

Board of Education
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 94
1/8/2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Community High School
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, Illinois

OPENING ACTIVITIES

1. Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Dirk Gunderson led the Board and meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Ruben Campos read the Mission Statement:
“Community High School strives to promote and provide growth experiences in Learning, Leadership and Living.”
4. Roll Call – Present were: Mr. Campos, Ms. Doremus, Mr. Gunderson, Mr. Kotche, Mr. Molinaro, Mr. Nagel and Mr. Saake. Mr. Gunderson left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.
5. Additions to Agenda:
Mr. Gunderson asked for an update on the Electoral Board meeting which was scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2013. He also asked that the update be given early in the meeting as he would need to leave by 7:30 p.m. It was agreed that the update would be given during the Business Manager’s Report, and that the Report would be moved to the first report on the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Items Only)

Ms. Doremus stated that she would make an exception and allow several individuals to address the Board at this time on topics which were not on the agenda. She asked them to keep their comments to less than five minutes.

Paul Moshesh addressed the Board and said that he was the pastor of a Spanish speaking congregation. He said he would like to see Community High School nourish the heart of students; he expressed concern that the community was not going in a good direction. Mr. Moshesh stated he would like the Board to give the community an opportunity to voice their concerns. He further stated that Spanish speaking people lack the knowledge of how to participate in this community.

Andri Santiago asked the Board what would happen to the children in District 33 if they went on strike. She asked if all students are being treated equally in District 94. Ms. Santiago also expressed concern regarding security at the school.

Guadalupe Velazquez told the Board that she had two sons who had attended Community High School. She said her eldest son had struggled at the school, and she had transferred her youngest son to a private school. Ms. Velazquez said she had come to express her concern for the students at the high school, and said she wanted to be part of the solution.

Carlos Martinez said he had three students that attend District 33. He asked how involved teachers were with students. He also said he needed to know how best to work with the school board and teachers, and that he needed to know how to get involved in the educational process. Mr. Martinez also expressed his concern with security.

Ms. Doremus thanked each of the participants and told them that the Board appreciated their attendance at the meeting. She said that Mr. Ponce would contact each of them and respond to their questions and concerns.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

1. Business Managers Report

Mr. Cole reported that six people had filed petitions for the upcoming School Board Election; Mr. Saake, Mr. Gunderson, Mr. Nagel, Ms. Lauf, Mr. Wheeland and Ms. Yackey. He said that an objection had been filed on Ms. Lauf's petition. Mr. Cole said that an Electoral Board Hearing would be held at the high school on Friday, January 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room. He reported that Ms. Doremus, Mr. Campos, and Mr. Molinaro would be on the Electoral Board, and that Attorney Dan Boyle and a court reporter would also be present. Mr. Cole said that this hearing would be the first of a two-part process.

Mr. Gunderson expressed concern regarding the cost of the hearing to the District. He also expressed concern that this objection may deter people from running for the school board in the future.

Mr. Cole told the Board that he would have a six month review of the budget at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Gunderson left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

2. Language Arts Overview

Mary Howard, Division Head of Language Arts gave a powerpoint presentation to the Board which highlighted changes in the Language Arts Division:

- Mission – Hear My Voice
- Vision
- Disciplinary Literacy – What is the Author Saying? How Does He Do It? What Are you Saying? How Do You Do It?
- Habits of Mind – Dispositions: Persisting, Empathizing, Questioning, Creating
- Common Core – Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening
- Inquiry-Based Learning – What Does It Mean To Be Human?
- How Far Am I Willing To Go To Get What I Want? – What's the Price of Happiness? Am I My Brother's Keeper?
- Who Controls My Future? – How Do My Choices Affect My Future? What Matters?
- Is Anyone Born Better? – How Do Gender, Race, and Class Affect Me? What Does It Mean To Come Of Age?
- Reading – Literary Analysis & Rhetorical Analysis
- Writing – Argument: Claims, Subclaims, Evidence, & Warrants
- Speaking & Listening – Entering the Conversation, Collaborating, Harnessing Technology
- Rigor & Relevance – Learning Targets, Text Complexity, & Vertical Articulation
- Course Selection – What is the Most Rigorous Course I Can Take?
- Opportunity – College Bound, College Prep & College Ready
- CHS Success – Read, Write, Repeat

Mr. Molinaro observed that the Language Arts Division is pushing critical thinking and crossing over into Humanities. Ms. Howard responded that the Language Arts

Division has more students in Advanced Placement than any other division in the school.

