

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 94
West Chicago, Illinois

MINUTES of a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting held on March 2, 2004, at 326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, Illinois, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:45 p.m.

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

Others Present: Ms. Kim Brafford – Director of Human Resources; Mr. Gary Grizaffi – Assistant Superintendent – Business; and Dr. Lee Rieck, Superintendent; Mr. Jake Griffin – Daily Herald; and two students

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

2. Additions to Agenda
Legal representation was added to the agenda.

3. Public Participation
There was no public participation.

4. Legal Representation
A letter had been received from Attorney Dan Boyle announcing his resignation from the Scariano Law Firm and affiliation with Sraga and Engler, L.L.C. Superintendent Rieck recommended that the Board act on March 16th to add Sraga and Engler to its list of authorized law firms.

Questions arose about the timeliness of looking at other legal options, the consistency of service from Scariano's firm, the cost for services and response time.

It was agreed that the Superintendent would try to arrange a meeting with Attorney Boyle to discuss transition matters and continued service. Mr. Nagel and Mr. Reyes would meet with Mr. Boyle. A

similar meeting would be scheduled with a representative from the Scariano firm.

5. "Assessing Excellence"

The selection process for determining programs of *excellence* was related. It consisted of two staff groups without input from the Superintendent. The groups did rely upon the fifteen criteria set forth in "**Assessing Excellence**" as well as documentation submitted by program leaders.

It was noted that several of the program had been accorded State, National and even International recognition. Further, it was shared that the LifeSmarts team had once again finished first in the State.

Further, the programs should serve as a point of pride within the School Community and an incentive to encourage the development of yet other programs of *excellence*.

6. SRO Report

The SRO Report had been previously discussed under the guidance of Mr. Highland. As shared at that time, the Board's endorsement is sought to continue study of the various alternatives in the document. Once planning is completed on a given program, Board approval will be sought through formal action.

One question was asked about how these recommendations related to earlier discussion in and around the collective bargaining sessions.

Formal action will be taken by the Board on March 16th.

7. Valedictorian/Salutatorian Proposal

The recommendation on the selection process for valedictorians and salutatorians was revisited. Targeted to begin with the class of 2008, the process would rely on both grade point average and quality points to select students for both honors.

Several questions were raised including a disincentive to participate in other activities, the mere logging of credits, the prestige of being the only winner, the extent of involvement in other than academic endeavors, the public recognition of all high achievers and the priority of the designation in college acceptance.

It was agreed to place the proposal on the agenda for the regular meeting in March.

8. Dates for Discussion on Diversity

In the search for dates, a discussion emerged as to the purpose of discussing diversity.

Related matters centered on the cultural awareness issue, the possibility of beginning with a smaller group, the differences in the experiences of incoming classes from the feeder schools, how to best celebrate diversity in orientation sessions and bi-versity instead of diversity.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to meet on the topic on April 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room.

9. Student Fees

Gary Grizaffi proposed the 2004-05 fee schedule by noting that the textbook rental and technology fees were combined into one fee, the registration fee was increased by \$6 for a reading initiative, a late fee for registration was being initiated, the parking fee was being continued, and a split had been recommended in the graduation fee so that the cap and gown provider could collect its own fees.

Concerns voiced included cost increases for caps and gowns, concerns about preparation for graduation day, whether gowns are required to participate in graduation, the possibility of lowering fees, providing of free athletic events once a year for the public and promoting activity meetings and passes.

Approval will be sought from the Board later in March.

10. Special Education Transportation Contract Extension

The current three-year contract with SASSED for transportation of special education students expires at the end of the school year. An extension of the contract has been proposed for two years.

As proposed, the extension provides for cost increases tied to the CPI, but not less than 2.5% nor more than 5.0%. Because the CPI for next year has been set at 1.9%, the rates will be increased by the minimum of 1.5%. The added cost for next year is projected to be \$6,500.

One question was asked about how this transportation program interfaces with the regular routes.

The proposal will be acted upon at the next regular meeting.

11. Lincoln Grading Bids

Gary Grizaffi reported that meetings with the City on grading the site of the former Lincoln School were going so-so. A special use permit will be required - to cover parking only. Bids are due on March 10th for grading and seeding only. Parking will be listed as an alternative.

To date, 22 packets have been picked up by prospective bidders. A bid recommendation should be anticipated for the meeting on March 16th.

12. Personnel Report

Kim Brafford presented a revised Personnel Report at table.

Specifically noted were two resignations, a second year leave of absence, one termination of employment, one head coaching position and several summer school positions.

She shared that the list will likely change prior to the meeting on March 16th.

13. Other

Mr. Nagel suggested consideration be given to forming a mariachi band in light of the discussion on diversity and the hiring of a new band director.

14. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Reyes, seconded by Mrs. Stott, that the Committee-of-the-Whole hold an executive session at 8:39 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, Reyes, Stott, and Westrom

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

15. Return to Open Session

Motion by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Westrom, that the Committee-of-the-Whole reconvene in open session at 9:45 p.m.

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

Nays: None Motion carried: 7-0

16. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. Stott that the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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

Nays: None Motion carried: 7-0

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

Maria F. Owens

Date
[03-03-04]