

Winnetka Public Schools
Board of Education
Special Meeting – Approved 10/27/2009
September 2, 2009

A special meeting of the Board of Education District 36 was held in the Conference Room of Carleton Washburne Middle School on September 2, 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the wireless proposal and Assessment as it is currently employed in the District

PRESENT: School Board Members: Nancy Fehrenbach
Susan Whitcomb
Dana Crumley
Van Barletta
Beth Moritz Fiilp
Anne Kelly
Jon Kaplan

Others Present: Dr. Mary Herrmann, Superintendent
Matt Fuller, Director of Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Barletta, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm on Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Moritz Filip took Roll Call of the School Board.

III. DISCUSSION

A discussion of the wireless proposal was held. Matt Fuller presented the spending plan for the proposed wireless system. Washburne is in need of the wireless system in the new Science Labs to ensure that the laptops that were purchased for those labs will have a wireless support system. If the wireless system is in place, it will enable the mobile labs that the District already owns in all the schools. Matt believes that systems that he has had bid the wireless systems are familiar with structure of the schools – even Skokie. There will be full coverage in the schools in all of the academic areas.

The vendors were Aruba, HP and Cisco. Cisco had a good price point along with a successful test result that the others did not have.

IV. Motion to Approve the Wireless Proposal

Mr. Barletta motioned to approve the wireless proposal. Ms. Whitcomb seconded. Mr. Kaplan – yes

Ms. Kelly – yes
Ms. Fehrenbach – yes
Ms. Crumley – yes
Ms. Whitcomb – yes
Mr. Barletta – yes
Ms. Moritz Filip – yes

V. Superintendent Report:

Dr. Mary Herrmann suggested that the Board begins study sessions going forward. Tonight there will be two topics: Teacher supervision and evaluation and Assessment/RTI.

A. Teacher Supervision and Evaluation:

Dr. Herrmann distributed a Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Status Report. She also described some of the procedures that are currently done in the different schools to evaluate the teachers.

- Dr. Herrmann suggested that more training is done this year to better educate the Administrators
- All of the Administrators follow the clinical evaluations currently in place
- Some of the Administrators are holding impromptu walk-through(s) of the classrooms
- Professional Development and Evaluations need to be more aligned.
- Dr. Herrmann believes that there is a need to better focus Professional Development specifically towards differentiation

Questions regarding Initiative Units were raised. Initiative Units are contractually based – and up for negotiation during the next teacher contract negotiations.

Questions regarding how Professional Development funds are used were raised.

Ms. Whitcomb wondered if additional information from parents would be useful. Dr. Herrmann encouraged all input. Stating that objective, factual information is always useful. However, it will not necessarily end up in the teachers personnel file. Ms. Crumley explained the procedure.

Mr. Kaplan asked about the Supervision/Evaluation Task Force – Dr. Herrmann responded that that work is to be completed next year. Dr. Herrmann will make a presentation on this at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Herrmann indicated that an additional step in the tenure process is to be put in place this year. Darlene Larson and Dr. Herrmann will make an additional assessment of the teachers along with the Principal prior to issuing tenure.

Dr. Herrmann explained to all why personnel discussions are held during Executive Session.

The Teacher Evaluation Plan is to be completed this year by Dr. Herrmann.

B. Assessment/RTI

Dr. Herrmann presented what is currently being used for RTI compliance in the District. This year, this form of assessment will be used across the District. Mr. Barletta and Mr. Kaplan suggested that the assessment piece is put on the website.

Data meetings are being held for RTI. Data is presented for children who have reached the Diagnostic level of concern.

Aims/Web was piloted at HW and is now used across the District.

GRADE is now being given across the District in 3rd grade.

RTI – requires universal screeners and research base practices for interventions.

Assessment – what do we need to do to assess children? What do we need to comply with RTI?

Mr. Barletta raised the question as to why this assessment has not been shared with parents – from HW? A discussion followed.

A question was asked regarding whether assessment data was being used to drive academic decisions?

A general discussion was held regarding assessment.

Dr. Herrmann indicated that the District has looked at MAPS, a computer assessment program. There were several questions from the Board regarding what is good about assessment – how it fits into Progressive Education – how it fits with the curriculum.

It was determined that a study session would be useful for the Board with the Administrators regarding assessment to better inform all Board members of what is currently being done in the District.

VI. MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:50pm Mr. Kaplan moved adjourn the Public Meeting and move Executive Session. Ms. Fehrenbach seconded.