

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24
COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETING
February 11, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Carissa Casbon LaTourette, President
Casandra Slade, Vice President
Jim Guziak, Secretary
Denise Ide
Irshad Khan
Brendan Murphy
Maggie Wentzell

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Jason Lind, Superintendent of Schools
Stephen Johns, Business Manager/CSBO
Joanne Rathunde, Director of Technology
Elizabeth Keefe, Director of Special Services
Jake Jorgenson, Principal, MMS
Ben Walshire, Principal, MES

BOARD CLERK

Bernadette Hanna

GUESTS

Carol McGill
Krista Ehmke, WOLD Ruck Pate Architects
Tim McGrath, WOLD Ruck Pate Architects

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Elementary School, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Carissa Casbon LaTourette. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Carissa Casbon LaTourette, Jim Guziak, Denise Ide, Irshad Khan, Casandra Slade, Maggie Wentzell. Absent: Brendan Murphy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none.

ADDITION of INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Casbon LaTourette asked that a discussion item about board meetings be added as a self-governance item.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Meetings

Ms. Casbon LaTourette requested that there be more structure to meetings; no interruptions; avoid repetition loop. Board members can speak to a topic for a specified number of minutes; everyone can have their say and if more time is needed, more time can be added.

Mr. Guziak feels that time discussions miss the advantage of discourse in the meeting. He feels that the Board is supposed to discuss issues and then come up with an answer. He feels this "handcuffs" the Board.

Ms. Ide stated that everyone has the opportunity to speak. The intent is not to stifle the conversation but give everyone a chance to speak.

Mr. Khan said it will make meetings more productive. It will not stop anyone from speaking, but the time limit gives everyone the opportunity to speak.

Ms. Casbon LaTourette reiterated that if something more needs to be added then everyone can the chance to respond.

Ms. Slade questioned whether the Board Agreements needed to be amended. The Board Agreements already reflect a timed discussion:

(Excerpt from Board Agreements, dated 1/22/2018)

4) Board members may raise topics briefly during the board reports section of the agenda. Reports should be no more than three minutes. If asked, board members may agree by majority vote to allow extra time, when possible.

Ms. Wentzell indicated that she did not get the email that Ms. Casbon LaTourette sent out to Board members. She feels that the Board is about discussion and timing a speaker would not be particularly beneficial.

The Board will try timed discussions – five minutes for Board Reports and two minutes for discussion items with the opportunity to ask for another 1-2 minutes.

Presentation by WOLD Ruck Pate Architects

The Board was informed that bidding for the summer work will go out next week. At MMS the only work to be done is a soffit in the student entry that has moisture trouble. At MES the following are some of the items that will be replaced/repared:

- Fire doors
- Door Hardware
- Water heater
- Tuck pointing on existing chimney
- Water infiltration issues
- STEM lab renovation
- Residing the garage on east playground
- Playground equipment for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with mulch as a base and the problem with drainage will be redirected.

It was noted that Mr. Murphy entered the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Some items that arose from the presentation:

- Mulch for the playground attracts stinging insects. The architect will question the supplier for a solution. Any other playground surface is extremely expensive.
- Lighting problems with the high ceiling in the lab. Architect designed some height differences by bringing additional lights down, with "clouds" to absorb sound making acoustics better.
- Is playground equipment recycled? The provider for the new equipment usually takes it and then, with the district's permission, donates it outside the United States. Codes do not allow it to be reused in the U.S.
- Are there other local schools in which the architects have created a STEM lab? Freemont Middle School – redesigned their traditional science and created a flexible learning suite. They will be doing a lab at Freemont Elementary this summer.

Elementary ELA Presentation

Mr. Walshire reported to the Board that the teachers who are piloting the ARC Reading program do not feel comfortable presenting just one option. They would like to do two more pilots. The first is EL Education is all online. Book purchase and printing materials be approximately \$2,500. Five teachers will pilot – one in each grade level. The second pilot is Units of Study in Reading. It is a workshop-based model like writing (Lucy Calkins). The teachers' kit cost will be \$2,084, again for five teachers, one in each grade level.

Mr. Walshire complimented the team of teachers doing the hard work of piloting the reading program. Mr. Guziak confirmed that it was about \$4,500 for both pilots? Mr. Walshire said yes, but we do not know costs for professional development at this time. Mr. Khan questioned how robust was the evaluation tool for the pilots. Would like it to be more in depth. Ms. Ide was excited to see the newest staff members doing the pilot. She has twins and only one has the pilot, but she has not seen any differences.

