

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24
COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETING
January 7, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Carissa Casbon LaTourette, President
Casandra Slade, Vice President
Jim Guziak, Secretary
Denise Ide
Irshad Khan
Brendan Murphy
Maggie Wentzell

BOARD CLERK

Bernadette Hanna

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Jason Lind, Superintendent of Schools
Stephen Johns, Business Manager/CSBO
Joanne Rathunde, Director of Technology
Jake Jorgenson, Principal, MMS
Ben Walshire, Principal, MES

GUESTS

Carol McGill
Sandy Jacobs

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Middle School, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Carissa Casbon LaTourette. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Carissa Casbon LaTourette, Jim Guziak, Denise Ide, Brendan Murphy, Casandra Slade, Maggie Wentzell. Absent: Irshad Khan.

It was noted that Mr. Khan entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sixth grade teacher Sandy Jacobs addressed the Board with two items to share. The first was about a child with special needs who transferred to Millburn and is happy and excited about school now. In a conversation with his mother, Mrs. Jacobs noted that she praised his teacher Mrs. Cabalquinto and the support staff.

The second item was about the MES Veterans' Day celebrations. She complimented the efforts made by Mrs. Marasco, Mrs. Piekarz, and all involved in the preparation for this occasion. Her three grandchildren attend MES and their great grandfather accepted an invitation to attend the event. Mrs. Jacobs wanted the Board to know how special this event was and that it meant the world to her father.

ADDITION of INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS - none.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of Closed Session Minutes

The Board members are to review the Closed Session Minutes and direct any questions to Dr. Lind.

Fees – Registration, Activities, Clubs, Facilities Use

Dr. Lind's recommendation is to keep the fees the same. Discussion included family limits for activities and clubs for middle school. The Board asked for more information on if fees cover the cost of stipends.

Summer Projects 2019

Dr. Johns reported on some of the projects planned for the summer of 2019:

- Wireless upgrade - have \$40,000 to spend
- Some Life Safety items will be completed
- Door hardware will be changed
- Garage at MES will be replaced
- Repair drainage issue by café at MES
- Add security cameras
- Move entrance to outside doors using an Aiphone
- MMS – eliminate water leaks into outside doors by gym entrance
- MES – repair broken classroom shades
- Grates over window wells need to be painted at MES
- Create STEM Lab or Maker Space

Update on District Goals

Dr. Lind shared the following update with the Board:

Financially Stable and Solvent

Maintained a balanced budget.

Investigate Solar Energy - In process of talking with the following companies - Future Green, Midwest Wind, and Solar. Future Green is endorsed by IASA, IASB, and IASBO.

Tax Abatement Research/Investigate Feasibility - The Board passed a resolution approving a \$250,000 tax abatement on December 17, 2018.

Communicate with Community on District Finances Two Times - A press release about the tax abatement was sent. A Parent University evening was held discussing Evidence Based Funding with follow-up emails to be sent.

The Board requested that the following be looked into as future goals:

- The cost of running city water pipes to MES.
- Installation of solar panels.

Positive Culture and Climate

To increase the cultural competency of staff, nine staff members completed eight sessions on cultural competence. Nine staff members participated in the IDI. Nine staff members are reading "White Fragility" and will be doing a book study.

A date in the Parent University series is scheduled for a cultural discussion.

Dr. Lind investigated the possibility of calendar inclusive of more religious holidays. He surveyed parents and teachers on impact of religious holidays. He hosted an open discussion on the calendar and religious holidays. In response to this, a secular calendar will be approved by the Board.

Dr. Lind developed a relationship with NEIU for the purpose of recruiting diverse talent. He attended a fall job fair. He also met with Education Department Dean. As a result he was invited to be on the Goodwin Field Experience Advisory Board. Dr. Lind will attend a spring job fair. A coalition of local superintendents is forming to recruit and train teachers of color.

The Board asked for an event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Lind met with a committee to discuss a possible event in January. The committee would like to have a focus on women in the civil rights movement. There is no specific plan and are hoping to have an event later in the year.

