

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

SPECIAL MEETING
Oct. 6, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler
Diane Campbell
Robert Reding
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

Jane Gattone
Pam Ainslie
Mark Ainslie
Laura Brown
Alicia Keys
Rimi Singh

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Central School, was called to order at 7 p.m. by Board Vice President Robert Buehler. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Robert Buehler, Diane Campbell, Robert Reding and Chris Stream. Lisa Scanio entered the meeting at 7:01, after the roll call was taken. Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none at this time.

ADDITION OF NON-ACTION ITEMS – Diane Campbell asked to have a discussion about the Strategic Plan. It was added as Item E under Information/Discussion Items.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVIEW OF POTENTIAL BOUNDARY CHANGES – Dr. Ellen Mauer explained that a Board Member had asked for a review of the possibility of changing the Central and West boundaries for the purpose of cutting costs and equalizing enrollment. The areas considered were those in the Central School boundaries that are also in Lakes High School boundaries. An interactive spreadsheet, that had been previously e-mailed to Board

Members and posted on the website, was displayed. Dr. Mauer said that, as determined in the past, there was not an option that achieved the desired goals.

Robert Reding said he tried several scenarios and the only ways he found to achieve equalized class sizes were with only one building or with two buildings as grade level centers. Dr. Mauer described a scenario she tried that would move as many children as possible to put Millburn West at capacity. She said the result was a need for more teachers, not less. Chris Stream commented that changing boundaries and moving children to a different school as often as needed is not an ideal situation, but neither are large class sizes.

The Board consensus was that changing boundaries would not help achieve a cost savings or equalize homeroom sizes over the long-term. Dr. Mauer said that parents will have the option to switch their child's school if they are unhappy with the class sizes or the number of sections in a particular grade.

TAX LEVY – Mary Taylor explained that the Board usually approves a tax levy in October. This year, however, she is asking the Board to approve the tax levy resolutions at the Regular Board Meeting scheduled Nov. 15. At that time the Board will know the result of the referendum, which is Nov. 2. The levy must be filed with the Lake County Clerk's office by Dec. 28.

ISAT REPORT – Dr. Cheryl Kucera presented a report on the results of the ISAT tests that students took in March. Only one subgroup did not meet its target score: the Reading scores of the Students with Disabilities. In this subgroup, 76.4 percent of the district's students met or exceeded state standards. The target for this subgroup was 77.5 percent. However, Dr. Kucera said she is extremely pleased with the steady academic growth over the past several years for the students with disabilities. Dr. Kucera reviewed all the scores in the Reading and Math categories, and compared them to previous years. Overall, the scores put the district in the top 5 percent in the state. She noted that the state has not yet released the official School Report Card to the public. Chris Stream suggested the district find more ways to publicize its academic achievements, including winning the Bright A+ Award from SchoolSearch for two years in a row.

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

Students – Residency 7:60

General Personnel – Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information 5:135

General Personnel – Personnel Records 5:150

General Personnel – Copyright 5:170

The policies will be included on the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting for a Second Reading and Approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN – Lisa Scanio reported on recent meetings of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee, consisting of Dr. Ellen Mauer, Diane Campbell and herself. The goal is to adopt a 3-5 year strategic plan that reflects the input and priorities of all stakeholders in the district. Each year the Board would review the progress toward achieving the planned goals. The subcommittee has reviewed three proposals for facilitating the strategic planning process, considering the cost, procedures and a good fit for Millburn. They preferred a proposal by School Exec Connect.

The Board discussed the reasons for needing a strategic plan and the best time to get started. The subcommittee agreed to check references for School Exec Connect and to invite the company president, Linda Hansen, to a Board meeting before recommending a proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Laura Brown noted that Citizens for Millburn, which was formed to support the referendum, promotes Millburn's academic achievement in its flyers and communications. This includes publicizing Millburn as a winner of the Bright A+ Award for two consecutive years.

Mark Ainslie asked for an explanation of the referendum and the financial impact on a homeowner. Dr. Ellen Mauer explained the district's financial situation and the specifics of the referendum ballot question. Mr. Ainslie said he has lived in the district for 20 years, and he was very impressed by the presentation earlier in the evening regarding the district's ISAT scores. However, he said the amount being requested will be a significant increase in his taxes. Robert Buehler said the purpose of the referendum is to give voters a chance to voice their opinion. Issues such as staffing, building enrollments, the K-8 configuration and foreclosures also were discussed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Lisa Scanio and seconded by Diane Campbell at 8:20 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and the superintendent's goals. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Diane Campbell, Lisa Scanio, Robert Buehler, Chris Stream and Robert Reding. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Robert Buehler and seconded by Diane Campbell to exit Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Kenneth Dewitt and Shawn Lahr. The motion passed.

SPECIAL MEETING RESUMES

The Special Meeting resumed at 9:51 p.m.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT GOALS -- The Board agreed to table action on approving the Superintendent Goals.

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Robert Buehler, Vice President
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

Chris Stream, Secretary
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24