

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m. in the gymnasium at Beacon Hill Primary Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kim Elmore-Perkins, Cheryl Franklin, Paul Jasinevicius, Margaret McDannel,
Walter Mosby, Melvin Pumphrey, Virginia Ford

Dr. Joyce Carmine.....Superintendent
Jeanette Kreuz.....Business Manager
Anthony Scariano.....Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Pumphrey commended Mrs. Nolen and Dr. Stroud for the beautiful meal they provided today.

Mrs. Ford said the District was keeping Marita Komp, health assistant at Blackhawk Intermediate Center, in its thoughts and prayers. Mrs. Komp is ill and in a rehabilitation center. Mrs. Ford said the District wished her good health and a quick recovery.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Carmine acknowledged Mohawk Intermediate Center Co-Principal George McJimpsey, who was present, and Mohawk Co-Principal Jim Leib for Mohawk's designation as a state Spotlight School for the second consecutive year. She said to garner this designation a school must maintain three years of high achievement in math and reading.

Dr. Carmine also acknowledged Beacon Hill Primary Center Principal Ericka Patterson and Blackhawk Intermediate Center Principal Bessie Boyd for the designation of both schools as a Spotlight School. The superintendent said that in 2007 all of the District schools met Spotlight criteria and 21st Century Preparatory Center and Forest Trail Middle School have to continue this for two more years to be named Spotlight Schools. Dr. Carmine congratulated everyone on these accomplishments.

Mrs. McDannel reported that Park Forest was named second in Forbes Magazine's list of most livable suburbs in a metropolitan area. She said the magazine cited schools and housing as part of the criteria for the designation.

Dr. Carmine said the Board and the District Office administrators attended the Joint Conference in Chicago and gave a wonderful presentation, which was mainly presented by Maryann Matyasec, director of instructional services, and May Wiza. She said that some 100 people were in attendance and they were very complimentary.

Dr. Carmine said that State Superintendent Christopher Koch noted during his remarks at the presentation of the State Superintendent of the Year award that he had visited District 163 and that the educational team had turned the district around. He noted that students were achieving and beating the odds.

Mrs. Matyasec said that the assistant superintendent from Orland Park will visit District 163 to observe its practices.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. McDannel reviewed that at the last Finance Committee the following items were discussed: Beacon Hill and Algonquin roof specification proposals and the information is in the Board packets; change orders for the electrical work at 21st Century Preparatory Center; the Insurance Cooperative renewal; and the levy.

Mrs. Kreuz distributed information regarding the 2007 levy. Mrs. Ford said she called Rob Grossi regarding the levy because she is finding it difficult to approve them when the District has funds with balances that are more than is needed, for example in the IMRF/Social Security and Transportation Funds. She said that Dr. Carmine suggested that the Board support more transportation opportunities for students.

Dr. Carmine said that curriculum maps were developed for field trips so that each grade level has a field trip. She asked Mrs. Kreuz to project the cost of funding transportation for students. Mrs. Kreuz distributed information regarding field trip costs and related that the estimated cost of transportation for the prekindergarten through fifth grade field trips would be \$5,929.20. The cost for Forest Trail field trips would be \$4,067.40. The total is \$9,996 for 42 field trips. Mrs. Kreuz said the District can claim reimbursement on the transportation if the trips are documented as part of the curriculum. Discussion ensued regarding this matter. Mrs. Patterson indicated that students are asked to pay \$5 for field trip transportation. The District covers the expense for students who have free or reduced lunch.

Mrs. Ford said she would like the Board to comment on whether it would like to assume the transportation expense for field trips. It is assuming the expense for the cultural field trips. She noted the Transportation Fund has an excess of \$640,000. Mrs. Ford said that Mr. Grossi counseled against cutting the levy, but he was looking into abating the transportation tax back to the community. Mr. Jasinevicius asked if the Board did not want to lower the tax rate, could it move the money into a general fund. Mrs. Ford said she would get more information on that, but Mr. Grossi said that a one time transfer of funds from the Transportation fund was possible, but nothing could be done with the IMFR/Social Security Fund. Discussion ensued regarding this matter.

Mrs. Ford said the tax rates are high for the community and she thought paying the cost of field trip transportation to defray expenses for students was worth discussing. Members expressed support. Mr. Jasinevicius asked if a vehicle could be purchased with money from the Transportation Fund. He suggested that a hybrid bus be purchased.

Mrs. Ford asked Mrs. Kreuz to calculate the cost of funding two field trips for each grade level and send the information in the Board packet. She suggested that Dr. Carmine and the administration discuss a proposal that could be brought to the Board as a recommendation. Members agreed to charge Dr. Carmine with bringing a recommendation to the December meeting. Mr. Jasinevicius also asked for information regarding the purchase of a bus.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Franklin said the next Education Committee meeting would be at 7:00 p.m., January 28, at Algonquin Primary Center.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ford noted the policies that required action. She said the Moment of Silence can or can not happen, based on a recent court ruling. The policies will be presented at the December Board meeting.

NEW POLICIES

**POLICY IA
POLICY GBP**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE
PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS**

REVIEWED POLICY

POLICY LEB

PTO/PSO/PTSO ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Ford scheduled a Policy Committee meeting for 7:00 p.m., December 10.

LEGAL ACTION WATCH COMMITTEE

Mr. Pumphrey said that the state has not released funds, but that has not affected the District.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Elmore-Perkins said she attended the Park Forest Village Board meeting and a resolution was passed that recognized school board members and designated November 15 as School Board Day. She said it would be nice to get a copy of the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Elmore-Perkins reviewed her experience as an IASB delegate. She said that two interesting discussions focused on school board members elected to serve on a board in the district where they are attending school and a proposal to make passing the PSAE a part of the criteria for graduation.

Caletha White, Algonquin Primary Center principal, invited Board members to join the Algonquin staff for a luncheon on Tuesday to celebrate teachers' hard work and accomplishments.

MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION

The following motion was made by Member Mosby and seconded by Member Elmore-Perkins:

BE IT HEREBY MOVED that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to discuss information regarding imminent litigation.

Upon the call of roll the vote was:

AYE: Ms. Elmore-Perkins, Mr. Jasinevicius, Mrs. McDannel, Mr. Mosby, Mr. Pumphrey, Mrs. Ford

NAY: None

Motion carried, 6-0

The Board entered Closed Session at 8:55 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The following motion was made by Member Elmore-Perkins and seconded by Member Pumphrey:

BE IT HEREBY MOVED that the Board of Education adjourn the Committee-of-the-Whole.

AYE: Ms. Elmore-Perkins, Mr. Jasinevicius, Mrs. McDannel, Mr. Mosby, Mr. Pumphrey, Mrs. Ford

NAY: None

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

President

Secretary