

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION- MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
February 23, 2012**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. John Troy – President	✓	
Mr. Joseph Spalla – Vice President	✓	
Mr. Patrick Markham – Secretary	✓	
Mr. Michael Ford	✓	
Mr. Mark Franceschini	✓	
Mrs. Katherine Moore	✓	Via phone
Mr. Scott Peters	✓	

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Stein, Superintendent; Chuck Vitton, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Kirt Hendrick, Director of Business Operation; Mike Rolinitis, Principal; Nancy Chibe, Principal; Chris Clavenna, Principal; Judy Splayt, Asst. Principal; Mary Louise Knoerzer, Board Secretary. Debi Blank, Kath Arduino, Michelle Matt, Sandra Berndt, Jane Conroy, Kim Truffa.

VISITORS PRESENT:

Larry Heidemann, Megan Wagner, Michael Conroy, Marghe Stoll

PRESS:

Ryan Bray, Mokena Messenger; Ginger Brashinger, Southtown Star; Paul Dailing, Mokena Patch

OPENING AND ROLL CALL

President Troy called the Special meeting of the Board of Education of Mokena Public School District 159 to order at 7:03 p.m. on February 23, 2012.

Mr. Troy requested a Closed Session be added at the end of the meeting for purposes for leasing and personnel; not to return. Pursuant of 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) (5). The Board was all in favor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Stein led the Board of Education and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC – No comment

MTA- No comment

Board of Education - No comment

INFORMATION REPORTS

MES/MIS BUILDING USAGE PRESENTATION

Mr. Stein reviewed with the BOE, an abbreviated version of the PowerPoint presentation providing three options for the future of the buildings of MPS.

1. Mixed usage at MES(Leave MIS open as a grade 4/5 building)
2. Mixed-usage at MIS(Continue to have some school district presence; lease part of building)
3. Close MIS (Lease entire building)

Mr. Stein answered questions of the Board.

Mr. Peters sited various observations:

- This issue is being presented about month later than last year
- The district has already saved approx. 2 million dollars

- Student population dropped 15%; staff was reduced by 22%
- Loss 2.4 million in revenue
- \$340,000 owed to district by State

Mr. Peters congratulated the administration on what has been accomplished.

STRATPLAN

Mr. Larry Heidemann, a consultant for long range strategic planning, presented the Spring 2012 StratPlan model to the Board of Education. The plan provided:

- Recent History
- The Perfect Storm
- Proactive Strategic Planning
- Current Base Case (graphs)
- Return to Excellence
- Referendum revisited
- Refinancing options

Discussion among the Board of Education members was had. Questions were asked and answered by Mr. Heidemann.

INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION ON FACILITY USAGE

Mr. Troy recommended this discussion for Closed Session; leasing options will be considered.

ACTION REQUESTS

Mrs. Moore moved that Mokena School District 159 continue to offer the Early Start program for at-risk preschoolers in the district. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters.

President Troy amended the motion to approve the Early Start Program for the 2012-2013 school year with direction to the administration to determine an appropriate fee for the program subject to Board approval. This motion was seconded by Mr. Markham.

On Roll Call

Ayes: Mr. Ford, Mr. Franceschini, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla, Mr. Troy

Nays: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-2

Discussion among the Board of Education members was had.

Mrs. Moore stated for the record, she was disappointed to see that the Board does believe that they should support the Early Start program. This program serves children who, because of their economic background, health, home, emotional or learning situations, are at-risk of academic failure.

RECOMMENDATION FOR MES/MIS BUILDING USAGE

Mr. Ford moved to retain Mokena Intermediate School as a grade 4-5 building for the 2012-2013 school year and engage in leasing negotiations for classrooms at Mokena Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

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

Mr. Markham stated for the record, he wanted to emphasize as per the motion, this pertains to the 2012-2013 school year only.

CLOSED SESSION

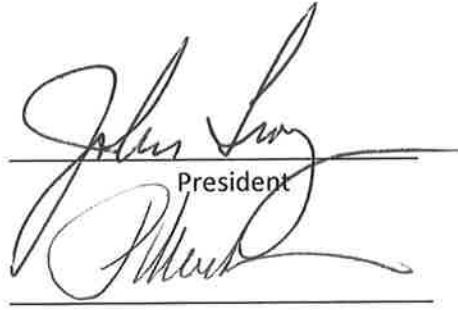
At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Ford moved to adjourn to Closed Session for purposes of personnel and leasing; not to return. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

On Roll Call

Regular Meeting
February 23, 2012

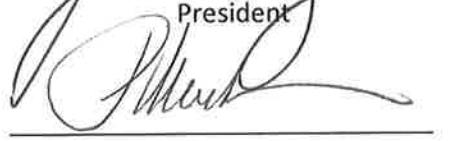
Ayes: Mr. Ford, Mr. Franceschini, Mr. Markham, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Spalla, Mr. Troy,
Nays: None Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-0



Handwritten signature of John Long, written in cursive over a horizontal line.

President



Handwritten signature of the Secretary, written in cursive over a horizontal line.

Secretary