

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
June 8, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Ball (via speaker phone)
Diane Campbell
Jane Gattone
Carissa LaTourette
Nichol Mangino
Casandra Slade

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Bernadette Hanna

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

VISITORS

Carol McGill	Suzanne Dekorsi
Mary Grom	Carine Lancaster
Renee Marasco	Jodi Laughman

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 p.m. by President Jane Gattone. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Diane Campbell, Jane Gattone, Carissa LaTourette and Nichol Mangino. Greg Ball participated via speaker telephone, beginning at 7:06 p.m. Casandra Slade entered the meeting at 8:39 p.m. during the Executive Session. Trak Patel was absent.

Due to the absence of Board Secretary Trak Patel it was decided to appoint a Secretary Pro Tem. A motion was made by Diane Campbell and seconded by Nichol Mangino to name Carissa LaTourette as the Secretary Pro Tem. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays none. Absent: Greg Ball, Trak Patel and Casandra Slade.

PUBLIC COMMENT –Suzanne Dekorsi announced that the Millburn Federation of Teachers has awarded its first scholarship, in the amount of \$500. The recipient is Meghann Silagan, who graduated from Millburn West in 2011. Ms. Dekorsi read the essay that Meghann submitted, which was entitled, “You Can Just Tell a Millburn Education.”

ADDITION OF NON-ACTION DISCUSSION ITEMS – There was none.

It was noted that an audio connection via speaker phone with Board Member Greg Ball began at 7:06 p.m.

RECOGNITION – Supt. Jason Lind recognized the members of the English Language Arts (ELA) Committee for their leadership and hard work. The committee members examined the K-5 reading and writing curriculum with the goal of aligning it with the New Illinois Learning Standards. The ELA Committee Members are Dr. Mary Grom, Jodi Laughman, Renee Marasco, Erin Aunet, Lisa Jazo, Lisa Anderson, Meghan Konicki, Regina Reynolds and Katie Lafferty.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

ELA COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – The facilitators of the English Language Arts (ELA) Committee—Dr. Mary Grom, Jodi Laughman and Renee Marasco-- presented an overview of the committee’s work throughout the year, including recommendations to the Board of Education. The committee reviewed the current curriculums, reviewed the Illinois Learning Standards, prescreened materials, contacted publishers and sought input from surrounding districts. The committee recommended that the district retain the current reading program, *Reading Streets*. For writing, the committee recommended that the Board adopt *Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing: A Common Core Workshop Writing Curriculum*. Committee members believe this program will provide consistency among the K-5 levels, aligning them all to the Common Core State Standards. The committee stated that it is also a cost-effective approach because there are no textbooks or consumables. Each classroom teacher can be supplied with a manual and material pack for a total cost of about \$10,000. The Elementary School schedule is being designed to allow time for the new curriculum and teacher training.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – Supt. Jason Lind said he has developed a timeline with Bruce Miles of the Big River Group, who will facilitate the district's Strategic Planning. A training session for the administration and other staff members is set for Aug. 12. The next steps will be to create a survey and focus groups that will identify priorities. Mr. Miles will spend 3-4 hours with Board Members during a meeting in October to develop the final product.

JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Jane Gattone said dates have been announced for the Joint Annual Conference of IASB, IASA and IASBO. It will be Nov. 20-22 in Chicago. She encouraged Board Members who plan to attend to notify Bernadette Hanna as soon possible.

BUS CAMERAS – Supt. Jason Lind said he has been looking into the possibility of putting video cameras on the school buses. He said a two-camera system can be added to all the buses at a cost of about \$30,000. It would be a one-time purchase. The cameras can be moved to another bus fleet in four years when the current bus lease ends. The Board discussed several aspects of the issue including:

- Safety and discipline issues
- Privacy of students
- Number of incidents that need to be investigated
- Providing evidence when misconduct is reported
- Areas where bullying occurs
- Cost of cameras vs. time spent investigating incidents
- Need to update Board policy and the student handbook
- Communication with parents
- Other districts that use cameras
- Opinion of the bus drivers
- Budgeting concerns
- Timeline for installation

MEDIA CENTER – Supt. Jason Lind recommended that the level of summer hours in the Media Centers be increased to former levels, before the budget cuts of the recent past. He is recommending that the media specialist in each building be approved to work 10 additional days at the end of the school year and 10 additional days before school starts. He said the total cost would be about \$7,500.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items include:

- Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Prevailing Wage Resolution
- Interest Transfer Resolution
- Treasurer's Surety Bond FY16

BOARD REPORTS

Carissa LaTourette reported that she recently visited Millburn Middle School. She was impressed and moved by the Holocaust Museum created by the middle school students. She also observed an art class and health class, where she found the teachers and students to be enthusiastically engaged and enjoying their work.

Diane Campbell said she attended eighth grade graduation. She said it was an impressive event, noting the large number of students in the National Junior Honor Society. She complimented Jane Gattone for her remarks to the graduating class.

Jane Gattone reminded Board Members that there is an online course regarding Superintendent Evaluation. She also said a few Board Members are needed to continue the Board Policy review process along with the superintendent. Finally, she commented that the Board Recognition application deadline is July 31.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Supt. Jason Lind said both schools enjoyed an activity-filled last day. The elementary school had an assembly with a staff talent show, and the middle school had its Field Day.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Dr. Stephen Johns reported on the following:

- A tax distribution of more than \$2.7 million was received on June 4.
- He will be recommending the disposal and recycling of computers that have reached the end of their useful life.
- The roof project will be delayed about a week because of a problem with the manufacturing of the insulation.

It was noted that Elizabeth Keefe, Joanne Rathunde, Jake Jorgenson, Bennett Walshire and Bernadette Hanna exited the meeting at 8:25 p.m.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Nichol Mangino and seconded by Diane Campbell to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, and for consideration and discussion of "student disciplinary cases" and other matters relating to individual students. On a roll call vote, the following Board Members voted Aye: Diane Campbell, Jane Gattone, Nichol Mangino, Carissa LaTourette and Greg Ball. Nays: none. Absent: Trak Patel and Casandra Slade. The motion passed. The Executive Session began at 8:27 p.m.


A motion was made by Nichol Mangino and seconded by Casandra Slade to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:28 p.m. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Trak Patel. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING RESUMES

There being no further business, a motion was made by Diane Campbell and seconded by Nichol Mangino to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Trak Patel. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.


 President
 Board of Education
 Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:


 Secretary
 Board of Education
 Millburn School District 24


 Date