

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Millburn C.C. School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
May 3, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Dr. Ellen Mauer, Superintendent  
Mary Taylor, Business Manager  
Jason Lind, Millburn Central Principal  
Jake Jorgenson, Millburn West Principal  
Joanne Rathunde, Director of Technology  
Dr. Cheryl Kucera, Director of Curriculum

BOARD CLERK

Bernadette Hanna

VISITORS

*See attached sheet*

The Committee of the Whole of the Board of Education of Millburn C.C. School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Central School, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Shawn Lahr. Roll call was taken, with the following Board Members in attendance: Diane Campbell, Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio, Robert Buehler, Shawn Lahr, Chris Stream, Kenneth Dewitt.

ADDITION OF NON-ACTION ITEMS - Two items were added to the agenda. An additional Public Comment session, which was inadvertently omitted from the agenda, would be added after the Budget Discussion. Mr. Dewitt offered the second item regarding an informational program some Board members attended, presented by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), about the new FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requirements. This would be added as item H on the agenda.

The discussion opened with a clarification that the seven options presented are not for the 2010-11 school year. The projected deficit is for the 2011-12 school year. This December is when decisions need to be made for the following school year. The Board has been looking at these options for months; this is just a summation. The Board is preparing for two public forums on school finance – May 20 at Millburn West and May 24 at Millburn Central. Dr. Mauer stated that while no one likes these options, we need to cut \$1.6 million to maintain a balanced budget. There was much discussion among board members about the reduction in state aid and the effect it is having on not being able to budget.

The subject of a referendum was also discussed. Dr. Mauer pointed out that school system are designed to force a district to run out of money every so often so schools have to go back for tax dollars. If a referendum does not pass we cannot cut mandated programs such as math, reading, transportation, special education. Mrs. Scanio mentioned that a decision about whether to try for a referendum should be made sooner rather than later since we may be competing with high school district referendum. The \$1.6 million that needs to be cut represents 22 teachers.

Mr. Dewitt stated that before considering a referendum, information needs to get out to parents and a survey needs to be sent. The second question if everyone says “yes” to try for a referendum is how much to ask for: \$.50/\$1.00/\$2.00. The last referendum to build Millburn West School was a two-part question – one asking for bonds to build the school and the other asking for \$.53 for the education fund to fill the school with teachers, etc.

Mr. Stream felt everyone would be anti-tax if we tried for a referendum in the November election. If we wait until April, we would still have to cuts because the money is not received for a year.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Eighteen people in the audience made comments or asked questions. The comments and questions centered mostly around the budget discussion and included the following: gifted program; running a referendum; activity fees; state taking over; having one school; transportation; administrative costs; technology, art and music on carts, maintaining K-8 configuration; PMA Report; use of volunteers; payables; restructuring support staff; district office move to West. Dr. Mauer stated that if anyone had any specific questions that she would respond via phone, email, or in person once contacted. She responds within 24 hours to any inquiries.

APPOINTMENTS - these items will be on the consent agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting on May 17. Architect - Dr. Mauer said that even though we are not in need of an architect, we need to appoint one. She suggested using Green Associates, the company who did the addition at Central and the design at West. Board Clerk-Dorothy Pazanin has been taking the minutes for many years and it is recommended that she be reappointed. Depository – State Bank of the Lakes has been our depository for many years and it is recommended that we continue our relationship. Treasurer – Roger Manderscheid has been the district’s treasurer for a number of years for the same annual cost of \$5,000. Board members wanted clarification of the duties of the treasurer. This will be a separate agenda item on May 17. Publisher – previously the district used The News-Sun for legal notices; Dr. Mauer suggested using The Daily Herald, which has a wider readership. Board members requested information on costs from both publications. Dr. Mauer will have this information available for the May 17 meeting. This will also be a separate agenda item. Attorney – Dr. Mauer suggested continuing to use Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY - The first reading of the following board policies took place: School Board – 2:30 School District Elections, Instruction – 6:50 School Wellness, Instruction – 6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues, Students – 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities, and Students – 7:310 Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material. These policies are updated or new and will be on the May 17 agenda for a second reading and approval.

RACE TO THE TOP’S MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - Dr. Mauer explained that school districts are being asked to sign a memorandum of understanding in order to help the state secure federal funds. While Millburn will most likely not qualify for any of the funds, the district will have to abide by any unfunded mandates whether the MOU is signed or not. Board members requested that Dr. Mauer investigate whether other school districts in our area are signing. This topic will come before the board again at the May 17 meeting.

