

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Jan. 3, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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
Jake Jorgenson, Principal
Jason Lind, Principal

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

VISITORS

Carla Blanchard
Jane Gattone
Lori Cipolla
Laura Brown

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

A Committee of the Whole 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: Diane Campbell, Kenneth Dewitt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Reding and Lisa Scanio. Robert Buehler and Chris Stream were absent.

Because Board Secretary Chris Stream was absent, it was decided to name a Secretary Pro Tem. A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Kenneth Dewitt to name Robert Reding as Secretary Pro Tem. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none at this time.

ADDITIONAL NON-ACTION ITEMS: SNOW REMOVAL – Dr. Ellen Mauer asked Mary Taylor to give an update on the snow removal contract. Mrs. Taylor said that she has sent a letter to BS, Inc. of Grayslake canceling the district's contract for snow removal because the company has not met the contract terms. As of Jan. 1, Building Maintenance Systems will be performing the snow removal duties. They will be paid on a per-push basis.

Lisa Scanio asked if a decision had been made about where the buses would be parked in the winter. Mr. Lind said that the buses would be parked at Millburn Central, as they have in

the past. A few changes have been made in the way the buses are parked when it snows, which has helped to alleviate some of the problems with ice. Shawn Lahr reported that the Village of Lindenhurst has passed an ordinance that will allow the buses to be parked at Millburn West, if this is considered as an option again in the future.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

COSTS FOR BAND AND SPORTS – Dr. Ellen Mauer presented information concerning the cost to the district for sponsoring band, sports and other extracurricular activities, and recommendations for participation fees. Shawn Lahr said he asked to have this item removed from the Consent Agenda at the last Regular Board Meeting because Choir is a year-long activity and he thought the fee should be higher.

The Board discussed various aspects of the activity fees, including how often an activity meets; whether those participating in an activity should pay a fee that covers the entire cost; the value of the activity to the school as a whole; and the value of offering a well-rounded experience to students. Mr. Lahr said he would attend the next Band Booster meeting at Central and ask for parent feedback. He said he also would ask the group if there is interest in funding a Band scholarship program for those who cannot afford the fee.

Dr. Mauer said she would like to see a decision on this topic by mid-February. Mary Taylor said she is expecting to have results soon from a county survey about what other area districts charge. The Board decided to discuss the issue further when more information is available.

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

Professional Personnel – 5:250 Leaves of Absence

Professional Personnel – 5:260 Student Teachers

Professional Personnel – 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation and Assignment

Professional Personnel – 5:280 Teachers Aides, Coaches and Bus Drivers

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

REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – Dr. Ellen Mauer reported that it is time for the semi-annual review of Closed Session Minutes. She said it is her recommendation at this time that all Closed Session Minutes remain closed. This item will be added to the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jane Gattone asked about how activities such as Band and Sports will work next year when there is a switch to district-wide programs, instead of individual

programs at each school. Dr. Ellen Mauer said the administration has been reviewing staffing, but she could not discuss it at this time because of personnel issues. She said the district will provide a student shuttle bus after school between buildings at no extra cost to the district. During the school day, staff members will commute between the buildings when necessary. Students will not travel during the school day. Also, some activities will be housed at each of the two schools. There has been no decision on a district mascot.

Laura Brown asked that the Board consider public streaming Board Meetings for those who cannot attend in person. She also asked how many packets were turned in for the upcoming School Board election. Dr. Mauer answered that two packets were turned in for the 2-year term, and nine packets were turned in for the 4-year terms. Mrs. Brown asked if the district would consider using the phone notification system to remind parents to vote in the School Board election. Dr. Mauer said this could be possible as long as the district does not take a stand on any issue.

Lori Cipolla asked if the district has considered charging entry fees into sporting events. Dr. Mauer said this topic was discussed last month. She surveyed districts in the Lakeside Athletic Conference, which is the only conference Millburn will be in next year. None of those schools charge admission fees for regular events, only tournaments. This is the accepted practice of the conference. Ms. Cipolla asked if fewer referees or officials could be used. Dr. Mauer said the district is obligated to follow the rules of the conference.

Carla Blanchard asked if the rules of tenure have to be followed if the teachers are not in a union. Dr. Mauer said the tenure rules are state law and the district must follow them. Mrs. Blanchard commented that many people moved into Millburn School District because it offers a wide range of activities such as band and sports. She said that if these activities are cut, families may think about moving to other districts.

It was noted that Dr. Ellen Mauer, Mary Taylor, Elizabeth Keefe, Dr. Cheryl Kucera, Jake Jorgenson, Jason Lind and Joanne Rathunde exited the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Reding to exit Executive Session. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays; none. Absent: Robert Buehler and Chris Stream. The motion passed. The Executive Session ended at 9:10 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETING RESUMES

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 9:10 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