

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

SPECIAL MEETING
Feb. 7, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

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

VISITORS

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| Jenn Kiddle | RaeAnn Collins |
| Jennifer Glickley | Becky Moeller |
| Julie Denny | Tammy Harris |
| Laura Brown | Alicia Keys |
| Dave Bending | Bernadette Hanna |
| Scott E. Miller | Valerie Powley |
| Rimi Singh | Victor Vercammen |
| Kristin Bethancourt | Jason Hutchinson |
| Kathy Goforth | Dawn McQuade |
| Kevin McKeever | Kim Dodd |
| Terri Tomasiewicz | Cindy Brugioni |
| Greg Ball | Karen Ende |
| Lauri Pighini | Mike Bolender |
| Rachel Nichols | Barb Queen |
| Bridget Sieracke | Alex Kalous |
| Terri Clay | Nomita Umarwadia |
| Connie Kramer | Christine Jones |
| Jollene Jones | Lisa Griesser |
| Eden Soroka | Lisa Rudolphi |
| Joan Green | Rhonda Naylor |
| Stephen Cipolla | Cheryl Drake |
| Geneen Hoetzer | Deborah Pineau |
| Georgene Loos | Stephen Loos |
| Mike Ryan | Barbara C. Bowers |
| Amy Paxton | Jan Craven |
| Ralph Bachinger | Angela McMahan |
| Kandice Silk | Annie Tschantz |
| Michael Meyers | Keith Landy |
| Nancy Reding | |

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn West School, was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Robert Buehler. 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 at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt 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: Robert Buehler, Diane Campbell, Kenneth Dewitt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Reding and Lisa Scanio. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed.

It was noted that Chris Stream entered the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Robert Reding and seconded by Shawn Lahr to exit Executive Session. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING RESUMES

The Board reconvened the Special Meeting at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Robert Buehler noted several visitors had specified on the sign-in sheet that they would like to address the Board. He called on them in the order in which they had signed in, and also took comments from others who asked to speak.

Jenn Kiddle first read a letter from Carla Blanchard. She said she is looking for an explanation for Dr. Mauer's resignation. Ms. Blanchard said that Dr. Mauer should not be blamed for the failed referendum. Ms. Blanchard said the Board's handling of the situation was inappropriate.

Jenn Kiddle then stated her own comments. She said that it is the Board's job to work with the administration to provide the best education possible. She said the choice the Board has made is not in the best interest of the school and it is a mistake to accept Dr. Mauer's resignation. She asked several questions about the resignation and the process to fill the vacancy.

Jennifer Glickley said the Board was elected by the community but does not represent the community. She said the Board has torn the district apart and is removing a strong leader. She said several parents are talking about starting a charter school within the Millburn boundaries.

Scott Miller asked what has happened in the less than two years since Dr. Mauer was hired as superintendent that has now led to her resignation. He asked what criteria was used to appoint a new superintendent without soliciting candidates.

Valerie Powley said the Board owes the community an explanation about the changes that are taking place. She said the children will be put through another hardship by having a new principal. She said it will be difficult to find an administrator to come to the district.

Kathy Goforth said Dr. Mauer has been honest about the district's financial situation and has made tough decisions. Mrs. Goforth said the district should be applauding Dr. Mauer's knowledge and leadership, not throwing away a great asset that the school district needs.

Kevin McKeever said he agreed with the points made by all the previous speakers.

Jan Craven said Dr. Mauer has shown courage and fortitude by leading the district in a time of turmoil. She said Dr. Mauer has improved communication between school and families, and has effectively shared her knowledge of school finance with the community. She said she would like Dr. Mauer to continue as superintendent.

Greg Ball said he wanted to speak in support of Mr. Lind. Mr. Ball said that he was favorably impressed by Mr. Lind's ability to address students and parents by name. Mr. Ball said he is not worried about Mr. Lind's ability to be a good superintendent, but is worried about finding a replacement for Mr. Lind as principal.

Keith Landy said Dr. Mauer gave the community necessary financial information, made tough decisions and has the district going in the right direction. He said accepting her resignation will be taking a step back.

