

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler
Diane Campbell
Kenneth Dewitt
Shawn Lahr
Robert Reding
Lisa Scanio

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Dr. Ellen Mauer, Superintendent
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Education Director
Dr. Cheryl Kucera, Curriculum Director
Joanne Rathunde, Technology Director
Jason Lind, Principal

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

VISITORS

Denise Oswald
Suzanne Dekorsi
Steve Cipolla
Annie Tschanz
Melissa Watters
Judy Calhoun
Chandra Solberg
Kim Dodd
Jane Tabourot

TREASURER

Roger Manderscheid

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT -- There was none at this time.

ADDITION OF NON-ACTION ITEMS -- Robert Buehler reported that Dr. Ellen Mauer, Mary Taylor, Lisa Scanio and himself met with the Teacher Negotiating Team last week for an initial meeting to discuss the next contract. The atmosphere was cordial, and several more meeting dates have been set.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA -- A motion was made by Robert Buehler and seconded by Diane Campbell to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting of Feb. 15, 2010
 - b. Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 1, 2010

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2. Treasurer's Report and Approval
3. Bill Approval and Payment Authorization
4. Approval of Activity Funds for Millburn Central and Millburn West
5. Personnel Report
 - a. Intent to Retire in 2013-14 School Year
 - i. Janis Norgard -- 1.0 FTE Elementary P.E. Teacher
 - ii. Rande Hudson -- 1.0 FTE Librarian
 - b. FMLA Approval
 - i. Anne-Marie Maier
 - ii. Elizabeth Tschanz
 - c. Hire **Susan Recker** as a substitute crossing guard
 - d. Continuing Employment Recommendations
 - i. Second Year Non-Tenured Faculty
 - * Cynthia Gallagher
 - * Adam Jarvis
 - * Andrea Rouse
 - ii. Third Year Non-Tenured Faculty
 - * Lisa Anderson
 - * Lori Cipolla
 - * Becky Curran
 - * Lisa Erickson
 - * Paul Hedlund
 - * Carol Keller
 - * Heather Kline
 - * Leah Langangke
 - * Mary T. LeMieux
 - * Sara Scheibe
 - * Emily Summers
 - iii. Fourth Year Non-Tenured Faculty and Placed on Tenure
 - * Karissa Berg
 - * Kristen Bethancourt
 - * Marianna Bibian
 - * Carrie Cybul
 - * Lisa DePino
 - * Barbara Hubbard
 - * Lisa Jazo
 - * Anna Rodewald
 - * Ann Souza
 - e. Non-Renewal Recommendations
 - i. Second Year Non-Tenured Faculty
 - * Anthony Wittman
 - * Allison Chase
 - * Rande Harger
 - ii. Third Year Non-Tenured Faculty
 - * Kathryn Anderson
 - * Diana Lowry
 - f. Returning from Leave of Absence to Full-Time positions
 - i. Tricia Phelan
 - ii. J. David Schroeder
 - iii. Mary Grom
 - iv. Andrea Kitowski
 - g. Tenured Teacher Requesting Return to Full-time Employment
 - i. Meredith Frediani

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- 6. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policies
 - a. Instruction – 6:60 Curriculum Content
 - b. Instruction – 6:290 Homework
 - c. School Board – 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings
 - d. Students – 7:180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment

On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Lisa Scanio, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Robert Reding and Diane Campbell. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed.

EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION

BILLS PAYABLE	\$263,824.91
PAYROLL	\$667,031.02
MISC.	\$3,224.75
TOTAL	\$934,080.68

BUILDING

BILLS PAYABLE	\$92,749.01
PAYROLL	\$41,386.76
TOTAL	\$134,135.77

TRANSPORTATION

BILLS PAYABLE	\$12,303.86
PAYROLL	\$65,571.30
TOTAL	\$77,875.16

IMRF

BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
PAYROLL	\$40,984.83
TOTAL	\$40,984.83

SITE & CONSTRUCTION

BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
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BONDS&INTEREST

BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
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TORT

PAYROLL	\$4,358.90
BILLS PAYABLE	\$639.00
TOTAL	\$4,997.90

FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,192,074.34
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AUDIT BID -- Mary Taylor explained that a Request For Proposal to conduct this year's

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annual audit was sent to eight companies. Four firms sent proposals. Milburn Cain & Co., the current auditing firm, was the lowest bidder. The Board discussed whether there would be any advantages to hiring a new auditor, even at a higher cost. Mrs. Taylor said she had confidence in Millburn Cain. Dr. Ellen Mauer said she would ask the auditors for more recommendations than they had given in the past. A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Lisa Scanio to approve Milburn Cain to conduct the annual audit for a fee of \$12,000. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler, Kenneth Dewitt, Robert Reding, Diane Campbell and Lisa Scanio. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed.

