## **BOARD OF EDUCATION** Millburn School District 24

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING Feb. 13, 2013

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT** 

Diane Campbell Jane Gattone Nichol Mangino Scott Miller Joseph Pineau **Robert Reding** 

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT** 

Jason Lind, Superintendent Dr. Stephen Johns, Business Manager Joanne Rathunde, Technology Director Elizabeth Keefe, Special Services Director Jake Jorgenson, Principal

**ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT** 

Bernadette Hanna

**BOARD CLERK** 

Dorothy Pazanin

**VISITORS** 

Denise Oswald Ana Bibian

Sandy Jacobs

Deborah Pineau Judy Calhoun Gretchen Polenzani

**Greg Ball** 

Trak Patel

Carine Lancaster

Carol McGill

**Howard Crouse** 

A Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Elementary School, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Robert Reding. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Diane Campbell, Jane Gattone, Nichol Mangino, Scott Miller, Joseph Pineau and Robert Reding. Chris Stream was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Deborah Pineau gave an update on the recent activities of the community referendum committee. Telephone polling has begun, with an initial response of 195 "yes" votes, 23 "no" votes, and 56 "undecided." Many messages were left at numbers where there was no answer, referring voters to the website (millburnmatters.org) and the Facebook page. Other activities include:

- Posting answers to frequently asked questions on the website
- Featuring non-mandated programs on the website, and how the outcome of the referendum may affect these programs, such as the LRC, art and music
- Implementing "Fact Friday" which will be a weekly update on implications of the referendum
- Building an e-mail data base
- Creating a short video

Sandy Jacobs thanked Board Member Scott Miller for stopping by her classroom and several other classes during his Board Visit. She said she believes that Millburn is a special place, and that teachers have been doing all that has been asked of them. She asked that the Board be appreciative of that during contract negotiations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS - Diane Campbell asked Board Members to sign up to attend one of the upcoming Focus Groups. She said she would like to create a schedule so that one or two Board Members would be in attendance at each of the Focus Group meetings.

Scott Miller reported on his recent Board Visit to the schools earlier this week. He was impressed at how quiet the Elementary School was during the day. He noticed that the students were well mannered and orderly in the hallways, and that they worked collaboratively in the classrooms. He observed classroom teachers using the individual audio devices that are purchased by the Millburn Foundation. He said he was also impressed by the maturity of the students in handling the responsibility they are given to work freely in the classrooms. He noticed that the Specials teachers integrate the curriculum of the core subject areas into their lessons. He visited a computer class and said he appreciated the coordination involved in making sure technology opportunities are available to the most students possible.

<u>RECOGNITION</u> – Supt. Jason Lind pointed out that the display boards on the LRC counters were part of a fifth grade Social Studies project. He encouraged all in attendance to view the student work after the meeting or any time they are in the LRC.

### INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

<u>ACTIVITY FEES</u> – Supt. Jason Lind recommended action on Activity Fees be postponed for a month. At that time he will have more data available on cost and the number of students participating.

ACTIVITY BUS FEES – Supt. Jason Lind said he also would provide more data next month on the Activity Bus Fees.

<u>AUDIT PROPOSAL</u> – The Board reviewed the proposal from Milburn Cain & Co. to provide the annual external audit. Dr. Stephen Johns said the cost was the same as last year, and that he was pleased with the service.

<u>REFERENDUM</u> – Supt. Jason Lind said he has scheduled several community Focus Groups. The role of the administration and the Board during these Focus Groups will be to explain the ramifications of the referendum, and the level of programs that can be offered if the referendum passes or if it fails. The Board emphasized the need to clarify some misconceptions in the community. Supt. Lind said there was a good discussion at the Foundation Meeting, focusing on the main issues affecting district finances. These are declining state funding, the timing of when the district will receive any increased revenue from a successful referendum, and the effect of proposed legislation.

PMA PRESENTATION – Howard Crouse of PMA Financial Network presented a quarterly update of the district's financial outlook. He highlighted some of the critical factors that have significantly impacted the district's projections since the last update in October. He noted declines in Equalized Assessed Valuation, the Consumer Price Index and General State Aid. He also explained a correction in the enrollment data that led to a downward revision. The Board discussed the cumulative effect of declining state aid, and the accuracy of projections five years into the future. Mr. Crouse said he is comfortable with projections through 2015 and into 2016, noting that they tend to be cautiously pessimistic. He said projections through 2017 and 2018 should be viewed as trends.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Supt. Jason Lind said future Board Meeting agenda items include: Approval of the Official Calendar for 2013-14 School Year; and two overnight field trips-- Eighth Grade Trip to Springfield, and the Water Rafting Trip, both in May.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

There were no further Board reports.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. Jason Lind reported on the following:

- Fourth graders participated in a pilot program of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- ISAT testing is scheduled to take place in March.
- Valentine's Day celebrations are taking place Feb. 14.
- · Planning for the March Madness fundraiser sponsored by the Foundation is going well.
- Gurnee Rotary Club has scheduled a fundraiser March 17 at Key Lime Cove to support community programs.
- The Math teachers are moving forward on transitioning the curriculum into the Common Core Standards.

### **BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT**

Dr. Stephen Johns reported on the pre-bid meeting for the proposed roofing project. The roof repairs are expected to begin on June 10 and be finished in August. Also included in the Business Office Report was a Building and Grounds update, including progress on the HVAC systems at both buildings.

It was noted that Elizabeth Keefe, Joanne Rathunde, Jake Jorgenson and Bernadette Hanna exited the meeting at 8:52 p.m. The Board Members took a short break before entering into Executive Session.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Diane Campbell and seconded by Joseph Pineau to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the appointment, employment and compensation of employees of the public body. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Scott Miller, Nichol Mangino, Jane Gattone, Robert Reding, Joseph Pineau and Diane Campbell. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed. The Executive Session began at 9:06 p.m.

A motion was made by Jane Gattone and seconded by Diane Campbell to exit Executive Session. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed. The Executive Session ended at 11:14 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jane Gattone and seconded by Diane Campbell to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: none. The motion passed. The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Joseph Pineau, Vice President

Board of Education, Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

Joseph Pineau, Nice President

Board of Education

Millburn School District 24