



08-07

Glen Ellyn School District 41

Dr. Ann K. Riebock, Superintendent

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2007
DISTRICT 41 ADMINISTRATION CENTER
793 N. MAIN ST., GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137
MARY J. LUGINBILL BOARD ROOM**

Call to Order

Board President Terra Howard called the October 10, 2007 Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Kevin Cosgrove, John Vivoda, Erica Nelson (participated via telephone conference call), John Kenwood, Steve Vondrak and Terra Howard. Mr. Solak joined the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Others present were: Superintendent Dr. Ann Riebock, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations Robert Ciserella, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Accountability Karen Carlson, Director of Communications Julie Worthen, Director of Human Resources Laurie Campbell, Hadley Principal Dr. Christopher Dransoff, Hadley Assistant Principals Kim Hefner and Heidi Fitch, Hadley teacher, Brian Bonkowski and Recording Secretary, Maureen Stecker.

Electronic Participation in Board Meeting

Prior to calling the roll, Board President, Terra Howard indicated that one Board member, Erica Nelson, was unable to attend the meeting in person because of business. Dr. Riebock received notice from Mrs. Nelson on the morning of October 5, 2007 indicating her inability to attend the meeting due to business. Both notification and reason for absence are in accordance with Board policy #2:220. President Howard asked for a motion to approve Mrs. Nelson's participation in the meeting.

Cosgrove moved and Vivoda seconded to approve Mrs. Nelson's electronic attendance. On a roll call vote answering "Aye": Kenwood, Vivoda, Nelson, Vondrak, Cosgrove and Howard. Answering "Nay": none. Motion carried.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Board.

Workshop Discussion

The purpose of the special workshop was to provide the Board with an opportunity to have informal discussion with Dr. Ron Williamson about his consulting work with Hadley Junior High regarding its organizational improvement.

Dr. Ron Williamson summarized some of the pertinent research on middle level education and outlined the scope of his current project work with Hadley which has been underway since early August. Dr. Williamson reported that his work is focused on providing support to the Hadley community as they work on school improvement activities such as:

- Revisiting and articulating a mission/vision statement (accomplished and endorsed by the Hadley staff and parents).
- Program Plan modifications including a review of the current Exploratory Program
- Time and Organization (selecting an appropriate scheduling model, maximizing the benefits of the team structure, and identifying appropriate program evaluation measures).
- School-parent communication
- School Climate

Dr. Williamson said that the Hadley staff is willing and able to take an objective look at its current state and has a strong desire to bring teaching, learning and school climate to a level of excellence that meets the needs of all students.

Dr. Williamson noted his affiliation with the National Middle School Association and explained that the national organization's focus is on identifying three components of excellence in middle schools: academic excellence which challenges all students to use their minds well; developmentally responsive and sensitive to the unique challenges of early adolescence; socially equitable, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources and supports.

Following Dr. Williamson's report to the Board, discussion included:

- School size: National trends on the optimal size for middle schools is 600; however, most districts cannot financially support schools of that small size
- Teaming: Research-based data demonstrates that teaming is a solid and appropriate approach and is found to have a positive impact on student learning and school climate.
- Class size: Research indicates that class size has no real impact on student learning at the middle school level; it is primarily at the elementary level.
- Grouping: It is a valid instructional strategy but should not be implemented so that the kids are together forever (i.e. tracking). It should be a short term strategy and the best teachers should be assigned to the neediest students. Most effective grouping is within the classroom.
- The benefits of planning/interdisciplinary planning time
- The importance of internal and external communication.
- Web-based learning
- Foreign language trends

The Board and Dr. Riebock thanked Dr. Williamson, the Administrative Team and Hadley teacher, Brian Bonskowski for their time and work and the Board is looking forward to periodic progress reports.

Closed Session

At 8:34 p.m. Kenwood and Cosgrove seconded to adjourn to closed session to discuss:

- *Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.*

On a roll call vote answering "Aye": Cosgrove, Kenwood, Vivoda, Nelson, Vondrak, Solak and Howard; answering "Nay": none. Motion carried.

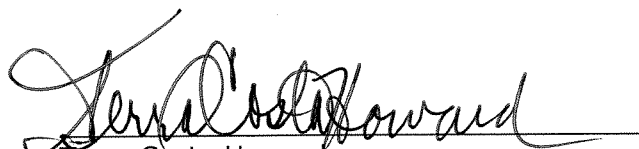
Return to Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 9:27 p.m.

Adjourn Special Meeting

There being no further business, Kenwood moved and Solak seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:28 p.m. On a roll call vote answering "Aye": Vivoda, Nelson, Vondrak, Solak, Cosgrove, Kenwood and Howard; answering "Nay": None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Stecker, Recording Secretary



Terra Costa Howard,
President, Board of Education

Minutes approved October 29, 2007