A straw poll indicated that the majority of board members are in favor of funding the other two pilot reading programs.

Property Tax Relief Grant

Dr. Lind informed the Board that the district did apply for the Property Tax Relief Grant, but did not receive it. District 24 was eighty-second on the list and the grants went to twenty-eight districts.

Briargate Subdivision

The developers are asking the impact fees be waived for the over 55 community they expect to build. The three business managers from the affected school districts will be meeting the Lindenhurst Village administrator. The plan is to use one shared attorney. If the property is built the way it is presented, no children will impact the school districts. Some concerns presented:

- The district has never waived impact fees before.
- If the construction fails as a 55+ community, they could build regular homes.
- If the Village of Lindenhurst Board says no impact fees will be collected, then the school districts have no choice.

Fees – Registration, Activities, Clubs, Facilities Use, iPad Protection Plan

Dr. Lind presented the feedback from parents asking what barriers prevented students from signing up for activities, area school district comparisons, and costs associated with iPad repair/replacement.

From the parent comments, Mr. Murphy didn't feel like parents knew what was going on – what activities and/or clubs that were available. There were a lot of comments on clubs that they wanted and talk about a cap on fees.

The recommendation from Dr. Lind is that he does not like to reduce costs and then have to raise them again. Sports, activities, and clubs are currently being subsidized by the district in the amount of \$43,798.77.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Audit Report FY18 (3/11/19)
- Contract Extension for Joanne Rathunde, Director of Technology
- Approve 2 ELA Pilots – EL Education and Units of Study in Reading
- Briargate Impact Fees
- Registration Fees

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Lind spoke about his meeting with the Warren High School feeder group and their discussion about teacher diversity. Included in the meeting were representatives from higher education to discuss methods of encouraging more students of color to enter the teaching profession. There were discussions about the hurdles for entry into the teaching profession, and then some discussion on next steps. The universities talked about how difficult it has become to prepare future teachers, and it is far easier to get an accounting degree than a teaching degree.

The group talked about how to deliberately focus our efforts at all levels of education. Also discussed was starting a group like "Educators Rising" to raise the stature of the profession. The educators will be working to clarify different pathways into the teaching profession that will boost participation and remove hurdles for entry.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Johns reported to the Board on the following topics:

- iPad Protection Plan – damages, revenues, and expenses
- E-Rate Funding – soliciting bids for E-Rate services
- Expanding WiFi so it will be accessible outside the building
- Changing service providers for the Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) to save money
- Looking at demos for Point of Sale (POS) for lunch system

BOARD REPORTS

Ms. Ide spoke very highly about her child's 504 meeting, which was facilitated by Assistant Principal Adam Rowlands. He is incredibly compassionate and well-prepared.

Ms. Wentzell reported that the SEDOL Governor's meeting is at Wauconda High School at 5:30 p.m. on March 13. This is the same night as the IASB Spring Meeting.

Ms. Casbon LaTourette commented on the talent show rehearsal. She also shared a positive comment about MES orientation process by a parent whose daughter loves the school.

Ms. Wentzell stated that she is leaving the school district for reasons of diversity issues: three hires were not filled by diverse candidates, the calendar became secular rather than inclusive, and no breakfast was arranged to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Casandra Slade, with a second by Irshad Khan to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of:

Consider the appointment, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

On a roll call vote the following members voted Aye: Carissa Casbon LaTourette, Jim Guziak, Denise Ide, Irshad Khan, Brendan Murphy, Casandra Slade, Maggie Wentzell. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed and the Board entered into Closed Session at 9:22 p.m.

It was noted that all visitors exited the meeting at this time.

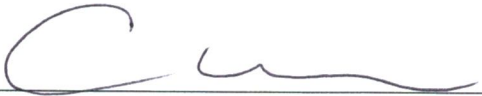
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

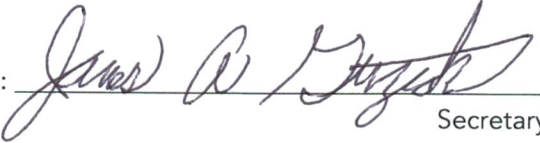
A motion was made by Denise Ide, second by Irshad Khan, to return to Open Session. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The board returned to Open Session at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Casandra Slade, with a second by Denise Ide to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Board of Education
Millburn School District 24
Lake County, Illinois

By: 
President

Attest: 
Secretary

February 25, 2019

Date