

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn C.C. School District 24

REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler
Kenneth Dewitt
Stacy Freeman
Thomas Heinrich
Shawn Lahr
Therese Schmidt
Chris Stream

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

James Menzer, Superintendent
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Ed. Director
Cheryl Kucera, Curriculum Director
Joanne Rathunde, Technology Director
Jake Jorgenson, Principal
Jason Lind, Principal

ACCOUNTANT

Gary White

TREASURER

Roger Manderscheid

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

VISITORS

Kirsten Deacetis
Kim Dodd
Priscilla Kreamer
Gregg Rothermel
Wendy Erickson
David Rouse
Andrea Rouse
Ralph Bachinger

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn C.C. School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn West School, was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Kenneth Dewitt.

Roll call was dispensed with because it had been taken prior to the start of the meeting with the following Board Members in attendance: Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Stacy Freeman, Thomas Heinrich, Shawn Lahr, Therese Schmidt and Chris Stream.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- A motion was made by Robert Buehler and seconded by Stacy Freeman to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 14, 2008. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Roger Manderscheid reported that property tax bills were sent out on time by the county, so the school district should start receiving tax revenue in May and June. The fund balances are ahead of last year because of revenue received from the Tax Anticipation Warrants. Looking ahead to the new fiscal year, he advised the district to start investigating bond rates early, perhaps October, because of tighter credit in the municipal markets. A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Chris Stream to approve the Treasurer's Report. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich and Stacy Freeman. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

APRIL BILLS -- A motion was made by Robert Buehler and seconded by Stacy Freeman to approve payment of the April bills. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman and Therese Schmidt. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

It was noted that Roger Manderscheid and Gary White exited the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

EXPENDITURES		5/31/2008	
EDUCATION		BUILDING	
BILLS PAYABLE	\$292,525.11	BILLS PAYABLE	\$57,915.64
PAYROLL	\$667,923.94	PAYROLL	\$38,821.65
MICS	-\$1,893.75		
TOTAL	\$958,555.30	TOTAL	\$96,737.29
TRANSPORTATION		IMRF	
BILLS PAYABLE	\$45,775.23	BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
PAYROLL	\$69,484.76	PAYROLL	\$38,640.90
TOTAL	\$115,259.99	TOTAL	\$38,640.90
SITE & CONSTRUCTION		BONDS&INTEREST	
BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00	BILLS PAYABLE	\$77,632.50
		TORT	
		PAYROLL	\$10,470.47
		BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
		TOTAL	\$10,470.47
		FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,297,296.45

ACTIVITY FUNDS -- Jake Jorgenson reported that checks were written last month for speakers for student assemblies. Also, the Sunshine Fund should be showing a positive balance next month with soda machine revenue. Major disbursements expected next month will be for the final installment of the yearbook and bills from the eighth grade Springfield trip. Jason Lind reported on disbursements for the purchase of hand-held radios, outdoor garbage cans, and upgraded sound systems for the cafeteria and the East Gym. A motion was made by Chris Stream and seconded by Thomas Heinrich to approve the Activity Funds for Millburn Central and Millburn West. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt and Shawn Lahr. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT --Priscilla Kreamer inquired about a newspaper article stating that Millburn School District is on the state's financial watch list. She asked how the district intends to get off that list. President Kenneth Dewitt explained that Millburn was in a growth cycle for much of the past decade, receiving revenue from developer impact fees, increased assessed valuation of local property and successful referendums. However, that cycle has slowed. Once the growth cycle returns, the financial situation should improve. Dr. James Menzer said the district could balance the budget by letting class sizes increase, but that is not Millburn's philosophy. The district has a financial plan that shows, over time, as enrollment increases and classroom space is filled, hiring will be curtailed and a referendum may be needed.

Ms. Kreamer also asked how the district plans to introduce the foreign language curriculum next year. Dr. Menzer explained that next year all sixth grade students will have Spanish instruction for one quarter. The following year, in addition to sixth grade instruction, seventh graders will have the opportunity to choose Spanish as a full-year elective. Two years later, sixth grade instruction continues, and both seventh and eighth graders have the choice of a Spanish elective.

Gregg Rothermel said he has a son in third grade this year at Millburn West, where there are four classroom sections of that grade. Next year, only three sections are planned for those students. He asked if the district had done any studies regarding the number of students in that grade level that have behavior or learning issues before deciding to trim the number of classrooms. Mr. Dewitt explained that the administrators evaluate the needs in each grade level before deciding on the number of classrooms. Special Services Director Elizabeth Keefe said she has reviewed the number of students with learning disabilities and the number of service minutes they require, and she is confident that the teacher/student ratio is adequate.

Mr. Rothermel also asked why the district recently purchased property when class sizes are being increased. Mr. Dewitt explained that money to purchase property must come from a different fund than money used for teacher salaries and classroom expenses. He explained that the district also must look to the future and be prepared in the event of new housing developments, some of which are already being planned.

Kim Dodd said she wanted to thank the Board and school staff for another good school year. She said she appreciates that there are people in the community willing to serve on the School Board.

