

**MINUTES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159 - BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
March 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, Chuck Vitton, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Eileen Parente Director of Student Services; John Troy, Director of Business Operations; Mike Rolinitis, Principal; Anna Kirchner, Principal, Eric Melnyczenko, Principal; Mari Jo Hanson, Assistant Principal; Mary Louise Knoerzer; Board Secretary, Debi Blank.

**VISITORS:** Ann, Emily and Michael Kuehl, Laura Sinaris Mike Bártos, Kira and Jennifer Borgeson, Bob and Madeline Kral, Jim Andresen, Anna Briscoe, Alicia and Mike Meyer, John P. Minor.

**PRESS:** Ginger Braschinger, Southtown Star; Ryan Bray, Mokena Messenger

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Students Braden Meyer, Ryan Granko, Michael Kuehl, Kira Borgeson, Joe McCloughan, Helen Ambrose Ryan Simonetti and John Minor 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 March 6, 2013.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Public:** None

**MTA:** None

**Board of Education**

*Mr. Ford* announced he is living outside of the school district boundaries; closed on his home within two weeks; diligently looking within the district; will inform the Board as soon as he has found a home. He is asking for consideration and understanding during this time.

*Mr. Spalla* congratulated the MJH choir for placing first place in the Regional Conference.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASE**

Students from Mrs. Lark's first grade classroom presented to the Board of Education pages from the book they authored "Under the Sea A- Z". The students; Braden Meyer, Ryan Granko, Michael Kuehl, Kira Borgeson, Joe McCloughan, Helen Ambrose, Ryan Simonetti and John Minor read their own page and shared with the BOE.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- NO FOIA requests
- No good news from Springfield; GSA this year is 76% vs. LY 82%; No determination on Pension reform.

### **PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Hanson (MJH) presented to BOE:

- ISAT testing going on
- Valentines' Day Dance sponsored by PTA was a success
- MJH Choir won first place in Regionals'
- Band Contest will be held in Steger on 3/16; March 12 is March Melodies
- Three on Three tournament 3/22-23 ; 50 teams of 4-8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Student Staff volleyball game 3/21
- Book Fair 3/18-22
- James DiFiore advanced to National Geography Bee 4/5.

Mr. Melnyczenko (MIS) presented to BOE:

- ISAT will begin mid week
- Math-a-Thon has a goal of \$10,000 to be donated to St. Jude's
- Fifth grade talent show was a great show; Kudos to Mrs. Leo for a fantastic show
- Faculty meeting was one of the best; teachers shared their experiences from recent workshops attended.

Mrs. Kirchner (MES) presented to BOE:

- Thanked Mrs. Lark and her students for sharing the book they authored; great project while learning to read and write; the success they can achieve when they raised the bar.
- ISAT testing has begun
- New Behavior system is in place with tickets; Highlighted with posters and videos

### **ATTORNEY PRESENTATION**

Laura Sinaris on behalf of Robbins Schwartz office and John Fester and his team presented on behalf of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca to the BOE their expertise in terms of Special Education.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

**FINANCE** Mr. Troy, Mrs. Parente and Dr. Vitton presented to the BOE:

- The current fee schedule for the Early Start and Early Childhood programs at the district. Several scenarios were discussed regarding reducing these fees. Questions were asked and answered for the Board.
- Several Transportation Fee schedules were presented to the Board. Several scenarios that were requested were discussed. After much discussion it was agreed to look at an approximate \$20,000 reduction of this line item. Mr. Franceschini thanked Mr. Troy for the detailed charts depicting the scenarios requested of the BOE.

**POLICY** Mr. Stein presented Policy 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media for First Read.

- Mr. Markham led the BOE in a discussion regarding dugout fencing for the fields in back of MES as requested by Blue Demons. The Board gave their approval to do the upgrade of the dugouts as requested by the Blue Demons.
- Mr. Markham suggested the Plat of Survey be requested by the Mokena Library District of the land they wish to purchase or lease for additional parking that belong to District 159.

Some Board members requested this information that was being discussed regarding the Blue Demons and the Library land should had be given prior to the meeting. Mr. Stein is to move forward with the possible leasing of the land between the Mokena Library and District 159. The library is also looking for additional storage in one the school building; 10 x20 area. Mr. Stein will facilitate this request.

- Mr. Regan is requesting a single new flag pole installed at MES.

**SUPERINTENDENT TRANSITION** Mr. Ford requested the plans for transition of the new superintendent. Mr. Stein assured the BOE he would do his best to facilitate a smooth transition. He will provide a tentative plan in a Board brief.

#### **LINCOLN WAY SPECIAL EDUCATION MINUTES**

Mrs. Moore reported to the BOE:

- iCan Bike Camp is June 10-14; looking for volunteers
- Action on Bus leasing and Bus Purchase
- Awarding for Two Grants for a garden at the Transition House and iPad accessories for SELF and CD programs.
- District 122 agreed to expenses that occurred prior to the decision of leaving the Cooperative.

#### **ACTION REPORTS**

##### **TRANSPORTATION**

###### **Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to reduce fees to \$200 regardless of the student geographical location with a discount of 10% for each additional rider within the family with a maximum of \$680 to be charged to a single family. Mr. Spalla seconded the motion.

Much discussion regarding the transportation fee was held among the BOE. Mr. Troy and Mr. Stein answered questions.

###### **Amended Motion:**

Mr. Regan moved to charge \$185 per student for transportation fees for the 2013-2014 school year with a maximum cost of \$500 per family. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

###### **On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Markham, Mr. Regan

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

**MOTION FAILED 2-5**

###### **Roll Call Vote on Original motion:**

###### **On Roll Call**

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

Nays: Mr. Markham, Mr. Peters

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-2**

Mr. Markham changed his vote to "yes" with regrets. The first motion moved by Mrs. Moore passed 6-1.

**EARLY START FEE**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mr. Spalla move to set the Early Start Fee for the 2013-2014 school year at 10% less than the fee for 2012-2013 school year or \$607.50 per student. The motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini.

**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**

Mrs. Moore and Mr. Markham would like to have seen a 20% reduction.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD FEE**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mr. Ford moved to set the Early Childhood fees for the 2013-2014 school year at \$128 per student. 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**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30 pm Mr. Spalla moved to go to Closed Session for Purposes of Personnel reviewing the Superintendent position and student discipline. Pursuant of ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(9).The motion was seconded by Mr. Regan. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.



\_\_\_\_\_  
President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary