registered for Kindergarten with six additional students who are age appropriate and two who are doing testing for early entrance. At this time, Mr. Hughes stated that with these figures the worst case would be a total of 50 students. If the Kindergarten class was started today, there would be 21 students in each class. Mr. Hughes felt that this number was very acceptable in today's economy and in comparison with other school districts. If the other eight students should come to make 25 students in each class, the Board would continue to monitor class size monthly. Mr. Hughes would not promise if the class would remain at two sections or go to three sections. If the class remains at 50 or so students, they would probably continue to track through the system at two sections. Mr. Hughes stated that the goal was to keep grades K-3 as low as possible. Most prior classes tracked at 66, 63, 61, and 59 students. With the 42 officially registered Kindergarten students for the fall, that would be 14 students per class using three sections. It was not economical to remain at three sections with this amount of students registered. Mr. Hughes stated that 21 to 23 students is acceptable and the worst case would be 25 students. As the Board and Administration continue to look at class size for the future, revenue will be playing a big role. The community is currently not growing and if class sizes remain at around 50, there would be two sections at those grade levels. If enrollment should increase, the Board will continue to evaluate class size and sections. Mr. Hughes extended an invitation for the audience members to come to the monthly Board meetings as class size will remain on the agenda.

Board member Gerry Blohm stated that both as a parent of an upcoming Kindergarten student and as an educator, he does understand how they are feeling. Because Mr. Blohm is familiar with the Kindergarten staff, he has no concerns regarding his son's wellbeing educationally, emotionally or physically being in a classroom of 25 students. He trusts their professionalism and their commitment to our students.

Board member Tom Mollet stated that there are two or three Board members whose students were in a class of 29 as third graders. He feels 25 in a class is a tough number but is acceptable.

Dr. Mahaffy briefly reviewed the District's financial projects and decreasing revenues – revenues from Hold Harmless are now gone including the remaining \$94,000 that was originally expected and the decrease in revenues through the alternative formula for General State Aid which was an additional \$94,000 – this means the District is continuing to lose revenues. The District was able to maintain low class sizes due to the surpluses the District had saved. Low class sizes at all grade levels will be difficult to maintain with the continued decreases in revenue for the District. Revenues will also be discussed each month.

IV. 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 April 26, 2010 and approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of April 26, 2010, approve the April 2010 Treasurer's Report, approve the May Bills and Payroll from April 24, 2010 through May 14, 2010, and approve the April 2010 Activity Accounts Report. Tom Mollet seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS

This agenda item, Class Size Update, was covered under Welcome to Visitors, Guests, Comments and Questions.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Kandler shared with the Board his Eagle Scout project which includes the installation of a shot toe board and steel discus circle. He is doing this project for the Middle School track team and hopes to complete installation by the end of June or the beginning of July. The Administration had preapproved his project. Students always have adult supervision when throwing the discus. Kevin is a former graduate of Fox River Grove Middle School.

Congratulations were extended to 7th grader, Olivia Roehri, who achieved first place in discus at State.

Dr. Mahaffy presented the final amended 2009-2010 school calendar which included the snow day (emergency day) taken on January 7th thus making Monday, June 7th as the last day of school for District 3. Dr. Mahaffy also reviewed the changes to the 2010-2011 school calendar which included two additional early release days so teachers can have time for articulation. Those two additional days will be on December 2nd and March 2nd.

A motion to approve the amended 2010-2011 school calendar and the final school calendar for 2009-2010 was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Susan McGarrigle (10-05-01). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the following volunteer assistant coaches – Josh Freeman and Abbey Koenemann – was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Devin Bright. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve authorization for prepayment of the 2010-2011 bus lease and purchase in the amount of \$34,500 which includes the extended one year warranty to Midwest Transit was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the authorization for prepayment of the 2010-2011 Student Management System for \$18,448.50 to NCS Pearson was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Pat Hughes. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy presented prior history of non-certified wage increases (10-05-02). The past practice was once the teachers' negotiated salary schedule was determined, the salary percentage increase that was on top of the step increase was also what the non-certified employees would receive. In addition, every three years there was a bump system that would give the non-certified employees a longevity bump, usually about \$1.00 per hour plus percentage, every three years. The bump system ends at year 13. This bump system has been intact for about eight years and was included in the Board packets along with a couple of options for consideration. Currently, there are 23 non-certified employees who are still eligible in the bump system with 8 of these employees eligible for a bump going into FY11. In addition, there are 13 employees off this bump schedule entirely and were contingent on any percent increase above the salary schedule. Last year the Board requested approval of non-certified salaries separately each year. Dr. Mahaffy stated that if the Board chose to eliminate the bump system, the time would be now. Other options Dr. Mahaffy presented included looking at a CPI number with a cap, the creation of a bump system based upon percentages, or a dollar amount based on full time equivalency which would mirror what is happening with the certified staff over the next three years pending approval tonight. Non-certified employees received increases of 1.7% and 1.77% the last two years plus the bump if an individual qualified for one and currently, there is no percentage increase coming into FY11 other than the bump system for those 8 employees. Dr. Mahaffy stated that some larger districts have negotiated contracts with their bus drivers, custodians and non-certified employees. This bump system enabled the non-certified staff to have something similar to the step system for certified staff.

