

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

February 8, 2016

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board members answered roll call: Traci O'Neal Ellis, Cody Holt, Sue Kerr, Veronica Noland, Jeanette Ward, and Donna Smith.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ward, second by Ms. Noland to allow Mr. Costello to participate in the February 8, 2016 Special Meeting via telephone until his arrival. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

President Smith requested a motion to move into Closed Session to discuss information regarding individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters. The motion was made by Mrs. Ward, second by Mr. Holt. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ward, second by Mr. Holt to reconvene into Open Session at 6:51 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Smith. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The Business Session began at 7:00 p.m. Present for the Business Session of the Meeting were the Board Members listed above, Student Board Member Allison Holloway, Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders and Interim Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Arndt. The following Administrators were also present: Jeff King, Miguel Rodriguez, Melanie Meidel, Ron Raglin, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Ushma Shah, Dr. Terri Lozier, Steve Burger, Christopher Allen, Randal Ellison, Mary Fergus, John Heiderscheidt, Rickey Sparks, and Craig Williams. Media representatives Seth Hancock of the Examiner, Madhu Krishnamurthy of the Daily Herald, and Geoff Ziezulewicz of the Chicago Tribune as well as other Administrators, guests, and visitors. Student Board Member Holloway led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Costello joined the meeting via telephone at 7:08 p.m. and later arrived at 8:10 p.m.

1. District Improvement Plan Report

A. District Safety and Security

Mr. John Heiderscheidt, Director of School Safety and Culture, Mr. Rodney Craig, Village of Hanover Park Village President, Mr. David Webb, Chief of Police from the Village of Hanover Park Police Department, and Mr. Colin

Fleury, Police Commander from the City of Elgin Police Department, presented an update on school safety and security. The purpose of the presentation was to update the Board of Education on: security at schools, community partners, comprehensive safety and crisis plans, professional development conducted for staff, safe and nurturing environments, and the changes in Illinois discipline laws.

A grant was received last year to install electronic access controls and key FOBs. The District has limited access points at schools, building exterior doors have been re-keyed, cameras installed to monitor entrances, and a new master key system has been installed.

During school security checks: 100% of the schools had the doors locked, required visitors to sign-in, and visitors were given a visitor badge, 76% of schools inquired about the visit before allowing entry and 84% of the schools greeted the visitor within 30-45 seconds.

School Safety Handbooks are in every school building and available in electronic form. The School Safety Handbooks have been shared with all local police and fire departments. Active shooter exercises have taken place inside schools over the summer. School safety drills continue to take place several times over the school year at every school. Safety and crisis management training for staff is conducted at each school during a staff meeting annually. Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training has been provided to 48% of District staff. District Safety Goals for 2015-2016 are to reduce occurrences of Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) by 10%. OSS occurrences decreased by 74.2% from 2007-2008 to 2014-2015. From 2013-2014 to 2014-2015 OSS occurrences dropped by 21.9%. In 2014-2015 all students recommended for expulsion were provided alternative educational options in lieu of expulsion. The parent of one student in the 2014-2015 school year refused to accept alternative placement for her student in lieu of expulsion. Public Act 99-456 requires schools to reduce the number of punitive and exclusionary discipline. Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) may only be used for situations when the student's continuing presence would pose either a threat to school safety or cause a disruption to other students' learning opportunities. To the extent possible, the law requires that schools exhaust school interventions before OSS can be used. The next steps are to revise the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct to be consistent with PA99-456, complete the remaining nine school's exterior access controls, install lockdown locks for classroom and office doors, and implement a visitor/volunteer management system for all schools.

2. Comments from the Audience

Myra Becker spoke out against the Facebook posting by a Board member concerning Black History Month. She was appalled by what she believes is racism and racist speech.

Danise Habun spoke out against Board member Ward's Facebook page concerning Black History Month. She feels that the post was offensive and should not have been on her Board member Facebook page.

Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that the District needs to develop a policy for Facebook posts by Board members.

Mich Barbezat spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He found the use of the quote from the controversial author, Jason Riley, to be offensive.

Bill Wright spoke out about Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He believes that the use of the Board Member's U-46 Facebook page could be misunderstood to represent the entire Board and was divisive.

Scott Swanson spoke in support of Jeanette Ward's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that she should be able to express her First Amendment right.

Jerome Thornton spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that the District needs a policy to address Board Member accountability.

Gary Lorber spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that if people were more vocal about their feelings these racist remarks might not have been posted.

Jim Young spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that the post was incendiary and racist.

Mary Shesgreen spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that the post was simplistic, mistaken and ill informed.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She encouraged the Board and the entire District to engage in an active anti-racism effort.

Kaye Gamble spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that school officials have an impact on others by what they say and they should be sensitive to that.

Deb Perryman spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that the post perpetuates a negative stereotype rather than furthering fruitful discussions.

Bet Olson spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that this should be a month of honor and that post was hurtful.

Demitrius Smith spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that just because you quote a person of a certain race does not mean the quote isn't racist.

Fred London spoke in support of Jeanette Ward's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He doesn't feel that Board Member Ward's post was racist at all.

Ed Bailey spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that there are many other people that should be celebrated and honored this month.

Susann DuBoff spoke about her experience with unmarried parents that she knows living in poverty. She feels that poverty is the issue, not race.

Matt Hovey spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that people speaking tonight should have a stake in the District and need to state what that stake is.

Tracey Kelly spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that Board members need to work together and put their political agendas aside.

Monique Howery Hernandez spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She asked the Board member what she is personally doing to better the District.

Elise Jackson spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She shared several quotes that she feels would have been more appropriate and not as appalling or racist.

