

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – DISTRICT 181  
FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

**Call of Meeting**

The Special Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 181, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois, was called to order by Mrs. Armonda, Board President, at 7:15 p.m., on Monday, February 11, 2008, at Oak Elementary School.

**Roll Call**

Jeanne Swanson, Board Recording Secretary, took roll call. Board Members present were: Kevin Hanrahan, Marc Monyek, Roseanne Rosenthal, Andrew Schmidt, Mary Beth Tamm, Bruce Walker, and Lisa Armonda. Also present, Dr. James Tenbusch, Superintendent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Armonda led the pledge.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Tenbusch expressed gratitude to previous boards and administrations for the standards of excellence they set for the district. He said that the goal of the current board and administration is to build on this excellence in a collaborative manner, making a great district even better. He pledged to continue his emphasis on transparent governance and inclusion of the public in discussions on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy pilot, the reorganization of the district's special education program and the work of the joint task force to examine the possibilities of building a new middle school. He assured the public that the move to a new special education delivery system is designed to restore power to building based teams when the time is right for the transition. He asked the public to contact him about rumors so that accurate information is available in the community.

**Public Hearings, Petitions, comments, and questions of visitors**

Mary Ann Parks, a Monroe School parent, suggested mandatory keyboarding/typing classes in our schools.

Yvonne Mayer, an Elm and HMS parent, addressed the board regarding mobile units at CHMS, new Apple computers at both middle schools, and the Attorney General's letter in the board book.

Sarah Lewensohn, Madison School parent, addressed the board regarding the Terms of Reference and suggested adding an assessment of where we are today with them.

## **Finance**

### **Transportation Policy Discussion**

Jay Grimes reviewed with the board the history and current policy on student transportation. He stated that the policy changed in 2002 and indicates students who live 1.5 miles or more from school will be provided with free bus transportation; however, many students who live between 1 and 1.5 miles are currently being bused. He recommended that the elementary schools remain at 1.0 miles and also suggested the option of charging a fee for transportation.

### **Board Questions**

Marc Monyek asked how much the district gets reimbursed from the state for busing. Jay stated that the reimbursement is based on costs such as fuel and is approximately \$16 per student. Mary Beth Tamm asked how many students in elementary schools would be impacted. Jay responded that three of the elementary schools are not bused at all, and he does not have an accurate count at this time but will look into this.

Lisa Armonda asked if the district is required to transport the private school children. Jay answered yes, however the district is not required to go out of its way to pick up or drop off students. Dr. Tenbusch asked what a reasonable bus fee would be to cover costs. Jay stated that \$520 would be sufficient.

Kevin Hanrahan stated that he would like to have more information on this topic before making a final decision and would like to hear the public's comments.

### **Public Comments**

Brian O'Donnell, a Prospect School parent, stated eliminating routes would cause more traffic.

Amad Hamm, a Burr Ridge resident, asked the board to take into consideration the traffic congestion that this change would cause.

Karen Klein, a Prospect School parent, stated that she is concerned about safety and feels this is a long way for a five year old to walk. Also, traffic issues are a concern as Clarendon Hills streets are already very congested and adding 40-50 more kids walking through those intersections would be dangerous.

Sharon Johns, an Oak School parent, stated that safety should be the primary issue and no price should be put on safety. She asked what percent this cost is of the overall budget.

Chris Martin, an Oak School parent, stated that many families bought homes where they did due to being close to schools and the train. Changing this policy would create a real hardship for many families.

Debra Anthony, a CHMS parent, stated that she would like the district to keep the practice the way it is and keep traffic congestion down.

Amy Elder, an Oak School parent, stated that she is in agreement of aligning the policy, but is concerned about traffic congestion.

Kelly Otten, an Oak School parent, stated that she has traffic congestion and safety concerns.

Mark Fishbein, a HMS parent, stated that he is 1.49 miles from school and asked that geographical consideration be put into the picture.

Miles Wan, a Prospect School parent, stated that he shares all the concerns and wonders why all of a sudden this issue has been brought up; the policy has been this way since 2002.

Hongyn Teng, a Prospect School parent, stated that he lives 1.2 miles from the school and is in support of keeping the current practice intact. He stated that he bought his house based on the location and the school bus.

