

**MINUTES OF A
PUBLIC HEARING ON
WAIVER OF P.E.
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
O'FALLON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #90
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013
7:00 P.M.
EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
802 DARTMOUTH STREET**

President Hellin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

PRESENT: Mary Baskett, Becky Drury, Chris Pulcher, Todd Roach, Steve Springer,
John Wagon joined via phone, and Steven Hellin

ABSENT: none

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Courtenay Martin-Woods, Hiroo Motuani, Sandy Shackelford, Jamie McKittrick, Keith Richter, Mark Raeber, Annie Davis, Carol Ann Davis, Becky Williams, Jamie Cox, Mindy Roskos, Marcia Campbell, Joe Miller, Mary Jeanne Hutchenson, Robyn Eiskant, Kim Pate, Doug Pate, Jessica Haninger, Jadzia Taborski, Michael Taborski, Brian Taborski, Sherryi Tadlock, Tracy Newton, Angelique Hamilton, Michelle Kowalski, Jim C., Hindy Heitkamp, Danny Rudy, Carol Dye, Brent Haar, Julie Gerstenecker, Katie Spengler, Sara Mudd, Tracy Movris, Karen Frisch, Bridget Hegg, Karen Rees, Vickie Dziaba, Mary Jane Hilden, Cheryl Sommer, Jennifer Stahla, Teresa Derby, Glen Yank, Brad Yank, Jane Kinnard, Lena Bauer, Debbie Taylor, Emily Walton, Kris Toennres, Denise Trelow, Jamie Greenloh, Phyllis Patten, Amie Reed, Amy Schultz, Keri Hoffmann, Renee Ades, Charles Pitts, George Danisa, Kimberly Cox, Dorrie Trendway, Brad Branble, Michelle Dippel, Jennifer Janning, Kay Calhoun, Lex White, Jeff Taylor, Raina Taylor, Kristin Gittner, Lawrence Shackelford, Tara Bode, Joyce Ringdahl, Debbie Hargrove, Jennifer Gunn.

Dr. Koehl stated state statute for waiving P.E. requires a Public Hearing. There is a limit of two years on this waiver. The application will be submitted to the General Assembly this fall. District 90 will probably find out if the waiver is approved in January or February.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kay Calhoun addressed the Board saying she has taught P.E. for 38 years, 17 of those years in Elementary PE. State mandates daily K-12 P.E. Illinois was the first state to mandate daily P.E. Studies have shown that physical movement optimizes brain function. Mrs. Calhoun is a home owner in O'Fallon and is willing to do everything possible to help 90 develop a quality PE program. This isn't just for Mrs. Calhoun as this is her last year of teaching, but for the benefit of District 90 students.

Robyn Eiskant is a P.E. teacher at Carriel Junior High. Mrs. Eiskant thanked the Board for restoring some programs back to District 90. Of all the programs District 90 cut, P.E. was the only mandated one. Statistics show that one third of our population is obese, one in eight of preschool children is considered obese. Sports and P.E. do not have the same outcomes. I hope we can work together to reinstate P.E. for our students, if not for this year, then next year.

Kristin Gittner said she was a P.E. teacher before she decided to be a stay at home mom. With physical activity attention improves, eye/hand coordination improves, children sleep better and reduces the feeling of anxiety or depression. There is a difference between P.E. and physical activity. P.E. is educating students to maintain a physical level in adulthood, while physical activity is bodily movement of any kind – walking, sports, etc.

Jadzia Taborski is a third grader who was heart broken when PE was taken away. My friends and I think P.E. is fun. Please don't take away P.E.

Jessica Haninger is Jadzia's mother. This is our first year in District 90. P.E. not only teaches skills and progress on those skills, but learning to work together plus good nutrition which is a re-affirmation of what we teach at home. In tough times, tough decisions must be made, but P.E. is of the utmost importance.

