

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

REGULAR MEETING
Jan. 18, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler
Diane Campbell
Robert Rediing
Lisa Scanio
Chris Stream

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

VISITORS

Cheryl Drake
Jenn Kiddle
Julie Murray
Carla Blanchard
Jen Glickley
Jane Gattone
Lori Cipolla
Valerie Powley
Christine Jones

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 Vice President Robert Buehler. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Robert Buehler, Diane Campbell, Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none at this time.

ADDITION OF NON-ACTION ITEMS – Robert Buehler announced that Shawn Lahr submitted a letter this afternoon stating that he was resigning as President of the School Board for personal reasons, but would continue to serve as a School Board Member. Mr. Buehler said that, as the Board's Vice President, he would be assuming the duties of President until the School Board election in April. It was explained that the Board can elect a new Vice President at its next meeting. It could not be done at this meeting because it was not listed as an action item on the agenda.

Lisa Scanio said she would also like to add another non-action item to the agenda: an update on the Strategic Plan Committee. Dr. Ellen Mauer reported that the committee has met and has a draft of a community survey. The committee will meet again in February to

finalize the survey and send it out to parents, staff and community members. When the survey data is returned, the committee will plan community forums to present the results. Strategic Plan Committee Members include Dr. Mauer; Board Members Diane Campbell and Lisa Scanio; Principal Jason Lind; community members Jane Gattone and Laura Brown; and teachers Linda Harpke and Sally Kowal.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA –A motion was made by Chris Stream and seconded by Robert Reding to approve the Consent Agenda, including the following:

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Hearing of Dec. 14, 2010
 - b. Regular Meeting and Executive Session of Dec. 14, 2010
 - c. Committee of the Whole Meeting and Executive Session of Jan. 3, 2011
2. Treasurer's Report and Approval
3. Bill Approval and Payment Authorization
4. Activity Funds of Millburn Central and Millburn West
5. Personnel Report
 - a. Hire **Colette McGuire** as a Substitute Special Services Assistant
 - b. Accept FMLAs:
 - (1) **Emily Summers**, Grade 3 Teacher at Central
 - (2) **Tricia Phelan**, Grade 6 Teacher at Central
 - (3) **Christine Nichols**, ELL Teacher
 - c. Requests for Leave of Absence:
 - (1) **Elizabeth Eckstrom**, Grade 3 Teacher at Central
 - (2) **Christine Nichols**, ELL Teacher
6. Approve Overnight Field Trip for Millburn Central Cheerleaders to IESA State Cheerleading Competition on Jan. 21-22, 2011
7. Approve Review of Closed Session Minutes
8. Increased Rental Fees for Outside Organizations
9. Second Reading and Approval of Board Policy
 - a. Professional Personnel – 5:250 Leaves of Absence
 - b. Professional Personnel – 5:260 Student Teachers
 - c. Professional Personnel – 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
 - d. Professional Personnel – 5:280 Teacher Aides, Coaches, and Bus Drivers

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

Jan-11

EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION		BUILDING	
BILLS PAYABLE	\$211,062.57	BILLS PAYABLE	\$48,453.54
PAYROLL	\$662,574.61	PAYROLL	\$42,711.81
VOIDS	-\$677.73		
MISC	\$18,549.50		
TOTAL	\$891,508.95	TOTAL	\$91,165.35
TRANSPORTATION		IMRF	
BILLS PAYABLE	\$18,344.25	BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
PAYROLL	\$45,394.39	PAYROLL	\$36,205.60
TOTAL	\$63,738.64	TOTAL	\$36,205.60
SITE & CONSTRUCTION		BONDS&INTEREST	
BILLS PAYABLE	\$16,561.00	BILLS PAYABLE	\$400.00
		TORT	
		PAYROLL	\$3,988.05
		BILLS PAYABLE	\$0.00
		TOTAL	\$3,988.05
		FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,103,567.59

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – Dr. Ellen Mauer recommended that a Letter of Understanding be attached to the Negotiated Teacher Contract. The letter states that the teachers agree to waive the 20-day posting period for the seniority list. This will allow the Board to act earlier on non-renewals and RIFs. A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Diane Campbell to approve the Letter of Understanding to be attached to the Teacher Contract. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

