

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Oct. 14, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Ball
Diane Campbell
Jane Gattone
Joseph Pineau
Casandra Slade

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Jason Lind, Superintendent
Dr. Stephen Johns, Business Manager
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Services Director
Bennett Walshire, Principal

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Bernadette Hanna

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

VISITORS

Carol McGill
Regina Reynolds
Cheryl Drake

A 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 Joseph Pineau. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Diane Campbell, Jane Gattone, Joseph Pineau and Casandra Slade. Absent were Nichol Mangino and Trak Patel. Greg Ball was absent at the time that roll was taken, but arrived later in the meeting.

Due to the absence of Board Secretary Greg Ball, it was decided to appoint a Secretary Pro Tem. A motion was made Diane Campbell and seconded by Joseph Pineau to name Jane Gattone as Secretary Pro Tem. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Greg Ball, Nichol Mangino and Trak Patel. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS – There were none.

RECOGNITION – Supt. Jason Lind recognized teacher Regina Reynolds and the Millburn Garden Committee for their work in creating an outstanding resource for the district. He said this group of volunteers has taken a patch of grass and turned it into an amazing garden and outdoor classroom that is being utilized by students and the community.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

MILLBURN COMMUNITY GARDEN – Regina Reynolds updated the Board on many of the improvements that have taken place in the Millburn Community Garden in the past year. These include:

- Adding a working latch on the gate
- Installation of a shade sail
- Construction of a shed with a lock and ramp
- Growth of the Three Sisters Garden consisting of corn, beans and squash
- Final installation of the Rainbow Garden
- Creation of a "cutting garden" to cultivate flowers that were shared with new staff members
- Developing a budget and sponsoring fundraisers

Activities that have taken place at the garden include:

- Girl Scout ceremony
- Farewell party for a Garden Committee member who moved
- Workshops open to the public
- Community tours conducted by students in the Ecology Club

- Staff lunches
- Student bulb-planting project
- National Junior Honor Society activity
- Harvesting and creating artifacts such as dried Indian corn
- Study of the sunflower patch by several grade levels
- Composting program open to the community
- Students raising plants and developing a business plan for a plant sale

Ms. Reynolds said that she attended a course this summer sponsored by the Chicago Botanical Garden to learn ways to create an enabling garden that is accessible and meaningful to students with special needs. She thanked the community and local businesses for many donations and for their support of the garden.

FINE ARTS DISCUSSION– Supt. Jason Lind said he would like to start a conversation about the status of fine arts programs in the district. He said that he and Board Member Jane Gattone met recently with a parent who spoke for herself and others in the community that have ideas for strengthening and supporting the fine arts programs. Supt. Lind said he believes the participation rate in the fine arts programs such as band and choir is related to the district's activity fees. He asked the Board to consider this when they review activity fees in January. Other suggestions offered included the following: adding band and choir to the regular school day; making fine arts a part of the district's next Strategic Plan; and sponsoring a school musical.

It was noted that Greg Ball entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

PROPERTY TAX LEVY – Dr. Stephen Johns gave a presentation on the Property Tax Levy Process. He explained the history and effects of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, known as PTELL or the property tax cap. He discussed how the district calculates the property tax levy and reviewed his 2014 (pay 2015) levy recommendations. The First Reading of the 2014 (pay 2015) Property Tax Levy is scheduled for the Oct. 27 Regular Board Meeting. The Truth in Taxation Hearing and Property Tax Levy Adoption is scheduled for the Nov. 25 Regular Board Meeting.

INTENT TO ISSUE TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS – Dr. Stephen Johns reviewed cash flow projections for this Fiscal Year with the Board. He said that based on the projections the district may not have to use any Tax Anticipation Warrants. However, it may be prudent to approve \$500,000 to \$1 million in TAWs to cover unforeseen circumstances, such as delayed or reduced revenue from state aid or property taxes. If the Board approves TAWs, the district is not obligated to use them. The district would only pay interest on the amount of TAWs used. Dr. Johns said he will discuss the TAW outlook with the district treasurer, Roger Manderscheid. Action does not have to be taken on TAWs for another month or two.

SUMMER PROJECTS PRESENTATION – Dr. Stephen Johns gave a presentation on the building projects that were completed this summer. These include:

- New LED lighting
- Replacement of lighting ballasts
- Improved landscaping
- Continued maintenance of HVAC units
- Fresh mulch on all playgrounds
- New furniture in the Media Centers
- Renovation of a classroom, including painting and carpeting
- Painting of many areas, including the Elementary School offices
- Replaced sink area in former science lab with counter space
- Repairs to gates and fences
- Continued work to strip several layers of old wax from floors

Dr. Johns complimented the custodial staff, including the summer help, for their work on these projects.

BOARD REPORTS

There were none.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Stephen Johns reviewed the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) information he received from the Lake County assessor. He said the taxable EAV is down 4.2 percent from last year. He also said the audit report is in the final stages of review and should be released soon. He will arrange for the auditor to make a presentation to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Supt. Jason Lind said he and other area superintendents are scheduled to meet this week with the sponsor of Senate Bill 16. Supt. Lind said this bill will redirect \$12 million in state revenue out of Lake County, and would have a significant negative impact on Millburn School District.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

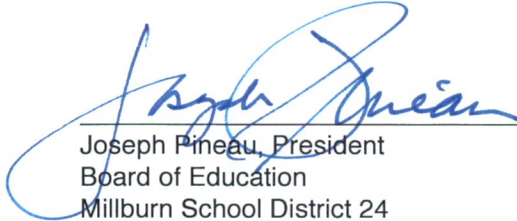
Future agenda items include:

- First Reading of Truth and Taxation Publication
- Approval to Bid MES Roof
- Approval to Bid MES/MMS Security Cameras

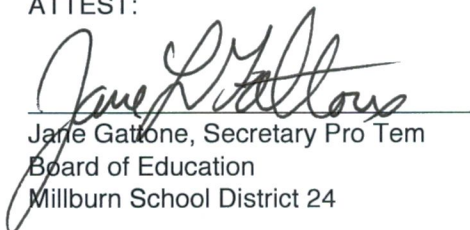
EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board determined that there was no need for an Executive Session.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jane Gattone and seconded by Joseph Pineau to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Nichol Mangino and Trak Patel. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


 Joseph Pineau, President
 Board of Education
 Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:


 Jane Gattone, Secretary Pro Tem
 Board of Education
 Millburn School District 24

10/27/14
 Date

1/20/19

1/20/19