

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Millburn School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
June 7, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler  
Kenneth Dewitt  
Shawn Lahr  
Robert Reding

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Dr. Ellen Mauer, Superintendent  
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Education Director  
Jake Jorgenson, Principal  
Jason Lind, Principal

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

VISITORS

John Hutchinson  
Scott Pfeiffer  
Dan Wasserman  
Melissa Watters  
Laura Brown  
Jenn Kiddle  
Alicia Keys  
Jane Tabourot  
Kim Dodd  
Scott Latza

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Central School, was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Shawn Lahr. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Shawn Lahr and Robert Reding. Diane Campbell, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream were absent.

Because the Board Secretary Chris Stream was absent, it was decided to elect a Secretary Pro Tem. A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Buehler to name Robert Reding as the Secretary Pro Tem. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Diane Campbell, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none at this time.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS – Dr. Ellen Mauer explained that the administrators have collectively decided to take a pay differential for next school year. The decision was discussed with the Board's Negotiations Sub-Committee consisting of Robert Buehler and Lisa Scanio. The proposal would impose an administrative pay freeze for one year, thereby

nullifying any previously negotiated salary increases. The proposal includes a few exceptions: retirees would be exempt; Elizabeth Keefe would get a 3 percent increase due to market value issues; and Mary Taylor would get the Teacher's Retirement System payment that was previously agreed upon and is given to the other administrators.

Robert Buehler said there were multiple discussions with the Teacher Negotiations Team regarding this issue. He said the teachers wanted the administration to act first regarding salaries for next year. The Board Negotiations Sub-Committee met for two hours with the administrators. Mr. Buehler said the administrators were very open and positive about the proposal. Dr. Mauer said the proposal would mean a savings of about \$16,802 to the district. Approval of the proposal will be included as part of the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting.

BUDGET DISCUSSION – Dr. Ellen Mauer reported that the results of the parent survey have been distributed to the Board Members. She asked the Board to review the various options and ideas that have been presented and researched over the past several months, and determine which ones they want to continue to pursue.

After discussing each item, the Board generally decided that the following options should no longer be considered at this time: do nothing; change the Millburn Central/West boundaries and establish a lottery to encourage people to move from one school to another; borrow more money; consolidate with another district; and run a Building Fund referendum.

Also, the option to close Millburn West School and move everyone into Millburn Central was not considered a viable option for the near future. District enrollment would have to be below 1,400 and that is not predicted to happen until possibly 2014-15. Dr. Mauer said the only way this option could work in the near future would be to use trailers as classrooms. She reviewed the results of her research on the use of trailers, including set-up and take-down fees, security, installation, plumbing and maintenance. The Board agreed that this option should not be considered for the 2011-12 school year.

Dr. Mauer said she would like to explore various combinations of three options: cutting non-mandated programs; raising class sizes; and converting the schools to grade level centers. Programs could be pared down, instead of cutting them completely.

Other options that are still considered viable are: running an Education Fund referendum; running a Working Cash Fund referendum; and raising fees.

The Board also discussed various suggestions, including those that were made in the parent survey comments.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY – The following policies were presented for a First Reading:

General Personnel – 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

General Personnel – 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

General Personnel – 5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act

General Personnel – 5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

The policies will be included on the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting for a Second Reading and Approval.

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES – The Board reviewed the recommended changes to the Parent/Student Handbook for the 2010-11 School Year. It was agreed to add the proposed changes to the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting.

It was noted that Jason Lind entered the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2010-11 – The Board reviewed the Tentative Budget for the 2010-11 School Year. Mary Taylor said salaries and benefits are the biggest portion of the budget. Salaries have been budgeted with a 2 percent increase; benefits reflect a 5 percent increase. Special education tuition is predicted at a 3 percent increase. Budgeted expenses for school supplies and capital outlay have been kept low. Approval of the Tentative Budget will be included on the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting.

SURVEY RESULTS – Dr. Ellen Mauer asked the Board Members to consider how they would like to share the parent survey results. It was decided to put the survey results and all comments on the district website. The only exclusions would be personal information such as names and telephone numbers, and one comment about a specific teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Laura Brown asked how many responses there were to the parent survey. Dr. Ellen Mauer replied that about 470 surveys were returned. Mrs. Brown suggested that a public forum be scheduled in August to discuss financial options that the Board is still considering, including any plans for a referendum. She also asked about teachers' supply budgets, because the PTO would like to work with the teachers in this regard. Mary Taylor said that the teachers will each have a \$100 budget.

Jason Hutchinson said that he, along with some other parents, founded the Facebook page for concerned residents of Millburn School District. He thought Facebook would be a great way to get feedback from the community, and he has invited all Board Members to join. About 225 residents have signed on, and he said there has been a lot of good discussion. He wanted the Board to know that his intentions were positive, not hostile, and he is interested in working with school officials to do what is best for kids.

Two Board Members said they joined the site, but they would not comment individually on the page. Dr. Mauer asked that participants on the page contact her if they are not sure about anything happening in the district.

It was noted that Jake Jorgenson, Jason Lind and Elizabeth Keefe exited the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Buehler at 8:36 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Kenneth Dewitt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler and Robert Reding. Nays: none. Absent: Diane Campbell, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Reding to exit Executive Session at 9:19 p.m. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Diane Campbell, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. The motion passed.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING RESUMES

The Committee of the Whole Meeting resumed at 9:20 p.m. There being no further business, a motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Reding to adjourn the Committee Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Diane Campbell, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. The motion passed. The Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Shawn Lahr, President  
Board of Education  
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

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Robert A. Reding, Secretary Pro Tem  
Board of Education  
Millburn School District 24