NEW BUSINESS

APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT -- A motion was made by Therese Schmidt and seconded by Stacy Freeman to approve **Andrea Rouse** as a full-time Behavior Disorder Teacher for the 2008-09 School Year at an annual salary of \$45,854. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr and Robert Buehler. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Therese Schmidt and seconded by Stacy Freeman to approve **Maureen Jepsen** as a 0.8 full-time Speech Pathologist for the 2008-09 School Year at an annual salary of \$34,773. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler and Kenneth Dewitt. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Thomas Heinrich to approve **Kirsten Deacetis** as a 0.2 full-time Speech Pathologist for the 2008-09 School Year at a rate of \$50 an hour. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt and Chris Stream. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

NWEA DATA PRESENTATION -- Dr. Cheryl Kucera presented districtwide results from NWEA student testing, comparing scores from fall to spring in reading and math to the national norm. She also presented longitudinal data, showing how groups of students scored in a five-year span. In general, students as a group score above the national norms, and show steady longitudinal growth each year.

RESOLUTION ON SEDOL BOND ISSUE -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Chris Stream to approve a Resolution on the SEDOL Capital Improvement Bond Issue. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream and Thomas Heinrich. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

BOARD POLICY ON RESIDENT STUDENTS -- A motion was made by Therese Schmidt and seconded by Thomas Heinrich to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 7:60 regarding Resident Students. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

ARBOR MANAGEMENT CONTRACT -- A motion was made by Therese Schmidt and seconded by Stacy Freeman to approve the contract with Arbor Management, Inc. for the 2008-09 School Year. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich and Stacy Freeman. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

ADMINISTRATORS' CONTRACTS -- A motion was made by Chris Stream and seconded by Robert Buehler to approve the Administrators' Contracts for **Elizabeth Keefe, Cheryl Kucera** and **Joanne Rathunde**. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman and Therese Schmidt. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Shawn Lahr to approve the Letter of Resignation from **Dawn Evert**, full-time Fourth Grade Teacher at Millburn Central, effective June 4, 2008. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

LETTERS OF INTENT TO RETIRE -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Chris Stream to accept the Letters of Intent to Retire at the end of the 2011-12 School Year from: **Diane Spandet**, full-time Speech Pathologist at Millburn Central; and **Peggy Bogenschutz**, full-time Early Childhood Teacher at Millburn Central. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING POSITION -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Thomas Heinrich to create a 0.5 full-time Middle School Foreign Language Teaching Position for the 2008-09 School Year. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt and Shawn Lahr. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

LEARNING DISABILITY TEACHING POSITION -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Chris Stream to create a full-time Learning Disability Teaching Position for the 2008-09 School Year. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Kenneth Dewitt, Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr and Robert Buehler. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT -- A motion was made by Stacy Freeman and seconded by Robert Buehler to approve the Applications for Summer Employment custodial work at a rate of \$7 an hour from **Mark Yocius** and **Luke Gonzalez**. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Chris Stream, Thomas Heinrich, Stacy Freeman, Therese Schmidt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler and Kenneth Dewitt. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -- Dr. James Menzer reported on the following:

- * Millburn Central is switching to a different athletic conference next year, which includes schools with larger enrollments.

- * Twenty-four Millburn students traveled to the state track tourney in Peoria this past weekend.

- * Foundation scholarships will be awarded this week; Graduation is set for Friday at both schools.

- * The Millburn Central Drama Club is performing two plays this week.

- * Millburn West is celebrating the culmination of its Cougar Paws reading initiative.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Dr. Cheryl Kucera reported on the following:

- * The new Reading textbooks are arriving and training has begun.
- * The last of the Love and Logic Workshops was held this month.
- * Certificates were awarded to the teacher mentors and protégés that participated in this program that assists teachers new to Millburn.
- * The end-of-the-year textbook inventory process has begun.

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Joanne Rathunde reported on the following:

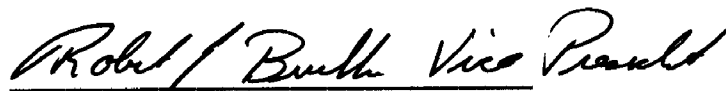
- * A connection date is set for the expanded bandwidth service.
- * She is getting a bid on reconfiguration of servers. She would like to put into place a system in which service capacity can be added.
- * Presentations are scheduled on the use of document cameras and Smart Boards in the classroom.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Elizabeth Keefe reported that her department is busy with hiring, evaluating caseloads, and reviewing student placements for next year. Several staff members will be attending an Aspergers/Autism conference this summer. Also, RTI training will continue at summer workshops.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT -- Jason Lind reported that Millburn Central hosted the Music in the Parks choir and band festival that raised \$2,800 for the school's music program. The eighth grade students received numerous compliments on their behavior during their recent Springfield trip. AIM students created a mini-golf course from cardboard and duct tape and staged a "golf expo" in the cafeteria. Seventh graders have created a Genocide Museum that portrays several historical instances of genocide. It is open to the public, and has attracted many local visitors.

Jake Jorgenson agreed that the Springfield trip was a success, and the two-day itinerary was an appropriate amount of time. Millburn West has been observing trash-free Tuesdays to promote conservation. An assembly is planned for June 2 to celebrate the year-long Cougar Paws reading initiative. The students will be rewarded with a hot dog cookout and organized outdoor activities.

There being no further business, the Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Kenneth Dewitt, President
Board of Education
Millburn C.C. School District 24

ATTEST:



Chris Stream, Secretary
Board of Education
Millburn C.C. School District 24

16 JUNE 2008

Date