

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 94  
West Chicago, Illinois

MINUTES of a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting held on April 6, 2004, at 326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, Illinois, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:59 p.m.

Members Present: Mrs. Patricia K. Davidson, Mr. John P. Jensen, Mrs. Maria F. Owens, Mrs. Karen Stott, and Mrs. Roxanne Westrom

Members Absent: Mr. Rich A. Nagel, Mr. Tony Reyes

Others Present: Ms. Kim Brafford – Director of Human Resources Dr. Lee Rieck – Superintendent; and Ms. Sue Junkroski – teacher.

1. The Committee-of-the-Whole meeting was called to order by President Owens at 7:00 p.m. Five (5) Board members were present.

2. Additions to Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation

4. Mr. Nagel arrived at 7:03 p.m.

5. Assessing Excellence (pp. 56 - 63)

A quick review was made of the personnel data in the District. According to the Superintendent and, despite the hard work of Mrs. Simpson, further improvements in the richness of this data will be sought.

The data shows that the female/male employment ratio is 60%/40%, respectively. More than half of the Districts' teachers has been hired with experience – on average, nearly 3 years.

About 60% of the teaching staff have less than ten years of experience, and 77% has less than 15 years' experience.

The most frequent certification endorsement is Learning Disorders, followed by Social Emotional Disorders.

Bachelor's degrees have most often been earned from Illinois State, NIU, and U of I (Champaign). NIU leads all institutions granting Master's degrees.

Eighty-three (83%) percent of the School's graduates have earned degrees from Illinois colleges and universities.

Finally, about 81% of the teaching staff lives outside the District, which prompted a question as to why this might be true.

Discussion was held on the research reports prepared last summer:

- A research summary of "What Works in Schools."
- "Threads of Common Thought" by Tom McCann
- Further research supporting the "Treads of Common Thought."

6. Valedictorian/Salutatorian Options

The three options for Valedictorian/Salutatorian were reviewed.

Following discussion about the method of selecting student speakers, the number of 4.0 grade point averages and reducing the recognition time at Honors Night and Commencement, the Board came to a consensus on the following:

- a. that the current process for selecting speakers be retained.
- b. that the designation of a Valedictorian and Salutatorian be discontinued.
- c. that all students with a 4.0 grade point average be acknowledged by name either at the Honors Night program or at Commencement.

This change was forwarded to the consent agenda for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

7. Swimming Pool Update

Superintendent Rieck provided a brief overview of the document prepared on the swimming pool. Specifically, he cited

contacts made with three national experts, the components of a comprehensive aquatics program, a preliminary job description with qualifications, and suggested next steps.

Questions were asked about cooperation with the Winfield and Warrenville Park Districts, the work Mr. Yarger would do, the need for certification for aquatic specialists, and how this would all dovetail with West Chicago Park District programs.

Authorization was granted by consensus to move forward with the job description and to post the opening.

8. Employee Service Awards

Input was sought from the Board on an employee request to donate the monetary equivalent of the employee service award to a charity.

Questions were raised about the amount of each donation, school-related activities, the overall cost for the program, and whether the program should be re-examined for budget impact.

The Board agreed to re-craft the policy to provide for a donation to be made to a school-related activity -- the Foundation, a scholarship, Booster Club, etc.

The policy will be prepared for the Consent Agenda on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

9. IHSA Membership

The IHSA Membership renewal was proposed for annual approval. The IHSA Membership for the 2004-05 school term will not require payment of membership dues.

Agreement was achieved to place the renewal on the April 20<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda.

10. Personnel Report

Kim Brafford had no report to present at the meeting.

11. Other Items

A packet on diversity was given to the Board in preparation for the meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Board expressed its desire to have John Highland, Julio Del Real, Norm Kane and Tom McCann present at the meeting.

Mr. Nagel raised a question about the \$1 million State construction grant and its application to the arbitrage rebate.

Questions were raised about the cost to print an English and Spanish version of the Newsletter.

12. Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Stott, seconded by Mrs. Davidson, that the Committee-of-the-Whole hold an executive session at 7:54 p.m. for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; and collective negotiating matters.

Ayes: Davidson, Jensen, Nagel, Owens, Stott,  
and Westrom

Nays: None                      Motion carried: 6-0

13. Return to Open Session

Motion by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Westrom, that the Committee-of-the-Whole reconvene in open session at 8:58 p.m.

Ayes: Davidson, Jensen, Nagel, Owens, Stott,  
and Westrom

Nays: None                      Motion carried: 6-0

14. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Stott, that the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Ayes: Davidson, Jensen, Nagel, Owens, Stott,  
and Westrom

Nays: None                      Motion carried: 6-0

Minutes prepared for Maria F. Owens, by  
Lee E. Rieck, Recording Secretary

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Maria F. Owens

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Date  
[04-08-04]