

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Millburn School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
Dec. 5, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Campbell  
Jane Gattone  
Scott Miller  
Robert Reding  
Lisa Scanio  
Chris Stream

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Jason Lind, Superintendent  
Dr. Stephen Johns, Business Manager  
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Services Director  
Dr. Cheryl Kucera, Curriculum Director  
Joanne Rathunde, Technology Director  
Marybeth DeLaMar, Principal  
Jake Jorgenson, Principal

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

VISITORS

Meghan Konicki	Carol McGill
Tammy Harris	Larry Dwyer
Carla Blanchard	Rachita Singh
Carol Machnics	Greg Ball
Deborah Pineau	Susan Mueller
Kristi Metzger	Amy Paxton
Julie Murray	

A 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 p.m. by President Robert Reding. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Diane Campbell, Jane Gattone, Scott Miller, Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. Joseph Pineau was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Carla Blanchard invited the Board Members and those in attendance to see the Millburn Builders, students who will be participating in a Lego League event this weekend in Zion.

ADDITIONAL NON-ACTION ITEMS – Scott Miller reported on his recent Board Member Visit to Millburn West. He enjoyed visiting classrooms, talking to teachers, and seeing the day-to-day operation of the school.

Mr. Miller said he also attended a recent SEDOL meeting. He learned about several aspects of the SEDOL program, including the budget process, how grant money is utilized and the use of Smart Boards in the classroom.

Robert Reding said he has been reviewing the district's Audit Report, especially the expenditure and revenue figures. He asked Dr. Stephen Johns if it would be helpful to revise the Budget to pace expenditures to revenue as it is received. Mr. Reding asked to see figures for the budgeted revenue and actual revenue over the last three years. The Board agreed to add a budget review to a future agenda.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

FEES-REGISTRATION AND RENTAL – Supt. Lind recommended that Registration Fees for the next school year remain the same as last year. Regarding rental fees for use of school facilities, Mr. Lind recommended that the gym rental fee be set at \$50, regardless of whether one or two gyms are used. The Board also discussed changing the Field Use rental to \$10 "per field," instead of "per event."

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – The school principals, Marybeth DeLaMar and Jake Jorgenson, presented a report on the School Improvement Plan. The plan focuses on four main areas: academics, facilities and finance, communication, and culture and climate. The principals discussed specific goals for each area and ways that progress can be monitored.

RTI MIDDLE SCHOOL READING – Dr. Cheryl Kucera gave a data report on Reading Plus, an RtI Intervention Tool for Reading, designed to improve silent, sustained reading comprehension. The data shows significant gains in reading skills and scores for at-risk middle school students who used the Reading Plus program. A reading teacher acts as the Reading Plus coach, helping the students increase independent reading speed and fluency, and rewarding their accomplishments.

ELL PARAPROFESSIONAL – Supt. Lind recommended the Board increase the hours worked by the paraprofessional in the English Language Learners program. The paraprofessional hours would be increased from 10 hours a week to 15 hours. The cost for the rest of this school year would be about \$1,000. This topic will be included as an action item on the next Regular Meeting agenda.

K-8/GRADE LEVEL CENTERS – Tammy Harris and Carol McGill presented the research compiled by the Facilities and Finance Committee regarding school configuration. The committee is composed of 11 volunteers, including parents from both schools, teachers and administrators. Several committee members were in attendance at the meeting and participated in the presentation and discussion.

The committee's research focused on its first goal and objective: to maximize the utilization of facilities and faculty to enhance and/or maintain the quality of student learning. The committee members conducted a comprehensive investigation of both the financial and non-financial aspects associated with the building grade-level configurations. Based on their findings, they compared the advantages of the two grade-level configurations: K-8 and grade-level centers.

In summary, the committee report emphasized that changing the school configuration is not a solution to the district's economic situation; community support is critical; the community must be educated about the district's financial situation; the community has a vested interest not only for their children but for their property values; and that school performance is influenced by several factors, such as family socioeconomic status, the quality of the teaching staff, instructional programs and school leadership.

A lengthy discussion covered many topics, including:

- The financial impact
- Possible reduction in staff
- The effect on class sizes
- Equity of services within a grade level, subject area or program
- The impact on scheduling, particularly in the middle school grades
- The number of sections in a grade level
- Social considerations
- Past decisions regarding grade configuration
- The thoroughness of the research
- Potential moving costs and building modifications
- Future growth projections
- Space availability and use at both schools
- Grade level placement in the buildings
- Maintaining quality education
- Maintaining the school culture
- Transitioning to a new setting
- The impact on test scores
- Teacher articulation within a grade level
- The timeline for a decision
- The possibility of changing or adding academic programs

Several of the committee members shared their personal views, comparing them to before and after they did their research. The school administrators also gave their views based on their personal and professional experience. The Board also discussed the format for the two upcoming Public Forums.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The grade configuration of the two school buildings will be included on upcoming agendas.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Supt. Jason Lind said the discussions tonight covered his report.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT – Dr. Stephen Johns said the Business Office Report is online. It includes information on cash flow, transportation funding, and an update on the 5-year projections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board agreed there was no need for an Executive Session.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Diane Campbell to adjourn. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Joseph Pineau. The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.



Robert A. Reding, President  
Board of Education  
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:



December 12, 2011

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

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Date