It was noted that Board members felt that the Board goal was to have a breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. and now it has been changed.

Outstanding Core Academics

Increase ELA achievement at the K-5 level, decreasing gender gap by 2 points during the 2018-19 school year. This is in progress and we expect to see some results from the ELA pilot program. The measurement will be available at the end of the year.

Training to implement IRLA at K-5 was held before the school year began. All teachers implementing IRLA received a second training during the school year. A third training session is planned at the end of January. The ELA coach has been working with teachers throughout the year.

Teachers in two classrooms at each grade level in 1-5 have piloted ARC ELA curriculum. The pilot members have met regularly to discuss the program and met with Woodland teachers to compare experiences. The teachers received a one-day training before school started.

To clearly define and share goals of the Millburn gifted program, teachers are visiting and investigating other programs. They are meeting regularly to discuss potential changes.

Science and tech opportunities are being investigated. One will be recommended to create engineering and tech, STEM experiences at MES K-5.

To increase the number of lessons "above the line" on the SAMR model, teachers have had several opportunities to work with a professional from Apple on lessons that reach the redefinition level. Documentation of lessons will be the focus in the second semester.

First Reading of Board Policies

The following policies were presented:

- 7:70 – Students – Attendance and Truancy
- 7:250 – Students – Student Support Services
- 6:270 – Instruction – Guidance and Counseling Program
- 6:280 – Grading and Promotion

It was requested that the wording in policy 6:280 be changed from the mention of PARCC testing to Illinois State Assessment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Official School Calendar for 2019-20
- Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Destruction of Audio Tapes from Closed Session Minutes older than 18 months
- House Lease Renewal
- Renewal of Red Apple Academy License Agreement for 2019-20
- Audit Report FY18
- Reading Curriculum Presentation
- Languages

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Lind did not have an update on the SEDOL Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) program. Ms. Wentzell stated SEDOL is reconsidering the Fairhaven School for the program. Dr. Lind said they are actually trying to solve the problem of housing for the LASSO 3 program. Dr. Lind, Dr. Johns, and Ms. Keefe have been very involved in SEDOL and trying to support the children of Lake County.

Dr. Lind discussed the 2019-20 school calendar. The consensus from the Board was 5 to 2 for a secular calendar. The official school calendar will be on the January 28 Board agenda.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Johns briefly mentioned that he would be sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) on copiers, bids for busses, and cameras for the busses.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Guziak asked why we only offer Spanish. He thinks American Sign Language would be a good thing to offer as it is accepted by high schools and colleges to satisfy the language requirement.

Mr. Guziak mentioned that he was questioned about whether the social studies curriculum is one-sided and that students are not getting both sides of a particular story. Concerned parents should contact their child's teacher.

Mr. Guziak requested that if the subject of a school district being able to arm their staff is going to come up at the IASB Assembly next year, the debate should be more fact-driven.

Ms. Casbon LaTourette stated that she talked to everybody as she gathered signatures for her nomination petition. Everyone made positive comments about how wonderful the district was and how happy their kids are.

Mr. Khan had the same experience when gathering signatures. He would like to see more work on diversity. Overall everyone is pleased.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Denise Ide, second by Casandra Slade, to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of:

Consider the appointment, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

On a roll call vote the following members voted Aye: Carissa Casbon LaTourette, Jim Guziak, Denise Ide, Irshad Khan, Brendan Murphy, Casandra Slade, Maggie Wentzell. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed and the Board entered into Closed Session at 9:32 p.m.

It was noted that all visitors exited the meeting at this time.

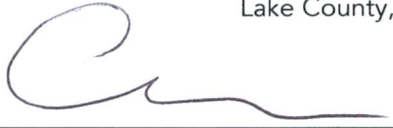
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION


A motion was made by Casandra Slade, second by Denise Ide, to return to Open Session. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The board returned to Open Session at 10:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Casandra Slade, with a second by Denise Ide to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Board of Education
Millburn School District 24
Lake County, Illinois

By: _____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary

January 28, 2019

Date