

**MINUTES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159 - BOARD OF EDUCATION
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
February 6, 2013**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. Patrick Markham- President	✓	
Mr. Joseph Spalla – Vice President	✓	
Mr. Mike Ford– Secretary	✓	
Mr. Franceschini	✓	
Mrs. Kathy Moore	✓	Via phone
Mr. Scott Peters	✓	
Mr. Jeff Regan	✓	

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Stein, Superintendent, Eileen Parente Director of Student Services; John Troy, Director of Business Operations; Mike Rolinitis, Principal; Judy Splayt, Asst. Principal; Mari Jo Hanson, Assistant Principal; Kim Rueth, Laurel McGowan, Debi Blank, Toni Szostak.

VISITORS: Dan LaVille, Joe Lentz, Mike Bartos, Bob Swale, Jim Andresen, Anna Briscoe, Danielle Didrickson, John McGiveny.

PRESS: Ginger Brashinger, Southtown Star; Ryan Bray, Mokena Messenger

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPEN SESSION and ROLL CALL

Mr. Markham called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education of Mokena Public School District 159 to order at 7:01 pm on February 6, 2013. Roll called was taken by Mr. Ford.

COMMUNICATIONS

Public: *Dan LaVelle*, Mokena Youth Association spoke regarding field space; lot currently not available; negotiated with Mokena Park District for place to play; been very gracious for support; need more space; asking for use of fields behind MES; asking for BOE support; stressed this is for our kids in the community.

Mike Bartos, President of Blue Demons originally worked w/Mrs. Germany and Mrs. Perry seeking support over 2 years ago; Burros would update fields that needed improvement; consider adding school teams at MJH; not asking for any money from school district; he would be willing to help coach school team; asked for support from BOE.

Bob Swale, a candidate running for School Board is asking for BOE support for Blue Demons; a win win for District.

MTA: None

Board of Education

Mr. Peters thanked the Blue Demons and Burros for attending the meeting; glad that everyone is working together.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- FOIA request a commercial inquiry; sent invoices from last 6 months
- Thank you to chiropractic group for GRIFF
- Lockdown Drills went very, very well; unannounced drills held in all 3 buildings; police department was present; thanked MPD for assistance.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mrs. Hanson (MJH) presented to BOE:

- Lincoln Way East came to meet with 8th Grader students on 1/29/13
- Incentive Activity was held on 1/25/13- PTA provided a jumpie, concession stands opened
- Boys Basketball Team lost
- Girls Volleyball Team still playing; Regionals coming up
- Valentine's Dance will be 2/8 from 7-9 pm
- Solo Ensemble Contest will be held Liberty Junior High on 2/9

Mrs. Splayt (MES) presented to BOE:

- Students and staff amazed by Tim Hanning and the ProKids show; discussed the importance of honesty, courage, doing right thing; discussed character traits using magic
- Teachers and administration discussed winter benchmark data; formed new intervention groups
- Behavior Committee met to continue planning positive behavior program for next year
- Safety Committee members from MES discussed safety issues within building; created list of items to address
- School Improvement Team discussed grade level goals; how to make them part of school culture

Mr. Stein presented on behalf of Mr. Melnyczenko (MIS) to BOE:

- Held an assembly for St. Jude's Math-a-Thon; goal to raise \$5,000, school will receive a no homework night; if they raise \$10,000 staff will volunteer to be human sundaes and winning room will be treated movie and pizza party; since 2006 MIS has raised over \$50,000 for St. Jude's.

BWP PRESENTATION

Mr. Mullins presented to the community and the BOE the Superintendent Leadership Profile report: Summarized are four descriptors. Mr. Mullins stressed that these are perceptions of the staff and administration.

