

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
ELGIN, ILLINOIS

January 26, 2008

SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION

A meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:16 a.m. at Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. Board Members in attendance were Maria Bidelman, Karen Carney, Joyce Fountain, Amy Kerber, Donna Smith, Dale Spencer, and Ken Kaczynski. Also in attendance were administrators Mary Jayne Broncato, Patrick Broncato, and Steve Klein. Also in attendance was Dawn Miller, Illinois Association of School Boards.

I. Motion by Ms. Fountain, with a second by Mrs. Bidelman, to enter into Closed Session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters (suspensions & expulsions); and information re the discipline, performance, appointment, employment or reclassification of an employee. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mrs. Bidelman, Mrs. Carney, Ms. Fountain, Mrs. Kerber, Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Kaczynski. No Votes: 0. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

II. Individual Student Disciplinary Matters (Suspensions & Expulsions).

III. Motion by Mrs. Bidelman, with a second by Mrs. Kerber, to move to open at 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Bidelman, Mrs. Carney, Ms. Fountain, Mrs. Kerber, Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Kaczynski. No votes: 0. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The Board reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

IV. Information re the Discipline, Performance, Appointment, Employment or Reclassification of an Employee.

A. State of the District. Dr. Broncato provided the Board with an update on the state of the District; in addition, she reviewed the mid-year progress of the District Improvement Plan. The Board was also provided with a packet of materials that included the following:

- Performance Goals Summary Booklet
- Alignment of Goals, Priorities, Budget and Work

- Curriculum Roadmap Scheduled (2007-2008)
- Feedback/Evaluations of Roadmap Training
- Middle School Review Documents
- Job Description of Compensation and Benefits Compliance Analyst
- Top Accomplishments of 2006-2007
- Learning U-46 Community Newsletter
- District Improvement Plans (2003-2007)
- District Improvement Plan (July 1, 2007-June 3, 2008)

The following goals were previously set by Dr. Neale for January 2007-January 2008.

Goal 1: Continue to refine the systematic continuum of academic programs PreK-12 including the initiation of an audit of the curriculum and program available for middle school students.

Goal 2: Enhance the district's financial stability by expanding the continuous quality improvement process to the area of contract pay and benefits compliance.

In addition to these goals, the following goals were set for Dr. Broncato as Interim Superintendent. Dr. Broncato stated that her goal would be to maintain the momentum and continue to implement the District Improvement Plan. Address the focus of the District and alignment during the transition process. Dr. Broncato indicated that she has begun to build relations with the community--starting with CAC.

- Sustain support of staff development for the Curriculum Roadmap to ensure a common standards-based rigorous curriculum K-12.
- Continue to refine the systemic continuum of services and programs K-12 with an enhanced focus on secondary education.

After review of these goals, Dr. Broncato asked for input from the Board. Dr. Broncato further stated that she would work with the Board in refining and developing additional goals for the new superintendent.

Mr. Kaczynski added that the Board is pleased with the transition with Dr. Broncato. Mr. Kaczynski added that the relationship that Dr. Broncato and Tony Sanders have with the press have been an asset to the District.

- B. Board Secretary Evaluation. Mr. Kaczynski reviewed the process for the benefit of all present at the meeting. Mr. Kaczynski offered the Board members an opportunity to discuss any of the areas on the evaluation tool. The Evaluation of the Board Secretary was reviewed and discussed with Mr. Broncato. Ms. Fountain added that she recognizes Mr. Broncato's commitment to the District and his expertise with the position. Mr. Broncato thanked the Board for their comments and input.
- C. Board Self-Evaluation. Dawn Miller, IASB, was present to help the Board facilitate the evaluation process. Ms. Miller complimented the Board for doing a self-evaluation each year. Ms. Miller added that this is a learning and growing process for the Board. The following areas were evaluated and discussed:

Policy Making. There was discussion on the scores given here and reasoning. Mrs. Kerber indicated that being new to the Board she has not had much experience working with policy making.

Mr. Broncato explained the procedure for reviewing policy and noted that all policies are reviewed every two years and will be done this spring. In addition, whenever new laws are adopted that require policy changes—the changes are incorporated immediately.

Mrs. Miller suggested that new board members (Mrs. Kerber and Mrs. Bidelman) keep a journal/log of questions and situations that come up. This would be a record for future new board members. Mrs. Carney added that this is an opportunity for established board members to review procedures and past practices.

Board Meetings. The concern of the Board is to start all meetings on time—this is something that is always an interest to the Board. The Board discussed the option of having a comment section at the end of the regular meeting. The Board determined that it would look for opportunities to have a last comment to the audience depending on questions from the audience during the meeting.

Mr. Broncato reviewed the Board agenda setting procedures. Much of the agenda items are routine operational issues—this is the Board conducting business in open session.

Discussion followed regarding setting the agenda. Mrs. Miller stated that any board member could suggest to the board president items for the agenda. It would depend on the board whether the item would be placed on the agenda. It was determined that the Board Issues Tracking document will be updated for continued use. The Board President will determine items for the Tracking document.

Discussion was also had regarding electronic board packets and whether this should be pursued further. Some Board Members still prefer packets in writing.

Ethical Standards. The Board discussed this area and the scores that were given. There was further discussion on what new topics should be discussed at a Board meeting.

Board Relationship. The Board reviewed and discussed this area of the evaluation.

Personal Qualities of Board. The Board discussed this area and the scores that were given.

Finance. This area was discussed in terms of the scores given regarding the board's individual responsibility in securing district funds. It was pointed out that the board has always taken an active role with its local legislators, as well as in Springfield.

Personnel. The Board discussed ways to better communicate with staff without lobbying for a personal agenda of any one staff member. There was further discussion about Board Members attending labor/management meetings. Mr. Broncato indicated that if this is an interest of the Board it would have to be on a consistent schedule—equal to all labor units. It was decided that an item will be entered into the Board Issues Tracking about opportunities for the Board to communicate with staff.

Instruction. Discussion was had regarding this area and the scoring by the Board and their understanding of the area.

Relationship with the Community. The Board discussed this topic and scoring that was given. There was discussion about #5—directs all concerns, complaints, and criticisms by school district personnel to the superintendent for study—expect a report back to the board. The discussion revolved around what does this

statement really mean and should it be rewritten for better understanding.

Goal Setting-Planning. This area was reviewed and discussed. Mrs. Carney stated this section defines our job as a board member. Mrs. Bidelman suggested providing this evaluation document to new members upon being seated. This would help new members ask the right questions during their learning process. Mrs. Carney and Mr. Kaczynski pointed out that this evaluation document really defines the responsibilities of a board member.

Relationship with Superintendent. The Board discussed the item. Discussion revolved around student disciplinary matters and whether the Board has given enough direction to administration. The Board indicated that it will review this area and work with administration.

- V. Motion by Mrs. Carney, with a second by Mrs. Kerber, to adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Bidelman, Mrs. Carney, Ms. Fountain, Mrs. Kerber, Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Kaczynski. No votes: 0. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 19th day of May, 2008

President

Secretary