ACTIVITY FEES – Dr. Ellen Mauer presented the results of a survey that shows what other school districts in the county charge for Activity Fees. She said the administration recommends charging \$200 a year for band; \$100 per sport and Scholastic Bowl; \$25 for Choir; \$15 for Drama; and \$10 for Newspaper, Game Club, Math Team, Student Council, Yearbook and Chess Club. A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Diane Campbell to approve the Activity Fees as recommended by the administration. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

PREVAILING WAGE ORDINANCE -- A motion was made by Chris Stream and seconded by Robert Reding to approve the Prevailing Wage Ordinance. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

TECHNOLOGY LEASE – Joanne Rathunde presented information regarding the cost of delaying the computer technology lease for a year. This was an additional option to the technology presentation at the Regular Board Meeting in December. The Board discussed the various options. Topics of discussion included the use of iPads, the referendum results, the cost of equipment and software upgrades, emerging technologies, and larger class sizes. She also proposed charging a \$25 technology fee per student. A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Diane Campbell to approve Proposal 2, which is a 4-year lease at a cost of about \$84,326 a year, and the \$25 annual technology fee. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Robert Buehler, Diane Campbell, Robert Reding and Lisa Scanio. Nays: Chris Stream. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

BUS LEASE – Mary Taylor presented information regarding the bus lease for Fiscal Year 2012. She said that if the district renews with Midwest Transit, the cost will be about 3.6 percent more than last year. This includes new heaters, installation of all radio equipment and required updates for the wheelchair bus. It was suggested that Mrs. Taylor try to negotiate a lower rate in lieu of going out for bid.

ENERGY AUDIT – Dr. Ellen Mauer reported that the Fanning Howey company has offered to do a free energy audit at one school. The purpose would be to identify areas in which architectural and/or behavioral changes could be made to conserve money. The Board discussed the benefits of the proposal and the district's ability to finance any changes. The Board directed Dr. Mauer to notify the company that Millburn would be interested in the free audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jennifer Glickley thanked the Board for approving the technology lease. She said she also believed parents would be willing to pay an even higher technology fee than the \$25 approved tonight. She said she understands the concern about the amount of money spent on the technology lease, but that tough decisions need to be made for the benefit of the children.

Carla Blanchard said she agreed with upgrading the computers, but she asked the Board to be as frugal as possible, and consider not purchasing iPads. As a chairperson of the *Yes! Millburn* Committee, she said it is difficult to explain to the public why the Board is spending this kind of money while cutting the teaching staff.

Jenn Kiddle said she is a parent of two students at Millburn and is more than willing to pay the technology fee. She is a computer teacher in another district and thinks that holding off a year on the technology lease would have been a mistake.

Valerie Powley encouraged the Board to get more information out to the parents to explain why decisions are made. She said the current communication methods are not getting through to the parents.

Jay Kao suggested the Board work toward a cost reduction on the bus lease. He said he works in industry and has been successful getting cost reductions in a tough economy.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Elizabeth Keefe said several staff members are attending training sessions on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support). The PBIS team's goal for the next few months is to start planning for an opening event in the fall for staff and students.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Dr. Cheryl Kucera presented results from the EXPLORE test that was taken by eighth graders who will attend Lakes High School. The test helps students gain an understanding of their readiness for college. Millburn scored well in comparison to other schools. Students who did not meet the EXPLORE benchmark scores in reading and math combined will be invited to attend a summer academy at the high school.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS – Jason Lind reported on recent and upcoming events at Millburn Central including a student recognition breakfast, a staff refresher course on electronic communications, the school-wide Spelling Bee and AIMSweb testing.

Jake Jorgenson reported on activities at Millburn West including band and choir concerts, the school-wide Spelling Bee; Spirit Week; and Football Friday

It was noted that Jake Jorgenson, Jason Lind, Elizabeth Keefe, Dr. Cheryl Kucera, Joanne Rathunde and Mary Taylor exited the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Robert Reding to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Chris Stream, Diane Campbell, Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio and Robert Buehler. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Chris Stream to exit Executive Session at 9:59 p.m. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

FEBRUARY MEETINGS – The Board reached a general consensus that the February Committee Meeting scheduled for Feb. 7 will be changed to a Special Meeting, and that the date of the Regular Board Meeting in February will be changed to Feb. 23. Both meetings will be held at Millburn West.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Robert Buehler, President
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

Chris Stream, Secretary
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

Date