Mr. Nagel said that parents may fear risking students' GPA by students enrolling in classes which were challenging. Mr. Kotche asked if students and parents were knowledgeable about weighted grades. Mr. Saake asked if there was vertical articulation down to the middle schools, and Ms. Howard responded that they are beginning to do that.

3. IASB – IASA – IASBO Joint Annual Conference Reports

Mr. Campos began the discussion by referring the Board's attention to a handout from the one of the sessions he attended at the conference titled "PBIS: Practical Strategies for Classrooms and Schools". Mr. Campos reported that this is an intervention program which looks at raising the general population's test scores, and targets students who are troublemakers. Mr. Campos reported that many sessions at the conference seemed redundant.

Mr. Nagel reported he had attended a disturbing session. He said pension pushdown on school districts is coming - .6% per year increasing over 10 years to 6%. Mr. Nagel reported that, per legislature, districts could get this money from the teachers; many districts will begin meeting the obligation by drawing from working cash funds. He said that legislation is asking that this be phased in over as long a time as possible at as little per year as possible. Legislation is also looking for relief in PE requirements, freedom in tax caps and fund transfers.

Mr. Nagel said that he had also attended a policy panel regarding tying actions to policy and goals. Board policy should be monitored to assure compliance; operational policy for proof of compliance; and governance policy for progress towards district goals.

He said that posting facility usage on the school's web site was recommended.

Mr. Saake reported one session he attended was on technology, particularly on one on one computing and integrating common core which was interesting. He said it offered ideas and things to stay away from, such as "Bring Your Own Device".

Mr. Saake said another session he had attended was about collective bargaining, and what happens when it breaks down.

Ms. Doremus reported she had completed the mandatory Open Meetings Act training. She said that she had done a joint presentation with Districts 25, 33 and 34 which went very well. She reported the concept of the presentation had begun a year ago with things that had come into play during the consolidation study and how the different Boards have acted collaboratively and come together since then. Ms. Doremus said that, overall, the weekend was informative.

Mr. Kotche said he thought some portion of the pension pushdown was inevitable and suggested the District do some financial modeling to see what the implications of the pushdown might be over the next five to ten years. Mr. Saake said this had been previously discussed.

4. Principal's Report

Dr. Cheng distributed a chart which showed some of the textbook/digital book adoption recommendations for Information and Technology Division, Math and Science Division, Humanities Division and World Languages Division which would be brought to the next Board meeting. He stated that he wanted Board members to have a sense of the cost and variety of digital books. Dr. Cheng reported that not all

vendors offer digital books for courses Community High School offers. He said that three other divisions would be proposing textbook adoptions which do come with a digital book. Dr. Cheng said that some of the considerations are:

- Length of digital book access (6 yrs) vs. longevity of the textbook
- Availability of online resources for teachers and/or students via digital book access code
- Availability of other technological features i.e. apps
- Platform compatibility and reliability issues of digital books

Mr. Kotche asked about the rate of textbook destruction and Dr. Cheng responded that many damaged books were rebound several times.

Mr. Molinaro asked if purchasing digital books, including licensing, would be more costly than purchasing textbooks.

Mr. Kotche asked Dr. Cheng if he knew of any schools who had done a blended purchase of digital and textbooks and Dr. Cheng responded that he did not know of any schools that had gone paperless.

5. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Chambers reported that work on the transparency initiative was nearly complete and would be shared with the Board at the January 22nd Board meeting.

Dr. Chambers reported on the Board's request at the December 18th meeting regarding possibly creating a policy on drug and alcohol testing for employees. She stated she had contacted Attorney Dan Boyle. Mr. Boyle reminded Dr. Chambers that this would not be board policy, it would actually be a change in terms and conditions of employment, which would require collective bargaining. She reported that Mr. Boyle had raised concerns about the constitutional piece of testing all employees versus testing a particular employee in the event of suspicion. Dr. Chambers stated that Mr. Boyle's advice was that the District continue with its current drug and alcohol free policy and not add a testing component.

6. Quarterly Outside Facility Usage Report (Att. §B - pp. 1 – 3)

Mr. Cole commented that the Sharks have been using the pool extensively. He said that Dan Johnson had sent a note complimenting the air quality in the pool area.

7. Joint Boards Meeting

Mr. Ponce directed the Board's attention to a flyer in their folders regarding the Joint Boards Meeting which will be held on January 28th.