Babette Holder spoke in support of a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that people have become very thin-skinned and she would suggest a Facebook policy for Board members.

LeJewel Crigler spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She spoke about her experiences having been born and raised in Elgin and attended District U-46 schools.

Kandace Spotts spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She is thankful that a conversation has been started around this, ill-informed, socially irresponsible, post.

Keith Turner spoke in support of Jeanette Ward's First Amendment right to post the quote from Jason Riley.

Christine Blanchard spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that the author, Jason Riley, is controversial and spreads divisiveness.

Shimon Blanchard spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that the author, Jason Riley, is not a true representation of the black race.

Jeff Horler spoke out against Jeanette Ward's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He spoke about the events his school, Bartlett High School, has planned for Black History Month.

Edward Hanson spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that black history is being systematically erased from American history.

April Wells spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She does not want the silence of dedicated members and advocates to be misunderstood as consent.

Cynthia Schenk spoke in support of Jeanette Ward's Facebook post concerning Black History month. She feels that this is not a black or white issue but an issue between conservatives and liberals.

Lydia Hasan spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post regarding Black History Month. She spoke about her experiences as a black student at Streamwood High School and organizing the Black Student Union at Streamwood High School.

Jill Dolan spoke in support of Jeanette Ward's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She spoke about the history of several black American Presidents, such as John Hanson, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Dwight Eisenhower and the lack of racism after 9/11.

Eric Garrett spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that it doesn't matter if the posted quote is from a black man, it was negative and children of the District will be hurt by it.

Art Pierscioneck spoke in support of Jeanette Ward's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. He feels that different ideologies should be respected and while he may not have posted that quote Board member Ward had the right to post it.

Joyce Fountain spoke out against a Board member's Facebook post concerning Black History Month. She feels that Black History Month should be to honor, celebrate, and

hold in high esteem black individuals and their contributions despite the ongoing realities of racism.

3. Consent Agenda

- A. Bid - Coleman Elementary - 10-Classroom Addition
- B. Bid - Highland Elementary - 10-Classroom Addition
- C. Bid - Laurel Hill Elementary - 6-Classroom Addition
- D. Proposal - Career & Technical Education - Program Quality Audit
- E. Proposal - Curriculum and Instruction - Elementary Teacher - Math Professional Development
- F. Proposal - Business Services - Driver's Education Vehicle Replacement
- G. Proposal - Plant Operations - Vehicle Replacement
- H. Change Order - Wireless Cabling Project - 22 Schools - #1 Final
- I. Demo Permit - Laurel Hill Elementary - Mobile Serial #31023-31024

Mrs. Ward requested items A, B, and C be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Kerr, to approve the Consent Agenda items D, E, F, G, H, and I as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Ward stated her concerns with the proposed additions being related to Full Day Kindergarten. Because additions are needed for classroom space to address boundary changes, she is supporting.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mr. Costello, to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, and C as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Discussion/Action

A. School Fees 2016-2017

Mr. King, Chief Operations Officer/Chief School Business Official, reviewed the revised school fees recommendation. There are no increases being requested for the 2016-2017 school year. The Student Insurance costs are listed as "TBD" because the insurance company does not publish new rates until April or May. Administration recommended approval of the School Fees for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Mr. Costello, to approve the 2016-2017 School Fees. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- B. RESOLUTION Abating the Working Cash Fund - Draw Downs #4, 5, 6
Mr. King, Chief Operations Officer/Chief School Business Official, reviewed the resolution. Administration recommended the Board adopt the Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund – drawdowns #4, 5, and 6.

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Mr. Holt, to approve the Resolution abating the Working Cash Fund drawdowns #4, 5, and 6. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Mrs. O’Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

5. Other Business – Board Member and CEO Update, If Necessary

A. Board Member Update

Mrs. O’Neal Ellis quoted A Tale of Two Cities. She feels that the quote represents U-46 today. She also quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asking “Where do we go from here?” Mrs. O’Neal Ellis feels that everybody counts or nobody counts. This is her underlying foundational principle today and she asked the U-46 community to make it theirs also. Mrs. O’Neal Ellis feels that the District is at a moment of decision. The District can choose to be distracted and create chaos or rise to the occasion, model strong leadership and create a community tapestry that withstands adversity and turbulence. She suggested taking the high road and celebrate the great accomplishments of U-46.

Mrs. Ward stated that she was grateful for the comments tonight. She also stated that her Facebook page does not represent the Board as a whole it only represents her. Mrs. Ward asked why the only nonracist thoughts are liberal thoughts and didn’t she honor the author by quoting him? She stands by her quote from Jason L. Riley’s book.

Ms. Kerr attended the Black History Month celebration at the Gail Bordon Library and there were a number of wonderful celebrations. Her favorite was the honoring of U-46 high school students.

Mrs. Smith reminded each Board member of their responsibilities as elected officials. These issues are causing distractions to the work of staff which will ultimately negatively impact students. Board members should communicate in a way that is respectful and not insulting or offensive to anyone. Board members are held to a higher standard.

Ms. Holloway stated that she attended the New Trier Jazz Festival. U-46 students are flourishing and did extremely well at the festival.

Ms. Noland asked if the Board could take another look at its Facebook policies in the near future.

Mr. Sanders reported that the CEO student advisory committee was narrowing the list of Student Board member candidates and interviews were being conducted at the next meeting.

Mrs. Smith and Ms. Holloway spoke about Ms. Holloway's performance at Larkin High School on Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, second by Mrs. Ward, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of February 8, 2016 at 9:44 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Mrs. O'Neal Ellis, Mr. Holt, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 7th day of March, 2016



President



Secretary