Board President Pat Hughes suggested giving the eight employees their bump only for FY11 and to eliminate the bump system in the future and to give all other non-certified staff a 1% increase.

A motion to approve non-certified wages per the bump system for the eight employees plus a 1% increase to all other non-certified employees who are not part of the bump system for FY11 and the elimination of the bump system for FY12 was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Devin Bright, Lisa Anderson and Gerry Blohm. Abstain – Kris Germain and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy discussed the complete Resolution to Issue General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010, which was included in the Board packets (10-05-03) in order to refund certain outstanding obligations of the District. These bonds are now callable and can be refinanced. The District is hoping to make about 11.4% on this refinance. This refinancing will only affect what the District can levy for the community for the next eight years. The sale of these bonds will be held on June 15th. Dr. Mahaffy stated that he will also be doing another Standard & Poor's interview in order to maintain the AA rating the District received last year. Tammie Beckwith Schallmo of PMA does not foresee any problems with the District maintaining the AA rating.

Board President Pat Hughes directed the Board secretary, Low Bowman, to read a resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,000,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2010, of Consolidated School District Number 3, McHenry County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the Principal and interest on said bonds.

A motion to approve the Resolution to Issue General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010, as included in the Board packets was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the Region IV Special Education Agreement was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

VII. POLICY

A motion to approve the first reading of the following revised policies – 4:30 – Revenue and Investments, 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts, 4:170 – Safety, 5:20 – Workplace Harassment Prohibited and 8:30 – Visitors to and Conduct on School Property – was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Susan McGarrigle. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Devin Bright, Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

VIII. SCHOOL REPORTS

Algonquin Road School – Ms. Machroli – On Wednesday, May 17th, students and staff will recognize retiring P.E. Teacher, Sharon Diane McAtee, with a song entitled “The Twelve Days of Gym Class”. A treasure box will also be presented to Mrs. McAtee. Ms. Machroli thanked the PTO for all the things they provided during Teacher Appreciation Week (lunches, daily treats, flowers, etc.) and for all they do throughout the year. The book fair and ice cream social were a great success. On Thursday, May 20th the 4th graders will be going to the MS for orientation. Registration for the 2010-2011 school year will be held at ARS on May 26th and June 1st. Fun Day will be held on Friday, May 28th. The final PTO meeting of this year will be held on June 1st at 3:30 p.m. at ARS. Ms. Machroli invited everyone to Kindergarten graduation scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on June 4th. The last day of school is Monday, June 7th.

Fox River Grove Middle School – Mr. Runck – The track team had great success both at the conference track meet and the Class A State track meet. The 7th grade girls won the event with the boys coming in second place. Olivia Roehri won first place in discus, Natasha Geiger-Powell came in 3rd in the 1600 and Ricky Hurley placed 4th in shot put. Mr. Runck thanked the athletic director, Mrs. Mollet, and the coaching staff and students for all their efforts and participation. The spring concert was a great success. The girls’ soccer team is currently in

tournament play and has won their first game. Mr. Runck also thanked the PTO for all their generousities during Teacher Appreciation Week. The 6th graders went to the Shedd Aquarium on May 12th. The Middle School Play, Charlotte's Web, under the direction of Mr. Steve Pickering was great. Mr. Runck shared a write up on the play from the local edition of the Tribune. Upcoming events include the following -- the 5th-7th grade dance on May 21st, sports awards on May 27th, the 8th grade dinner dance on May 28th, 8th grade awards night on June 1st, 8th grade trip to Great America on June 2nd, 8th grade graduation at Cary Grove High School on June 3rd, Activity Day is on May 4th, and the last day of school is Monday, June 7th.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mahaffy announced that School District 3 received a Certificate of Financial Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education. This financial profile is based on the following -- fund balance to revenue ratio, expenditures to revenue ratio, days of cash on hand and the percentage of short term and long term borrowing ability remaining and delayed payments from the State to the District's fund balances.

Dr. Mahaffy shared information he received from the Fox River Grove Police Department. Through a grant, signage for safety at both schools will be increased.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Mahaffy read an email from Mr. Bill McKee to our athletic director, Mrs. Janet Mollet, on the outstanding sportsmanship during the girls' soccer game against Lake Zurich.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:02 p.m. to consider information regarding Collective Negotiating Matters between the District and the FRGEA was made by Tom Mollet and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain and Devin Bright. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

XIII. ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to return from executive session to open session at 9:42 p.m. was made by Devin Bright and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright and Tom Mollet. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the 2010-2011 through 2012-2013 contract between the Fox River Grove Teachers' Association and School District 3 was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Gerry Blohm. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Pat Hughes, Susan McGarrigle, Kris Germain, Devin Bright, Tom Mollet and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m. was made by Tom Mollet 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