8. Review of Closed Session Tapes

Mr. Ponce asked for confirmation that Board members Ruben Campos, Tony Molinaro and Rich Nagel would be available to review closed session minutes at 6:45 prior to the Board meeting on January 22, 2013. Board members stated they would be available.

9. IASB School Board Governance Review (Att. §B - pp. 4 – 5)

Mr. Ponce said that IASB recommends that the Governance Review document be distributed for Board members to reflect on the different components of good governance.

10. Future Dates
 - a. Special Closed Session Board of Education Meeting – January 10, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.
 - b. First Round Interviews for Superintendent Conducted Week of January 14, 2013. Date and Time to Be Determined.
 - c. Finance Committee Meeting – January 16, 2013 – 7:30 a.m.
 - d. Second Round Interviews for Superintendent Conducted Week of January 21, 2013. Date and Time to be Determined.
 - e. Regular Semi-Monthly Board of Education Meeting – January 22, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
 - f. Annual Joint Boards Meeting – January 28, 2013 – 6:00 p.m. – Hosted by Winfield School District 34, Winfield Central School Commons

Open Comment

Board members discussed several options to meet the concerns of the parents who had addressed the Board at the current meeting and also the December 18th meeting. Some of the options discussed were hosting a coffee 15 minutes prior to a Board meeting for parents to attend; holding a town hall meeting; and enlisting help from the Council of Governments.

Mr. Ponce told Board members that Community High School is currently engaging a large group of Hispanic parents by hosting monthly meetings which are facilitated by Dr. Lourdes Ferrer from the Regional Office of Education. He reported holding a joint meeting in December which was attended by over 100 parents and that a community forum had also been held.

Mr. Kotche noted that the theme of the parents' concern seemed to be a deterioration of the community and its safety. Ms. Doremus reported that the West Chicago Chief of Police told her there was absolutely minimal gang activity in the school.

Mr. Campos suggested that these parents be directed to a service that could help address their concerns and needs.

Ms. Doremus suggested that this topic be brought back to the Board as a report and Dr. Cheng asked that Janelle Stefancic, Division Head of World Languages, be involved so she could report on current and ongoing efforts to involve this community.

Mr. Nagel asked if public participation on any topic should be moved to the beginning of the agenda so community members would not have to sit through the entire Board meeting before they could speak. Ms. Doremus stated that would have to be a policy change and would need to be discussed.

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call)

Action items considered routine and/or which have been previously discussed by the Board will be enacted under one roll call motion unless removed for separate action upon Board request. They are enumerated under the heading "Recommended Action".

1. Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Separate Action: None
2. Consent Agenda Action for All Items Except those Listed in 1. Above.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board approve all items on the Consent Agenda which have not been specifically removed for separate action as shown on line 1. immediately above.
MOTION: Mr. Saake

SECOND: Mr. Molinaro
VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 6 - 0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. **Approval of Minutes — (Att. §C – pp. 1 - 8)**
 Board of Education Meeting December 18, 2012
 Closed Session Board of Education Meeting – December 18, 2012
 At Table

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the meetings of December 18, 2012, as listed above.

2. **Filing of Minutes**
 Finance Committee Meeting – At Table December 14, 2012

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve for filing of the above minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Personnel Reports – (Roll Call)**
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the Personnel and Supplemental Contract reports as presented in the packet and at table. (Att. §D – pp. 1 – 1).

MOTION: Mr. Saake

SECOND: Mr. Kotche

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 6 - 0

2. **Board Policy Series ¶4000 – (Roll Call)**
 Board Policy Series ¶4000 has been approved on 1st Reading.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve on 2nd Reading Policy Series ¶4000, Support Services, Health and Student Activities as shown on (Att. §B - pp. 6 – 36).

MOTION: Mr. Molinaro

SECOND: Mr. Nagel

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Roll Call Vote 6 - 0

OLD BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary McCarter, a teacher in the World Languages Division, shared with the Board that Tiffany Chavez and Helen Cortez had met twice with a group of Hispanic parents to explain the IEP process and that the attendance continues to grow.

Ms. McCarter also said that Mr. Moshesh has been involved in after school activities with a group of students who live at an apartment complex in West Chicago.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (only if needed)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education hold a Closed Session at 9:11 p.m. for the purpose of collective negotiating matters.

MOTION: Mr. Kotche

SECOND: Mr. Molinaro

VOTE: Unanimous Approval 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Saake

SECOND: Mr. Campos

VOTE: Unanimous Approval on Voice Vote 6 – 0

Katherine M. Doremus, President

ATTEST:

Ruben Campos, Secretary