ADDITIONAL NON-ACTION ITEMS: SNOW REMOVAL – Diane Campbell thanked the custodians and all who were involved in the snow removal process after the recent blizzard.

SCHOOL BOARD VICE PRESIDENT – A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Chris Stream to nominate Robert Reding as Board Vice President. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

RESIGNATION – A motion was made by Diane Campbell and seconded by Robert Reding to accept the resignation of Dr. Ellen Mauer from employment effective June 30, 2011. When it was his turn to vote during the roll call, Robert Buehler read the following statement: "I believe that Dr. Ellen Mauer's commitment to this district has been a credit to her abilities and her expertise. I believe that the issues at hand are a product of the Board's inability to work as a team to give her clear and concise direction and not Ellen's lack of commitment or leadership. Her professionalism will not allow her to address this but I will. I personally disagree with the way this Board has treated Dr. Mauer and I will continue my support for her in the future. Ellen, thank you for your commitment to the community, staff and children

of District 24.” On a roll call vote the following Board Members voted Aye: Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio, Chris Stream and Diane Campbell. Nays: Kenneth Dewitt, Shawn Lahr and Robert Buehler. Absent: none. The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT – Robert Buehler said that the district’s legal counsel has advised that the new superintendent’s contract be tabled until the position can be posted as required by the teacher’s contract agreement. The position will be posted internally for the five-day minimum, with the time for response no later than Feb. 17, 2011. A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Reding to table the new superintendent’s contract. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

FACILITIES USE – Dr. Ellen Mauer explained that Red Apple Academy has requested use of three spaces next year at Millburn West during the school day. They will be charged the increased rate, which is 15 percent of gross revenue. Mary Taylor said that Red Apple has paid about \$2,541 in rent for the first four months of this year. The rate this year is 8 percent of gross revenue. A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Chris Stream to approve the Facilities Use Application from Red Apple Academy for the 2011-12 School Year. On a roll call vote the following Board Members voted Aye: Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio, Chris Stream, Shawn Lahr, Robert Buehler and Kenneth Dewitt. Nays: Diane Campbell. Absent: none. The motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

- Educational Support Personnel – 5:310 Compensatory Time-Off
- Educational Support Personnel – 5:320 Evaluation
- Instruction – 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks
- Students – 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights
- Students – 7:100 Health, Eye and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and
Exclusion of Students
- Students – 7:285 Food Allergy Management Program
- Students – 7:340 Student Records

These policies will be added to the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting for a Second Reading and Approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jason Hutchinson said it is not clear if the appointment of Mr. Lind will be permanent or temporary.

Valerie Powley said she is disappointed in the Board’s decision to accept Dr. Mauer’s resignation.

Kevin McKeever asked about how to remove Board Members from office. He said the community has not seen a strategic plan for the future.

Christine Jones said she is running for the School Board and she is sorry that she will not get to work with Dr. Mauer.

Jennifer Glickley said she has been in education for 15 years and that it is not wise to change the superintendent during difficult times. The district will be left without instructional leadership.

Mike Bollinger asked if the Board would be paying two superintendent contracts at the same time.

Annie Tschantz asked when the position of principal will be posted. She said that as a teacher in the district, she feels like many of the parents, that she is owed an explanation.

Rachel Nichols asked how quickly the superintendent position would be posted, and asked for clarification on the posting of the principal position.

Kim Dodd said she has attended many Board meetings in the past and has had her questions answered at the meeting. She asked how parents would get answers to questions asked tonight, and how others would find out those answers.

Alicia Keys asked for clarification about the timelines in which the Board has to work.

Terri Tomasiewicz said School Board Members should make decisions based on what the community wants.

Cindy Brugioni said only one Board Member has ever approached her and asked her opinion about school issues.

Amy Paxton said she was disappointed by the Board's action. She expressed her appreciation to the Board Members, who serve without pay and spent hours of research and reviewed many documents.

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Robert Buehler, President
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

Chris Stream, Secretary
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

Date