

Community Unit School District #95 - Board of Education

Committee of the Whole - Regular Meeting

March 12, 2009 - Lake Zurich High School

Board President Kathy Brown called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm, and a call of the roll showed:
Members Present: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Putbress, Mr. Hussey, Mr. Pietro, Mr. Finn, and Mr. Kropf. Members
Absent: Mr. Goldberg

Public Hearing 5:45 PM

At 5:45 pm a public hearing was held on the *Reduction in Force of Non-Probationary Certificated Staff*.
No members of the community came forward to address this topic.

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

Mrs. Brown noted "That during our discussions on the reductions proposed for next year's budget, the Board has stated that we will look for, and assess, all options for minimizing the impact of these reductions on our students. We have had many inquiries from our community about whether our budget process would include discussions relating to the current contract with our Teacher's Association, the Lake Zurich Education Association. The current collective bargaining agreement with our teachers was bargained for in good faith by both parties under the prevailing economic conditions at that time, and this Board is committed to upholding the promises made in that contract. Any negotiation of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement can take place only by joint agreement of the parties. In the interest of our community and the students we serve, the Board sent a formal request to the Association stating our interest in entering into negotiation discussions regarding the current contract. On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, the Lake Zurich Education Association declined our request to negotiate any amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement."

Public Comments – Mrs. Hughes and Ms. Hughes came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed changes in high school grading scales. A letter from Ms. Glicken was read to request the district retain extra-curricular activities.

English Language Learners Program – Dr. Egan introduced members of the ELL staff to explain the review that was recently undertaken and the goals established to increase students proficiency in both social and academic English. They outlined the activities planned to engage parents. They wish to bring additional bring professional development to ELL staff and the regular education staff. Service models for the different levels of proficiency were described as well as the exit criteria, monitoring and transition guidelines. Members had questions about various aspects of the program.

Change in High School Grading Scales & Calculation – Ms. Althoff, Department Chair for Guidance recommends that the grading scales for high school students be adjusted to eliminate the term "Academic", give a college prep level "A" a 4.0, and give a "D" a 1.0 at all levels. The high school administration recommends eliminating the class rank, unless the college or university requests the information. Discussions with college admissions directors agree that class rank is not high on their list of indications of what students will do well. She recommends that the changes to the grading scales begin with the class of 2013, and delete the recording of class rank next year. With the elimination of the class rank, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian recognitions will be replaced by recognition of all students who achieve a 4.0 or better, and the honor of a speech will be given to the winner of a competition that is open to all seniors. This will begin with the class of 2013.

2009-2010 Budget Reduction Recommendation Update – Ms. Kalou noted the uncertainty about revenues make timing on decisions very difficult. In July, some information about the rate of tax collections will be known. The State is running very late in payments and may pro-rate payments due to the district. Agreement was reached on the guidelines for donations and the timelines for the receipt of the donations. She presented several items of information that had been requested at previous sessions:

comparison of extra-curricular fees at various levels of break-even amounts, answers to questions posed, and a listing of all extra-curricular stipends at middle and high schools. Discussion was held on whether the Board would like to re-convene the Financial Advisory Committee in response to community requests. All agreed the group could be re-convened and membership in the committee would be solicited. Questions from community members will be sent to the financial advisory to relieve some workload resulting from the expectations from a small group of community members for in-depth information on multiple budget items. An application will be submitted for a grant to increase the efficiency of lighting fixtures. Additional discussion will be held at the April 16th Committee of the Whole on the revenue risk, the administrations' list of priority bring backs, an additional list of addition cuts if they become necessary, and an expanded list of give backs.

Capital Repair Projects – Ms. Kalou reviewed the short term plan for maintaining facilities that had been developed last year and those projects that will be scheduled for this summer. She also noted that the cost of recapturing classrooms to provide for the increased number of students in some buildings has been reduced due to streamlining, reusing cabinetry, white boards, modifying door placement and other cost saving measures. This plan represents the minimum of repair needs, while continuing to look for efficiencies. Bids for these projects will come for approval at Board meetings.

High School Band Uniforms – Ms. Kalou noted that bids were opened for new uniforms for the High School Marching Band, and that the one low bidder for payment over three years is DeMoulin of Greenville, Illinois. There are four options, including the rejection of all bids. The cost of the uniforms will be split with the booster club. Consideration of the bid will come at the March Board meeting.

Paperless Board Meetings – Dr. Knutson noted that given the dependence upon hard copies of information for budget information, etc., he would like to discuss the board's interest in a moratorium on paperless and continue with paper board packets until after the election and further discussion can be held on the best way to model the support of technology and the reduction of paper. Members would like to convert to paperless, with an option of a hardcopy of some items upon request.

Electronic Forum – A member would like to begin an electronic forum for community members, and while some agree that it might be an effective tool for exchange of ideas, the community expectations of this might be difficult to fulfill given current staffing. Additional discussion on the topic will be held on March 26th.

Policy Revisions – First Reading – Policy Review Committee sessions and the IASB have proposed the following revisions to current policy sections were reviewed:

2:220 - School Board Meeting Procedures, 4:70 - Resource Conservation, 5:90 - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, 5:150 - Personnel Records , 5:240 - Suspension, 5:290- ESP Employment Termination and Suspension, 7:10 - Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:50 - School Admissions and Transfers, 7:230 - Misconduct by Students with Disabilities, 7:240 - Conduct Code for Participants in Extra-Curricular Activities, 7:290 - Adolescent Suicide Awareness and Prevention, and 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics.

In Addition, the following updates to footnotes or legal references are noted, however these do not require first and second reading for adoption. (Footnotes and legal references are available online at IASB)

4:160 - Hazardous and Infectious Materials, 5:100 - Staff Development Program, 5:250 - Leaves of Absence, 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Exams, and 7:340 -Student Records.

If approved at first reading, the above noted changes and revisions to current policy will come for second reading and possible adoption on March 26, 2009.

Closed Session – Collective Bargaining Matters

Mr. Finn moved, seconded by Mr. Kropf to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss: collective bargaining matters, on a roll call vote, all members present voted aye.

The Board adjourned to closed meeting at 9:20 pm.
The Board returned to open meeting at 9:38 pm.

As there were no further items on the agenda for the meeting, President Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Mrs. Kathy Brown
President, Board of Education
C.U.S.D. #95, Lake Zurich, IL

Mrs. Jan Putbress
Secretary, Board of Education
C.U.S.D. #95, Lake Zurich, IL

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Smyser, Board Clerk

3/26/09 *Date Minutes Approved by the Board of Education,*

3/27/09 *Date Minutes Made Available for Public Inspection;*

3/27/09 *Date Minutes Posted on the District Website*