It was noted that Roger Manderscheid exited the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

BOARD REPORTS

SEDOL -- Kenneth Dewitt reported on a recent SEDOL meeting he attended. Lake Zurich is leaving the SEDOL cooperative, an action that was anticipated. Millburn Central student Nicholas Zehner was recognized at the meeting. Nick recently spoke at an Illinois Board of Education budget hearing in support of funding for programs for the visually impaired. Elizabeth Keefe said SEDOL has proposed to release up to 60 employees for next year.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

BUDGET DISCUSSION: REBOUNDARY OPTIONS -- Dr. Ellen Mauer said she researched ways to redraw the school boundaries in an effort to even out the enrollments at the two schools. She said she was surprised to find that when she moved as many students into Millburn West as possible, the result was that both school enrollments became too small to level class sizes effectively. In some cases it would actually cost the district more money to make the changes than it would to leave the boundaries unchanged. She said that if the Board wants to stay with the K-8 model, she would recommend that the school boundaries remain the same.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: RECONFIGURATION DATA -- Dr. Ellen Mauer presented additional information about the savings that might be achieved by reconfiguring the two schools into grade level centers. In the past, the Board discussed an estimated savings of \$240,000 by reducing the number of homeroom teachers. Dr. Mauer said that reducing homerooms would lead to a reduction in the number of specials classes, such as art, music physical education and technology. Other cost savings could be achieved by participating in one athletic conference, as opposed to two. Also, the cost of multiple bands and choirs would be reduced. Using this information, she would now estimate the cost savings at \$379,079. She pointed out that transportation costs have not yet been calculated.

The Board discussed several aspects of reconfiguring the schools into grade level centers. including:

* The level of parental involvement and volunteerism at a middle school as compared to a K-8.

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- * The social and emotional issues for students who would change schools, or enter into a middle school atmosphere.

- * Splitting the schools into grade level centers such as K-3 and 4-8, and not necessarily creating a middle school.

- * The uncertainty of state funding.

- * The benefit of compounding cost savings each year.

- * The importance of survey results from parents and staff.

- * The effect of grade level centers on class sizes and test scores.

- * Options for class structure such as multi-age, looping and split classes.

- * Consequences if the district is taken over by the state.

- * The timeline for deciding if the schools will be reconfigured.

- * Weighing whether the K-8 structure or small class sizes are more highly valued by the community.

- * Educating the public on the options facing the district.

PUBLIC COMMENT -- Chandra Solberg asked for a clarification of looping and multi-age classes. Dr. Ellen Mauer explained that looping allows a student to stay with the same teacher for two consecutive grades. Multi-age classes have more than one grade level within a class. Dr. Mauer explained that a loop can be built into a multi-age classroom. She said that any such class configuration would include an opt-out provision.

Steve Cipolla asked if the community survey will include a financial component. Dr. Mauer said there will be financial information, such as the cost of each non-mandatory program. Parents may be asked to rank the non-mandatory programs. The cost of various class sizes and the K-8 configuration also will be included. Another survey component will ask if homeowners would be willing to raise taxes, and by how much, to support certain programs

Annie Tschanz asked if the cost attached to programs will included just teacher salaries. Dr. Mauer said the cost figures will include salaries, benefits, supplies and other related costs. Ms. Tschanz said the figures could be skewed if one teacher had a much higher than average salary. Dr. Mauer said entire department expenses, such as in technology, would not be included; only the academic part of the subject area.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Joanne Rathunde said she received results today on the Technology Plan submission. She was generally pleased with the results. A few minor revisions will be necessary.

Ms. Rathunde said she continues to research an online payment option for parents. Some credit card policies make it impossible to charge a fee based on a percentage of the transaction, as originally planned. It would be difficult for the district to set one flat fee that would cover the cost of each transaction. Ms. Rathunde said she is seeking information from another company and will report back to the Board.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Elizabeth Keefe said she and Dr. Mauer screened many applicants for the two new special education teaching positions. Formal interviews are scheduled this week.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Dr. Cheryl Kucera reported that ISAT testing has been completed. Due to absences, many students had to be tested during the

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make-up week. She also announced that Millburn will be participating in a joint staff development activity next fall with Emmons, Grass Lake and High School District 117. The focus will be on classroom instruction.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS -- Jason Lind said this has been a difficult time because some non-tenured staff members were notified that they were not being rehired. He complimented the entire staff for handling the situation in a professional manner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- There was no need for an Executive Session.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Kenneth Dewitt to adjourn the Regular Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed. The Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Shawn Lahr, President
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

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

Date