

**SPECIAL MEETING  
MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159 - BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
October 27, 2011**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Mr. John Troy – President	✓	
Mr. Joseph Spalla– Vice President	✓	
Mr. Patrick Markham	✓	
Mr. Mike Ford	✓	
Mr. Franceschini	✓	
Mrs. Kathy Moore	✓	Via phone 7:18pm
Mr. Scott Peters	✓	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Steve Stein, Interim Superintendent, Kirt Hendrick, Director of Business Operations, Mary Louise Knoerzer Board Secretary, Kim Rueth, Laurel McGowan, Maryann Pogwist, Sheryl Canning, Sandy Berndt, Debi Blank, Katherine Barr, Jane Conroy, Sharon Horvath, Melissa Chevalier, Kim Van de Woestyne, Claire Doster, Lora Grabowski, Tammy Vermeire, Patty Novak, Erin Menozzi, Cheri McKenna, Karen Leader, Jessica Maffia, Cathy lark, Mary Petrizzo, Tina Coltri, Michelle Vetter Vickie Miller, Cathy Guendling, Steve Roberts, Shirley McDonnell, Tiffany Davis, Joyce Siska, Cheryl Behland, Toni Szostak, Jennifer Thomas, Sue Isdonas, Ursula Damico, Tracy Driver, Cathy Muehler, Janet Grice, Rhonda Paris, Stephanie Pote, Deborah Hocking, Maggie Nunez, Diane Leo, Maureen McDonough, Sheree DeSalvo, Margie Janes, Michael McGreal, Larry Roop.

**VISITORS:**

Madeline and Bob Kral, Kirk Blank, Stacy and Michael Cesta, Carrie Zakula, Kristin Welsh, Joseph Sehuringa, Paul Zakula, Suzanne Gillund, Melissa Slattery, Christy Mullin, Jill Moran, Andrea Espinesa, Jennifer Hartman, Bob Ushri, Greg Mullin, Pam Widule, Christy Haegmaster, Cassie Gehrke, Steve S. and Brad B.

**PRESS**

Paul Dailing, Mokena Patch

**OPEN SESSION and Roll Call**

Mr. Troy called the Special meeting of Board of Education of Mokena Public School District 159 to order at 7:05 p.m. on October 27, 2011.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Stein led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Public**

*Kristin Welch- a resident*, spoke on behalf of the teachers encouraging the BOE to settle the contract; teachers are working in good faith

*Anna Briscoe- a resident*, spoke on behalf of teachers, agreed that the district is facing challenges, BOE must consider the ramifications of decisions made now; the quality of our educators 10 years from now.

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **CURRICULUM SCOPE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Mr. Troy presented to the Board of Education the Curriculum Committee scope and initial assignments; Early Start program and Kindergarten half day vs. whole day program and committee members.

Mr. Spalla asked Committee for their needs in terms of Technology.

Mr. Peters asked the committee to relay their budget needs to Finance Committee.

### **CLASSIFIED JOB CHANGE**

Mr. Stein presented to Board of Education the classified job status change and pay.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Peters moved to go to Closed Session for matters relating to personnel to return; motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla. Closed session was opened by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Moore was present via phone.

### **OPEN SESSION**

At 8:10p.m. Mr. Troy motioned to call Open Session to order. Roll Call vote was taken; all present.

*Brian Cummins*, a resident, spoke of his concerns about an unsettled contract; make every effort to sustain the highest quality of education; wants a solution.

### **ACTION REQUESTS**

#### **Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to accept the Curriculum Committee's scope and initial assignments and members as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

*Stacy Cesta*, a resident, spoke after the motion was made, regarding the settling of the teacher's contract; she has high expectations of public education and MPS 159.

Mrs. Moore addressed Board President Troy in regards to Roberts Rules; allowing public comment which was not in reference to the motion on the table.

#### **On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Ford, Mr. Franceschini, Mr. Markham, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Spalla,  
Mr. Troy

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

#### **Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore approved classified status change of Mary Louise Knoerzer to superintendent executive secretary, effective July 1, 2011 at \$19.03 per hour, 8 hours per day, 260 days per year; with retroactive pay to August 11, 2010 in the amount of \$3,899.28. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

*Mary Cummins* commented on this motion.

#### **On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Ford, Mr. Franceschini, Mr. Markham, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Spalla,  
Mr. Troy

Nays: None

Abstain: None

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**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Spalla moved to adjourn to Closed Session for matters relating to negotiations, grievances, leasing and pending litigation not to return. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

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President

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Secretary