Eric Shackelford is a fourth grade student in District 90. Eric ran to the podium and then did a few pushups. P.E. is my favorite subject and I don't think you should take it away. If we don't have P.E. we will be rambunctious and hyper. Kids need to get energy out. P.E. takes away boredom. Mrs. Eiskant is a great teacher because she must have had good P.E. when she was a kid. Mrs. Eiskant is inspiring and we need P.E. and sports. Some classroom teachers don't have enough time and will skip over P.E. or don't remember how to do it. I need a good foundation to learn things and a good life style.

Sandra Shackelford said that was my son. As a teacher doing P.E., some will buy into physical activity and some will feel pressured with time. How will a teacher implement it with a shortened day. P.E. teachers are the experts. Cohesive message, health, and personal achievements are of value. Our children deserve P.E. taught by P.E. professionals. I surveyed area schools regarding how much time is

spent on P.E. Mascoutah Elementary has P.E. two times per week 30-40 minutes. Highland Elementary has one plus P.E. teachers dedicated to third and fourth grade only. Lebanon has 25 minutes of P.E. Wolf Branch has two sessions per week of 45 minutes each. Shiloh has P.E. twice per week with each session 50 minutes. Columbia has 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Whiteside Elementary was the lowest with P.E. one time per week with an extra recess on Friday.

Teresa Derby, Teacher at E.K. and President of the OCFT spoke in support of P.E. for all students. P.E. is different from recess. P.E. teachers are essential to the program. On behalf of the OCFT and the IFT, I oppose seeking a P.E. Waiver.

Keith Richter stated he had concerns regarding the cuts to P.E. There are two things important for P.E.

- Socialization Skills
- We have a fantastic park and rec program but it does not target a large percentage of kids. It does not hit the kids that need it the most.

Hiroo Motowami said her husband is a doctor at Anderson Hospital. They grew up in India with P.E. every day. I would have expected that if India had P.E. every day, the USA would also. We see obese people every day in our practice. We need P.E. for our children to be healthy physically and mentally. Not just book smart, but physically active too.

Michael Taborski is a preschool student. Please don't take away P.E. because it is important to my sister and I want to learn P.E. when I go to school.

Marcia Campbell, a concerned tax payer and voter, parent of three adult children, and grandparent of five O'Fallon students. We needed the referendum but unfortunately it didn't pass. In this day and age, you can no longer support a family with just a high school education. You were all elected to do what is best for our children. I urge you to go back to the drawing table to do whatever it takes to make this happen.

Ellen Bridgewater stated she had a first grader at Moye and three other boys. Every single day, when they come home from school they tell me what they did in P.E. and recess. Socialization skills are beyond what they can learn any other time during the day. A four year old can color – but they also need to get out and get a release.

Renee Ades from the American Heart Association said she understands the financial crisis. She hopes that we understand the long term cost of cutting P.E. AHA advocates for daily P.E. Their recommendation is 150 minutes per week for elementary and 225 minutes for junior high. There is a strong correlation between physical activity and academic success. The recommendation is 60 minutes of physical activity per day with 30 of those minutes being during school. P.E. is a necessity for elementary students. Elementary students of District 90 were receiving a quality education. I urge you to increase P.E. not eliminate it.

Charles Pitts said he was hearing passionate people tonight who want P.E. No matter what the Board cuts you will always have a passionate group here to address you. What else have you looked at to cut? At the last meeting you reduced the registration fees. Could that have funded P.E.?

Dr. Deborah Taylor prepared a statement instead of speaking during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Dr. Taylor handed Recording Secretary, June Isselhardt her statement which will become part of the official minutes.

Dr. Taylor wrote: I was taught to swim by my Physical Education teacher in elementary school. He inspired a love of swimming and I swam for my high school swimming team for five years thanks to him. I still continue to love swimming. We need to be improving our Physical Education program in our elementary school, not trying to eliminate it.

President Hellin asked if there were any more comments from the public. Hearing none, Hellin moved, Drury seconded , to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried. Adjournment time was 8:20 p.m.

Steven Hellin, President

Becky Drury, Secretary

June Wilkey Isselhardt
Recording Secretary