Dr. Tenbusch asked Mr. Teng, as a representative of a parent living over one mile from school, if he would be willing to pay a \$400 fee for bus services. He stated that he would if he had to as it would be better than no service at all.

Jerry Mejdrich recommended that the board adopt a policy that will formalize the current practice. He also suggested an addition to the policy that an annual approval be made by the board of education to coincide with the budget. He stated that this would let the board know yearly the cost implication of their decision.

Yvonne Mayer stated that she feels the reason this issue is now surfacing is because the administration has been instructed to “cut the fat” from the budget. She stated that she does not feel this is an area that should be trimmed.

Lisa Armonda disagreed and stated that this issue came to the board’s attention because Mr. Grimes has received several phone calls and complaints from parents who live less than a mile from the schools.

Laura Glenn, a Madison School parent, asked that board to consider that there are streets with no sidewalks and heavy backpacks.

Andy Glomen, an Oak School parent, stated that he would like the practice to remain the same.

Lisa Armonda asked administration if there is any way to clarify a cutoff before the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Tenbusch stated that the administration would obtain a shaded map and he feels it would make sense to do a cutoff by blocks.

## **New Business**

### **MacBook Lease Discussion**

Bruce Richards reported that the iBook laptops at CHMS are now almost four years old and only have a quarter of the speed and memory needed for today's new programs. Due to the media rich programming now being used at the middle schools, the iBooks are unable to process requests in a timely manner. His recommendation is to replace the existing computers at both CHMS and HMS with the new MacBook. The iBooks would be refurbished and distributed to the elementary schools for their use, as the demands on them at the elementary level would be within their capability.

Lisa Armonda asked if Bruce had explored leasing vs. buying. Bruce stated that he had and that the conservation of capital by leasing he felt was most advantageous. Jay Grimes explained that in some cases it would be possible to use the bond & interest fund surplus to do a type of short term borrowing for the purpose of buying new computers.

Bruce Walker asked what the cost of refurbishing the iBooks would be before sending them to the elementary schools. Bruce Richards stated the no physical parts are needed, only reloading of programs which can be done at the building level.

Marc Monyek stated that he would like to see a technology replacement plan/schedule, and would like to see this proposal included in a curriculum perspective, what the district actually has going on in the schools.

Lisa Armonda suggested that the administration come back to the board with more data including budgetary information and a replacement cycle.

## **Public Comments**

A HMS sixth grade teacher stated that simple word processing or internet access is not available at her school.

Bruce Richards stated that HMS was never designed for the type of capacity that is currently being demanded at that site.

Jane Herron, HCHTA President stated that there seems to be a disconnect and asked the board to pay attention to the basics before we enhance. She requested that the technology audit continue and someone to give us a critical analysis of what's going on.

Yvonne Mayer stated that she had attended the last Financial Advisory Committee meeting where one member had questioned the replacement cycle.

Jay answered that there was not a line item for this. Previous tech directors did present a replacement cycle.

Approval of Terms of Reference

Lisa Armonda reminded the audience that this is not a discussion item, rather a business item that the board needs to vote on.

Marc Monyek asked what revisions were made to the strategic planning terms of reference. Dr. Tenbusch answered that the change was to the dates for the training.

Andrew Schmidt made a motion to strike from the title of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy Terms of Reference “approved by PMC 1/23/08” and change ToW to CoW. Bruce Walker seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Marc Monyek made a motion to approve the Strategic Planning and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy Pilot terms of reference. Kevin Hanrahan seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Bruce Walker made a motion to amend the agenda to include an update on the Hinsdale Middle School Joint Task Force. Marc Monyek seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Kevin Hanrahan reported that the HMS Task Force Committee will meet every other Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. until August 6, 2008. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 and will be at the District Office Administration building. There will be a joint task force meeting with the village once a month on a Thursday evening or a Saturday morning. The first scheduled meeting is for Thursday, March 6, 2008 and the location is still to be determined. He added that these meetings will be televised/podcasted and will be available for viewing on the district’s website.

Adjournment

Andrew Schmidt made a motion at 9:52 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Marc Monyek seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

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Lisa Armonda, President 4/14/08

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Andrew Schmidt, Secretary 4/14/08