

AURORA, IL  
JANUARY 22, 2008  
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NUMBER 129, KANE COUNTY, AURORA, IL

PRESENT: Ms. Sonni Herget, Vice President  
Ms. Laurie Hoffman  
Mr. Neal Ormond  
Ms. Angela Smith  
Mr. James Toynton  
Mr. Jonathan Wood  
Mr. Daniel Flaherty, Student Board Member

ABSENT: Mr. Alan Rhea, President

PRESENT: Dr. James Rydland, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Peter Kerl, Assistant Supt. – Operations  
Ms. Vickie Nissen, Assistant Superintendent for Finance  
Ms. Rosemary Pinnick, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning  
Ms. Christine Crouch, Interim Assistant Supt. for Human Resources  
Ms. Cynthia Latimer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services  
Mr. Mike Chapin, Community/Alumni Relations  
Ms. Randi Ochsenschlager, Secretary to the Board  
Mr. Jack Meyer, Treasurer  
Mr. Terry Collette, Co-President, AEAW  
Mr. Tom Kraus, Co-President, AEAW  
Ms. Anne Giarranti, Principal, Fearn School  
Ms. Kathy DeTolve, Principal, Smith School  
Ms. Barb Vlasvich, Director of the Partnership School  
Ms. Erin Slater, Principal, Greenman School  
Mr. Mike Smith, Principal, Schneider School  
Mr. Howard Crouse, PMA  
Media  
Members of AEAW, West High, Fearn, Freeman, Partnership School, Greenman,  
Goodwin, Hall, Hill, Lincoln, McCleery, Nicholson, Schneider, Smith, Todd, Wall,  
Jefferson, Transportation, AEAW Bargaining Team; SCAC.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Herget called the January 22, 2008 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at West High School, 1201 W. New York St., Aurora. The following Board of Education members were present: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, and Flaherty.

**Vice President Herget then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Stan Karnoscak, Art Teacher for School District 129 who passed away February 4. Stan taught for over 35 years in the district, touching the lives of many students, families and friends. He will be remembered for his love of life and the students he encouraged through his teaching.**

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Vice President Herget recognized visitors from AEAW, West High, Fearn, Freeman, Partnership School, Greenman, Goodwin, Hall, Hill, Lincoln, McCleery, Nicholson, Schneider, Smith, Todd, Wall, Jefferson, Transportation, AEAW Bargaining Team; SCAC.

## **RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE WISHING TO SPEAK TO THE BOARD**

There were no audience members requesting the opportunity to speak before the Board.

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Students from Smith and Fearn Schools were honored for their participation in the Invention Convention at their school. Each student shared their invention with the Board. Those honored from Smith School were Austin Franks, Desk Top Cover; Jason Carrera, High Tech Wheelchair; Kasey Reyes, Light-up Slippers; Ryan Golembeck, Helping Hand; Alex DeBolt, All Use Cargo Chair; and Emiliano Gonzalez, Hospital Shirt. From Fearn were: Braigen Mueller, Cushy Tushy Organizer; Lucas Warren, Warren Super Dart Bowl; and Joe Garlando, Book Clip Cap.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Jim Toynton recommended that the Board of Education accept for a 30-day review period, Policy Section 4 – Operational Services.

Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

Ms. Hoffman recommended that the Board of Education approve the five-year agreement between the Board of Education and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 73, Change to Win Coalition (CTW).

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

## **Teaching & Learning**

Mr. Toynton moved that the Board of Education approve the District Improvement Plan.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

## **Safe & Secure Facilities**

Mr. Toynton moved that the Board of Education approve the six-month lease with Blue Bird Body Company for a 71-passenger bus with a one-time payment of \$5400.00.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

Mr. Toynton moved that the Board of Education approve the low responsible bid from Universal Asbestos Removal Inc. in the amount of \$11,400 for mold abatement at Freeman School.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

### ***Financial Responsibility***

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve AT & T as the Fiber Networking provider for all School District 129 facilities.

Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton

Abstain: Wood

NAYES: None

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the attached Resolution authorizing the issuance of 2007 Educational Purposes Tax Anticipation Warrants in the amount of \$17,400,000.00, in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied for the year 2007, by the Board of Education of School District Number 129, Kane County, Illinois for educational purposes.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

Vickie Nissen answered questions regarding the need for Tax Anticipation Warrants due to the late payments coming from the State of Illinois.

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the attached Resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an Escrow Agreement in connection with the issue of General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2008, of School District 129, Kane County, Illinois, in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the attached Resolution providing the issue of General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2008, of School District Number 129, Kane County,

Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000.

Mr. Toynton seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

Howard Crouse and Mike English were present from PMA to answer questions about the Bond refunding. Ms. Nissen explained that PMA went to market at 10:00 and ended at 12:30, with the rates coming in at 2.7%, which was lower than anticipated. The bond refunding will be a saving of \$2.7 million to the taxpayers of the district over the term of the loan.

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the transfer of \$3,208,687 from the Working Cash Fund as a loan to the Education Fund.

Mr. Toynton seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund as a loan to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Hoffman moved that the Board approve the recommendations, as amended, contained in the Consent Agenda for January 22, 2008.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held January 7, 2008 be approved.

### **BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve and accept bill listings in the amount of \$1,367,043.29; and Hope Wall bill listings in the amount of \$24,545.20 for the period ending January 22, 2008.

