



1235 Oak Street • Winnetka, IL 60093
phone 847-446-9400 • fax 847-446-9408
www.winnetka36.org

APPROVED
January 24, 2012

WINNETKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DATE: December 13, 2011

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Carleton Washburne Resource Center

PRESENT: Board of Education:

Ms. Susan Whitcomb
Mr. Jon Kaplan
Mr. Tom Shannon
Mr. William Meuer
Ms. Dana Crumley (5:07 p.m.)
Mr. Matt Hulsizer (5:15 p.m.)
Ms. Beth Moritz Filip (5:35 p.m.)

PRESENT: Administration:

Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent
Ms. Trisha Kocanda, Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Dr. Susan Pingitore, CFO
Mr. Matt Fuller, Director Technology
Mr. Mark Ditthardt, Director Pupil Services
Ms. Karin Sullivan, Communications
Ms. Marcia Sutter, Communications
Mr. Thomas Eber, Principal The Skokie School
Mr. Daniel Ryan, Principal Hubbard Woods School
Ms. Alison Hawley, Assistant Principal The Skokie
School
Mr. Stephen Schacherer, Assistant Principal, Carleton
Washburne School

Visitors:

Ms. Sue Connaughton, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Grow, Parent
Ms. Connie Henry, Parent

Ms. Beth Loehr, Caucus/Schools Comm.
Ms. Donna McShea, Caucus
Ms. Katie Scullion, Caucus
Ms. K. Zoloto, Hubbard Woods/Caucus
Ms. Penny Lanphier, Community
Ms. Heather Smith, Hubbard Woods
PTO/Community
Ms. Sue Cornelo, Willow Wood Preschool
Ms. Laura Roney, WPSN/Community
Ms. Maggie Meiners, Greeley
Ms. Kris Clendenin, WEA Co-President
Mr. David Wartik, WEA Co-President
Ms. Lea Lazarus, WEA/District 36
Ms. Jean Bierner, District 36
Ms. Julia Garcia-Roch, District 36
Ms. Candy Gordon, District 36
Ms. Eliana Kahn, District 36
Ms. Cathy Koller, District 36
Ms. Kathy McDonough, District 36
Ms. Katie Nelson, District 36
Ms. Sheryl Nussbaum, District 36
Ms. Suzanne Pesa, District 36
Ms. Elyse Richter, District 36
Mr. Anthony Rowe, District 36
Mr. Bart Steinberg, District 36
Ms. Niki Tottingham, District 36

MEETING CONVENED BY THE BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice-President, Mr. Jon Kaplan, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Carleton Washburne Resource Center and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Linda Wehrheim took the roll call as follows:

Present: Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Meuer, Mr. Shannon, Ms. Whitcomb.
Late: Ms. Crumley, Ms. Moritz Filip, Mr. Hulsizer.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Informational Items

1. World Language Program Revision Recommendations.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Ms. Trisha Kocanda, and members of the World Language Curriculum Committee prepared World Language Program Redesign Recommendations to the School Board for approval. A world language vision statement, program goals, functional language proficiency definition, and expectations were presented by Mr. Thomas Eber, Mr. Stephen Schacherer, Ms. Julia Garcia-Roch, Ms. Katy O'Donoghue, Ms. Alisa Shapiro-Rosenberg, and Ms. Trisha Kocanda on behalf of the committee.

A video presentation of the current world language program was shown. The primary goal of the current program is to develop an interest in different languages and inspire future language study in students. Presenters reviewed instruction time, school schedules, language offerings, benefits, costs, and staffing of the current program. A comparative summary of New Trier Township World Language Program offerings by grade level, including amount of instructional time, was provided.

Program Redesign Recommendations included:

- Pursuing a FLES (Foreign Language Experience) versus a FLEX (Foreign Language Exploratory) program.
- Increasing program instructional time (grades 1-4) to at least 90 minutes per week (no earlier than the 2013-2014 school year).
- Modifying the 5th grade schedule at Skokie School to increase the frequency of language instruction during the 2012-2013 school year.
- Providing the option for 5th grade students to select a language in 6th grade.
- Modifying the 6th grade schedule to include daily instruction in a target language beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

The Board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of adding instruction in languages other than Spanish and French as well as the rationale behind the schedule change for 5th grade foreign language study. The committee was asked whether data existed as to the percentage of students that stay with the same language upon entering New Trier high school. The committee only had anecdotal information regarding the Winnetka students' entrance exams and placements. The Board reviewed the benefits of changing the method of instruction for 5th grade students to increased frequency while maintaining the same overall number of minutes of instruction. The Board reviewed the implications for the band and orchestra program, based on providing 6th grade students with the

opportunity to include daily instruction in a target language. The committee will address the impact on band and orchestra program goals as a result of student participation in 6th grade related arts sequence. Program costs were reviewed and the committee was questioned as to the proposed program implementation date for the 2013-2014 school year. The committee noted the curriculum work, professional development and alignment necessary to implement a program model change as substantial as this one dictates the timeline be set for 2013-2014 school year. The Board provided its support to move forward with the recommended program changes.

Dr. Hagerman thanked the committee for their work, time and energy in providing this comprehensive review.

2. Strategic Planning Process.

Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Hagerman, provided the Board with an update to the Strategic Planning Process document that had been presented at the November, 2011 Board of Education meeting. Ongoing updates to the process will be captured monthly and included within this document. Sub-committee assignments were discussed. A Special Board of Education Meeting was set for January 5, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., to review, in more detail, the roles and responsibilities of the sub-committees. The Focus Group Meeting schedule was reviewed and Board member representation was recorded. Letters of communication, prepared on behalf of the School Board, designed to inform community members, parents, and staff of the strategic planning process and outline opportunities for participation were submitted for approval. Additionally, the Board was asked to approve a letter of communication prepared for the 2009 Development Team, thanking them for their foundational work and identifying the ongoing opportunities for their involvement in the current strategic planning process.

The Board discussed whether the letters communicating the strategic planning process were too lengthy. It was determined that the detail provided a necessary runway bringing all stakeholders up-to-date. In regards to focus group meetings, the Board questioned what other methods of communication would be utilized to notify stakeholders of upcoming meetings. The communications team will utilize the District website, local newspapers, email blasts and flyers to communicate upcoming focus group meetings.

Parent, staff and student surveys will be launched following focus group meetings (anticipated March, 2012). Data gathered from the focus group meetings will be useful in identifying priorities to be incorporated in the survey instruments.

The Board questioned whether the strategic planning process included identifying anticipated strategic priorities at the onset. Dr. Hagerman described the proposed process as a continuous improvement process not problem solving, one which begins with a blank slate and allows community, parent and staff concerns to determine priorities. As a result, issues rise to the top organically without predefinition. Collecting data under specific silos would also be a priority. Dr. Hagerman thanked the Board for their willingness to commit to the ambitious undertaking the proposed process demands, noting the significant amount of additional time commitment this entails.

B. Action Items

Mr. Kaplan moved and Mr. Shannon seconded that the Board of Education approve the Strategic Planning Process described in the Executive Summary of the Plan Update dated December 2011.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Mr. Meuer moved and Ms. Whitcomb seconded that the Board of Education approve the Letters of Communication to District Stakeholders, Staff, and the 2009 Strategic Development Team members.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Kaplan moved and Ms. Whitcomb seconded that the School Board adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0