

**Minutes of a Special Meeting  
of the  
O'Fallon CCSD #90  
Board of Education  
Tuesday July 30, 2013  
Administration Building  
118 East Washington Street  
O'Fallon, IL  
7:00 PM**

Vice President Roach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m and asked for a Roll Call.

**Present:** Mary Baskett, Becky Drury, Chris Pulcher, Todd Roach  
Steve Hellin and John Wagnon were present by phone

**Absent:** Steve Springer

**Others in Attendance:**

Vice President Roach was president in absence of President Hellin.  
Roach led the Pledge of Allegiance

Moved by Drury, seconded by Baskett, to approve the return of registration fees to the 2012-2013 level effective immediately. Families who have already paid the fees will be refunded the increase. Superintendent Koehl said that the district will have the refunds done by October 1, 2013 if all goes as planned. All voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Baskett commented that the fees were refunded due to the State's proration General State Aid remaining at 89% and not falling to 80%.

**Public Comment**

Ron Davinroy commented that the board was on the right track to look at the benefits of consolidation for financial and academic reasons. The board should take this process in small increments.

Mary Thurman commented questioned why there were so many districts and what the history was to this. Superintendent Koehl commented that rural elementary schools consolidated into larger community districts and supported the local township high school.

Mary Thurman believed that the consolidation exploration is a good public relations move by the district and will end competition between districts.

Natalie Ellington questioned the reason for consolidation as well as with whom the district would be consolidating.

Mary Thurman commented that employee issue could be difficult; however, businesses do this all the time and it is possible.

Tammy Ratajczyk commented that the different districts may have different approaches to the curriculum and shouldn't all students have the same opportunities. She read in the paper that this could be problematic for all districts.

Rick Van Etten asked if the other districts were looking into consolidation.

Carla Doyle asked if the other districts were on board with the consolidation idea.

Sue Don Carlos asked what the motivation was for this exploration. She wondered if the consolidation exploration was urgent because of state funding. She also asked if BEST had done a study on this.

#### Discussion of Consolidation Framework

Question #1—What is the intent for pursuing consolidation

Board discussion led to the following summary:

1. Curriculum continuum—articulation
2. Fiscal savings
3. Benefits for students if any
4. Answer the question of whether or not consolidation is a benefit to our community
5. Go through the process to see if we realize any of the above

Question #2—With whom should the district consider consolidating

1. Depends on a feasibility study – pursue all of O'Fallon (203, 90, 104)—if we will spend the money then we should look as broad as possible
2. We should look at benefits of different consolidations
3. Narrow the consolidation to elementary schools in O'Fallon or one to two options at the most
4. The complexity of a unit district consolidation merits a closer look at just elementary consolidations with a more narrow look at 104

Becky Drury responded that BEST Committee had not done a study. The committee compiled historical information as a resource for the community.

Chris Pulcher commented that the consolidation with all districts could lower the tax rate.

Superintendent Koehl commented that the new law allowed for new unit district consolidated rate to be as high as \$6.00 for a four year period.

Question #3—What is the timeline for consolidating?

1. Dependent upon other district interest election timelines
2. March election seems out of reach

Superintendent Koehl commented that the only two dates that drove the timeline were when it was to be placed on the ballot and when the new district would start operating. If the district was looking for a March 2014 ballot then the petition would have to be completed by the third week in September to meet the timeline for getting the question to the ballot.

Steve Hellin commented that November election seemed more plausible if the district were to move forward with the study.

Question #4—What are the next steps in the process?

1. Send letters to other boards to district 203, 104, 85, to see what level of interest they would have in exploring consolidation which may include a formal feasibility study
2. Superintendent reach out to the city to see what help they could offer for a feasibility study
3. Ask consolidation expert, Brandon Wright, to come down to present to our community on consolidation
4. Gather information on feasibility study—who would do it and what would be the cost
5. Review this document at our August 7 board meeting
6. Report out on the above at regular August 20 board meeting
7. Recognition that the board is limited in what it can do

Chris Pulcher asked when this would be placed on the district website. The board agreed that the summary document should be distributed to all board members for review and then revised if necessary at the August 7, 2013 board meeting. If the board then approves the document, it will be posted on the website.

Moved by Baskett, seconded by Roach, to approve having the Board President send letters to Districts 203, 104 and 85 to ask them if they want to participate in consolidation feasibility study with District 90.

Moved by Baskett, seconded by Pulcher, to approve directing the superintendent to meet with city officials to seek funding for a consolidation feasibility study. Motion passed. 6-0.

Steve Hellin said we are happy we are doing a study,

John Wagon commented that he was glad the board is moving forward.

**Public Comment**

Dennis Renner thanked the board for looking into this for the students. He commented that the past needs to be forgotten and the boards must look to the future.

Mary Thurman commented that the board should also contact the Shiloh city leaders about this. She thinks this is good for the community and the district.

Guy Don Carlos commented that the intent of the consolidation needs to be streamlining administration costs.

Natalie Ellington commented that she is concerned that the board will concentrate on consolidation and not the current district issues of lost programs and other cuts. She does want the board to forget about the students and getting back what we have lost.

Tammy Ratajczyk wanted consolidation to get all students to the high school on a level playing field.

Sue Don Carlos commented that business mergers take a long time and we do not need to rush.

Moved by Baskett, seconded by Pulcher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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Steven Hellin, President

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Becky Drury, Secretary