Total Regular Bill Listing

\$1,367,043.29

Total (Net) Payroll

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Total for Approval	\$1,367,043.29
Total Hope Wall Regular Bill Listing	\$ 24,545.20
Total Hope Wall (Net) Payroll	
Total Hope Wall for Approval	<u>\$ 24,545.20</u>

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve and accept the Personnel Report for January 22, 2008, including the resignations of Jennifer Starai, Hope Wall Paraprofessional and Rasonja Price, Driver @ Transportation.

**APPOINTMENTS – CERTIFIED PROBATIONARY – FULL TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointments of the following full-time Certified Probationary Personnel:

Jessica Lionhood, Special Education @ Hall

**APPOINTMENTS – CERTIFIED PROBATIONARY – PART TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following part-time Certified Probationary – Part-Time Employees:

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL – FULL TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following part-time Educational Support Personnel subject to the conditions set forth in the backup material:

Krystal Brussow, Paraprofessional @ Hope Wall  
 Jacqueline Garretson, Paraprofessional @ Nicholson  
 Monick Ramos, Paraprofessional @ Hill

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL – PART TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following part-time Educational Support Personnel subject to the conditions set forth in the backup material:

Nikki O'Callhan, Paraprofessional @ Freeman

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the leave of absence for Gina Zager, Readiness Teacher, through March 2008, subject to the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Aurora Education Association-West.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the leave of absence for Stephanie Leo, Office Professional in Technology, from March 31 through May 30, 2008 subject to the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the West Aurora Office Professionals Association.

## **ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Hoffman moved that the Board of Education uphold the recommendation for a 3-day suspension for Student #1111137 for gross misconduct, violating Article II, B10 and B.13.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

## **VISION 129**

### **TEACHING & LEARNING**

#### **READING FIRST**

Barb Vlasvich, Bobette Dodson and Reading First teachers provided background information on the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), used to improve the quality and effectiveness of reading instruction in Kindergarten through grade three. The program is supported through federal grant funds at Greenman, Hill, Lincoln, Nicholson and Schneider schools. They explained how the program works and that it is delivered in a 90-minuted uninterrupted reading block. Reading First staff then worked with the Board on a hands-on experience in administering the DIBELS with the Palm PDA's.

#### **SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS COMMUNITY SURVEY**

Cynthia Latimer and Rosemary Pinnick provided the Board with background information on a federal grant that is aligned with Vision 129. She explained how a community and staff survey will be done as part of the RFP. She indicated that the district could receive \$1.5 million per year. The district is receiving assistance from Northern Illinois University and has a grant writer helping to prepare the RFP. Dan Flaherty asked if the grant would also help to educate students on bad nutritional habits, as well as concerns about drug and alcohol use?

#### **RECYCLING**

Dan updated the Board on the work that is being done throughout the district to make students and staff aware of the need to recycle. Dan will be working with the Assistant Principal at West to get the necessary recycle bins to assist with this

### **SAFE SECURE FACILITIES**

#### ***Safe Secure Facilities Plan of Work***

Pete Kerl presented an updated draft of the timeline and cost estimates for safe secure facilities plan.

#### ***West High Camera Installation***

Pete Kerl updated the Board on the installation of cameras at West High School. He indicated that he and Erin Slater would be coming to the Board at the February 4 meeting with information regarding a security system at Greenman.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Budget Update**

Vickie Nissen provided a budget update for the Board on the revenues and expenditures. She indicated that revenues were right were expected, with the district having received the last property tax payment of \$1.5 million at the end of November. She indicated that expenditures are drawing down the budget, with payrolls being higher because of retro pay due to negotiated agreements. At the end of December, the Education Pay was at 44% spent, O & M @ 47%, Transportation at 25% and Social Security/IMRF at 41%. Vickie then went on to identify some of the areas where spending was higher than anticipated. She indicated that these areas will be reviewed.

### ***Moody's Investors Service***

Vickie Nissen updated the Board on the rating received from Moody's, raising the district from Baaa to A-3, with a positive outlook. This increase in the rating will help the district with credit costs.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board's attention was directed to correspondence included in the backup material.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

The Board was reminded of the School Improvement Plan presentations for Monday, January 28 beginning at 5:00 p.m. A light dinner will be provided beginning at 4:30.

## **BOARD UPDATES**

Ms. Herget thanked those present for the Palm demonstration and again commented on the students who were present for the Invention Convention.

Mr. Ormond and Mr. Toynton shared their experiences with the Mock Interviews held on January 10. They felt that this reinforced the great learning going on in District 129.

Ms. Hoffman shared her work with West High's athletic department in working to develop an intramural program with the school district and the Fox Valley Park District.

Ms. Smith shared her experience in attending the Invention Convention at Fearn, thanking Kathy DeTolve and Smith School for sharing their idea for this event.

Mr. Wood shared his experience at the recent Martin Luther King Birthday celebration and indicated hope that the district could become more involved in future celebrations.

Mr. Flaherty indicated that he will be a speaker at the National Honor Society induction to be held on Monday, January 28 and so will miss the SIP presentations.

Ms. Hoffman moved that the January 22, 2008 meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood

NAYES: None

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Randy Ochsenschlager, Secretary

A True Record

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ALLYSON HERGET, VICE PRESIDENT