

MEETING OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 50
Board of Education Office
1105 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Call to Order

President, L.A. Gregorash, called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Woodland School District 50 to order at 5:36 P.M.

Roll Call

Members Present: Bruce Bohren
Catherine Campbell
L.A. Gregorash
Terry Hall (arrived at 5:41 PM)
Carla Little (arrived at 8:37 PM)
Joan Morris
Mark Vondracek

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Joy Swoboda Bob Leonard

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mark Vondracek and seconded by Joan Morris to approve the agenda as presented. L.A. Gregorash, after discussion, suggested moving Action Item VII before Item VI. Mark Vondracek withdrew his motion to accept as presented and Joan Morris withdrew her second. A motion was made by L.A. Gregorash to amend the agenda and move item VII to before VI. Bruce Bohren seconded the motion.

On Roll Call the votes were:

Ayes: Catherine Campbell, L.A. Gregorash, Joan Morris, Mark Vondracek,
Bruce Bohren

Nays: None

Absent: Terry Hall, Carla Little (at time of vote)

Motion carried

Race to the Top:

- Dr. Swoboda reviewed the application process for Race to the Top. It is her understanding that if Illinois is successful in their application for Race to the Top funds one-half of the \$500 million will go to CPS and the other half to those districts who signed the Memo of Understanding (MOU).
- Several questions remain unanswered.
- There is a short timeline to make the decision to apply. The deadline is January 11, 2011.
- There are no risks in signing the Memo of Understanding but by doing so we will be eligible for funds should Illinois be successful in its application.
- We can back out at any time without penalty.

It was the consensus of the Board for Dr. Swoboda to sign the Memo of Understanding and forward to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Citizen's Statements:

- Ann Aldrich – Ann spoke to the Board regarding the recommendation to reduce the number of librarians. She urged the Board to maintain all librarian positions. She provided the Board a copy of her written statement.
- Vince Juarez- Mr. Juarez thanked the Board for their thoughtful approach to making reductions. He expressed his concerns over the possibility of implementing “Pay to Play” for funding sports. In his opinion sports is an integral part of a student’s learning experience and if you have multiple children pay to play it would get expensive.

FACT discussion:

- Dr. Swoboda reviewed the revised packet of information.
- President Gregorash reminded the Board they have to reduce the budget by 3.5 million.
- The Board reviewed the first 17 recommendations in the order presented and discussed each one with the criteria of keep, modify or do not consider. All 17 recommendations were identified as ones to keep at this time. The list of recommendations will be reviewed multiple times.
- It was recommended by Member Bohren that recommendation # 14-class size and #15 – paraprofessionals be moved to the bottom of the list as final decisions for reductions are reached.

Member Hall expressed frustration that it is difficult to discuss many of the recommendations without a finalized contract.

Dr. Swoboda indicated we have no confirmed date from the Union as to when we will receive the contract. She encouraged Board members to reference the draft contract they were given in December as a reference.

Board Forum

- The Board forum is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010.
- The Board reviewed the various ways the district will inform parents and community members of the forum to encourage their attendance including a letter home with youngest only, class newsletters, voice reach, tweet, the website and Triblocal.
- The agenda for the forum finalized as follows:
 - ❖ Bruce Bohren will review the district financial state with Terry Hall serving as backup.
 - ❖ L.A. Gregorash will review the FACT committee process with Catherine Campbell serving as backup.
 - ❖ Mark Vondracek will make the presentation of the recommended reductions with Carla Little serving as backup.
 - ❖ Carla Little with Joan Morris serving as backup will moderate a question, answer and comment segment.
- The administration will prepare the PowerPoint for the forum and send the draft home in the weekly update and e-mail a copy to each board member.

Additional meeting dates were discussed and established as follows:

Forum – January 19, 2010 – 6:45

Committee of the Whole - January 21, 2010 – 6:00

Board of Education Meeting – January 28, 2010 – 6:30

Committee of the Whole- February 4, 2010 – 6:00

Committee of the Whole- February 11, 2010 – 6:00

Board of Education Meeting – February 25, 2010 – 6:30

Dr. Swoboda informed the Board that she will prepare a recap of each meeting to e-mail to the staff after each meeting so they remain informed of the discussions of the Board relative to proposed budget deficit reductions.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Bruce Bohren and seconded by Mark Vondracek to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

On voice vote there were Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Absent – 0
The motion carried.

Approved by the Board of Education on January 28, 2010.

President, L.A. Gregorash

Secretary, Bruce G. Bohren