MEMBERSHIPS – The Board was asked to consider membership in the following organizations: Ed Red, a state-level lobby organization, at an annual cost of \$1,620 per year; Fed Red, a federal-level lobby organization at an annual cost of \$325 per year; Illinois Association of School Board (IASB), an organization the district currently belongs to, which provides among other things, Board training and updates on Board policies, at an annual cost of \$4,006.20; and Lake County Educational Services Cooperative (LCESC), which the district is also a currently a member. Among the many valuable services this organization provides is reduced-cost workshops for staff development. The cost for the 2010-11 school year is the same as this year - \$3,209. Board members were in agreement to continue membership in the IASB and LCESC only. These memberships will be on the May 17 agenda for approval.

METHOD OF PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION - Dr. Mauer outlined the change in the way the district pays the bus driver. Currently, there is a mixture of pay by the route and hourly rates. The suggestion is to pay hourly for all routes, which is in alignment with how other school districts pay the bus drivers. A comparison of area schools was provided in a spreadsheet. The Board requested that Dr. Mauer meet with the bus drivers, hear their opinions, outline the changes, and provide a chart with the new rates.

OFFICE REORGANIZATION – The Board requested that this item be tabled until the June or July Board meeting.

IASB MEETING – The topic of discussion at the recent meeting was the new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. We are in compliance with FOIA information posted on the district website and FOIA officers appointed and trained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Five more audience members made comments or asked questions that included the following topics: FOIA, bussing, articulation with area schools, rumor control, speaking with public officials, voucher system/school choice; property values.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Lisa Scanio to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed and the Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

---

Shawn Lahr, President  
Board of Education, Millburn C.C. School District 24

ATTEST:

---

Chris Stream, Secretary  
Board of Education, Millburn C.C. School District 24

---

Date

**VISITORS****May 3, 2010**

Karen Ende  
Steve Fuller  
RaeAnn Collins  
Sarah Kilcoin Johnson  
Judy Shea  
Rebecca Gundlach  
Deepa Shankar  
Beth Dean  
Brad Floden  
Carissa LaTourette  
John Allen  
Jane Allen  
Stacy Janda  
Chris Guss  
Sarah Berry  
Caren Joyner  
Jane Gattone  
Cheryl Drake  
Carine Lancaster  
Erin Shaban  
Terese Boudart  
Scott Cole  
Amy Langille  
Chandra Solby  
Sean Coleman  
Matt Heft  
Venks Ayalur  
Michael A. Jones  
Chris Towers  
Brigid Tuley  
Kevin Tuley  
Kate Brask  
Mary Doden  
Scott Miller  
Steve Cipolla  
Julie Bachinger  
Carla Blanchard  
Andrea Fisher  
Tony Pierce  
Chris England  
Judy Calhoun  
Anna Rodewald  
Lisa Jazo  
Shannon Grzesiak  
Lori Boutelle  
Sandy Fanizza  
Felix R. Moran  
Kristin Tierney

John Tierney  
Anne Petty  
Chris Kennedy  
Eric Lynch  
Sherri Iwema  
Cindy Brugioni  
Michelle Costa  
John Steinert  
Heidi Walsh  
Dennis Prieto  
Christine Jones  
Jill Putman  
Andrea Rouse  
Becky Moeller  
Jodi Laughman  
Erich Richey  
Jennifer Murrie  
Joan Green  
Kandi Silk  
Steve Robinson  
Ranee Hudson  
Kristen Bethancourt  
Jane Tabourot  
Laura Collier  
Jamie Gifford  
Maureen Slade  
Lesley Yeaton  
Julie Deny  
Melissa Steward  
Kathy Usmiler  
Laura Brown  
Bret Summerson  
Jill Adkins  
Bethanie Dajka  
Dawn Janick  
Bridget Sieracke  
Jason Chorazy  
Jennifer Koeller  
Scott Koeller  
Robert Bernard  
Julie Behrendt  
Lori Vellinga  
Alex Kalous  
Joanne Verney  
Mariann Lerch  
Edward Pooley  
Loren Gross  
Namasivaya Suresh  
Joseph Miriyala  
Amy Inmon  
Troy Vellinga

Jeff Zaloudek  
Sandy Jacobs  
Shelly Graves  
Steve Teipel  
Nancy Stream  
Kevin Stone  
Annie Tschanz  
Raymanda Floden  
Steve Verney  
Sand Bristol  
Lori Burchard  
Helmuth Fendel  
Kristoffer Fendel  
Samir Bhattacharyya  
Amy Hartnig  
Beth Behrens  
Rachita Singh  
Kathy Fendel  
Carol McGill  
Angie Demo  
Melissa Watters  
Denene Gainey  
Mark LeGrand  
Anne-Marie LeGrand  
Danielle Barnett  
Geneen Hoetzer  
Michele Helland  
Jan Craven  
Mark Langille  
Jeff Rudolph  
Kristynn Schmit  
Chad Good  
Steve Jones  
Becky Mosher  
Tony Wittman  
Kim Dodd  
Susan Recker  
Michelle Lord  
Kathleen Wallace