- Strengths of District – educators have long tenure; well kept facilities; extremely low tax rate; strong administrative team and organizations; great kids; collaborative process
- Concerns – Financial status; staff stability; inexperience of school board; District #843 pulling out; need to long and short strategic planning; technology is declining at rapid rate; residency issue; lost all day Kindergarten.
- Skills Wanted – working well with kids; backbone in decision making; an extensive list
- Other things – able to manage change; tech savvy; knowledge of common core; ability to stabilize District

The detailed report will be emailed to the BOE for further review.

INFORMATION REPORTS

FINANCE Mr. Troy presented to the BOE:

- RFP for auditing services. Our current contract expires this year. He invited the BOE to be part of the interviewing process. The Bid will be posted after this meeting; bid opening is March 13, 2013 in District office at 2 pm.

- A resolution for "Adopting an Amendment to the Mokena School District 159 Retirement Plan"; 403B policy will allow the employee to take out a loan; will have no financial impact on District. This resolution will be brought for action next meeting.

Mr. Stein stated all Fees will need approval prior to Kindergarten registration.

- Registration fees, transportation fees, extracurricular fees
- Registration and extra-curricular fees will be voted on next meeting; fees will remain the same as this year; transportation will be presented as Information and discussion at next meeting; action on transportation will be March 6, 2013 prior to Kindergarten registration.

POLICY Mr. Stein presented Policy 3:30 General School Administration for first Read and for action this meeting. It reflects current team structure.

LINCOLN WAY SPECIAL EDUCATION MINUTES

Mrs. Moore reported to the BOE:

- Third Annual Fundraiser 3/23 fashion and variety show
- Much discussion on transportation; setting up committee for transportation issues and concern for following year; renewing of leases etc.
- Advisory Committee to spearhead Director search

SPECIAL EDUCATION Mrs. Parente requested of the BOE:

- An addition to attorney list; due to the fact the district is taking back legal services from District #843 she is requesting that Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton, and Taylor, Ltd. be added to our attorney list; has a great relationship already with the firm.

Mr. Markham requested both law firms make a presentation at future Board meeting. Mrs. Parente agreed to contact both firms.

- Posting of Special Ed positions; expressed the urgency to get this started in order to get the best candidates possible

Mr. Markham asked BOE to give a nod of approval. They all agreed to post the positions needed.

CURRICULUM Mr. Rolinitis requested the District reinstate Spanish as part of the 8th grade curriculum; If the District can maintain the same FTE, Spanish can be brought back as a subject and would be a break even in the budget.

Mr. Markham asked Mr. Rolinitis, in his opinion could this be done; and done well. Mr. Rolinitis responded "Yes"! The Board agreed to move ahead with a Spanish teacher posting and reinstate Spanish in the curriculum.

ACTION REPORTS

Recommended Motion:

Mr. Franceschini moved to approve Policy 3:30-AP as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moore.

On Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Recommended Motion:

Mr. Ford move that the Board of Education accepts the Agreement between the Mokena Burros, the Lincoln-Way Blue Demons and Mokena School District 159 as presented on February 6, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini.

Mr. Peters stated he is all for partnering with the Burros and Blue Demons; stressed action items need to be given to the BOE as Information Reports to follow protocol. Mr. Peters noted that during the behind the scenes process District policy 2:15 regarding Committees was violated and policy 2:16 relating to not informing the Board that the attorney had been contacted.

Mr. Regan voiced his concern on how this was agreement was handled; a first time person on the Board he was surprised of lack of communication for this agreement.

Mr. Spalla and Mr. Ford also said the way the field agreement came about was handled wrong.

Amended Motion:

Mr. Spalla revised agreement on page 2/Section 3/2nd paragraph/last sentence to include the additional statement as follows:

"Storage of equipment on or adjacent to the Fields is permitted with preapproval of the superintendent". The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

On Roll Call

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

Nays: Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04 pm Mr. Franceschini moved to go to Closed Session for Purposes of Personnel. Pursuant of ILCS 120/2(c)(1) then to return to adjourn to the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 6, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Regan. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.



President

Secretary