

**MINUTES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159 - BOARD OF EDUCATION
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
September 5, 2012**

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; Mike Rolinitis, Principal; Anna Kirchner, Principal; Judy Splayt, Asst. Principal; Eric Melnyczenko, Principal Mari Jo Hanson, Assist, Principal; Steve Hastings, Director of Technology, Ken Stanley: Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mary Louise Knoerzer, Board Secretary, Rebecca Rodey, Kim Rueth, Laurel McGowan, Toni Szostak, Caryn Hill, Megan Horsch, Debi Blank, Victoria Albon.

VISITORS: John Troy, John M. McGivney.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Markham led the Board of Education 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 7:00 pm on September 5, 2012.

COMMUNICATIONS

Public: None

MTA/PTA/MEF: None

Board of Education

- Mrs. Moore commented how great the Playscape looked after its cleaning and staining

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Stein reported:

- No FOIA's
- Congratulated Mr. Spalla on becoming a IASB Leadership Academy member
- Introduced principals to introduce new staff

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mrs. Kirchner presented her new staff to BOE

- BTS was a success; PTA ice cream social was well received; teachers did a great job
- Reading Benchmarking took place for grades K-3

- Rachel's Challenge assembly was held today

Mr. Melnyczenko presented hi new staff to BOE

- BTS night was successful; ice cream social was a big hit; great turn out
- Rachel's Challenge assembly was held today; meet with team afterwards

Mr. Rolinitis introduced his new staff to BOE

- BTS was very warm; AC was not working; thanked parents for staying!!
- Cross Country meet vs. Martino JH; tough competition; one of our runners came in 7th
- Poms tryouts took 20 of the 60 participants
- Girls' Basketball no tryouts- took all that signed up
- Symphonic Band auditions are tonight
- Rachel's Challenge assembly was intense
- Rachel's Challenge Assembly for adults and community leaders will be held September 6 MJH West gym at 7 pm.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Ford moved to approve minutes for Committee of the Whole August 1, 2012; seconded by Mr. Spalla. Mr. Peters sited corrections to open meetings August 1, 15, 23, 2012 minutes. Mr. Peters moved to approve the amended the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini. The Board was all in favor.

Mr. Spalla moved to approve the minutes as presented for Special meeting August 11, 2012; the motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini. The Board was all in favor. Mr. Regan abstained from this vote.

Mr. Spalla moved to approve the amended minutes as presented for Regular meeting August 15, 2012; the motion was seconded by Mr. Ford. The Board was all in favor.

Mr. Spalla moved to approve the amended minutes as presented for Special meeting August 23, 2012; the motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini. The Board was in favor.

Mr. Franceschini moved to approve minutes for Close session August 1, 2012; the motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla. The Board was all in favor. Mr. Regan abstained from the vote.

Mr. Spalla moved to approve the minutes as presented for Closed Session August 11, 15 and 23, 2012; the motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini. The Board was all in favor.

INFORMATION REPORTS

FINANCE: Student Activity Report- Mr. Stein presented the Student Activity reports for July.

Budget: Mr. Stein presented the preliminary budget with changes from last Board meeting. The funding of a new truck needed for the Building and Grounds department will need to put in as a line item not as a contingency item per the auditor.

Some additional questions were asked by the Board:

- Regarding the increase in the Tort fund on line E555
- The needed money for truck as a line item in budget will come from the decreased salary and benefits on line E276 assistant superintendent of business.
- Questions regarding the revenue stated in the transportation fees; needed more clarification on line R82.

Mr. Peters asked if the budget was sufficient; unforeseen expenditures such as roof and AC repair needs to be considered.

Mr. Markham thanked the administration for working hard on trying to maintain a tight budget; also thanked for working on pursuing the Maintenance grant for \$100, 000 if district spend \$50,000.

CURRICULUM: No report

PARENT ADVISORY/DISCIPLINE: The recommendation of the August 16 Committee meeting resulted in an addendum to the parent/student handbook regarding bullying and filing of a complaint form; presented as a first reading. Board of Education members discussed the bullets point; agreed to send back to Committee to review the on-line bully form; bring back as a first read at the September 19 Regular Board meeting. It also may need legal review.

POLICY

Mr. Stein presented the following policies for a first reading.

- 2:250-E2 Immediately Available Public Records and Web Posted Reports and Records
- 4:120 Food Service
- 6:235 Access To Electronic Network
- 7:220 AP Electronic Recordings on School Buses

Mr. Spalla asked if the District was able to measure that we are complying with these new policies.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION:

- Leasing options-Mr. Spalla and Mr. Ford began discussion with Mr. Romanek of the MPD regarding an Intergovernmental agreement with the Mokena Park District and green space and fields at MES/MIS. Points to consider in lease:
 1. Governing body to maintain the fields and take responsibility; currently district is liable
 2. who will manage and upgrade the fields
 3. will need legal review; proper language in agreement

Mr. Markham gave permission Mr. Ford and Mr. Spalla to proceed with discussions with Mr. Romanek of MPD. Hope to bring to September 19 Regular Board meeting for a first reading.

- Mr. Stein stated the 1996 Ford truck purchase from MPD for one dollar five years ago would need to be disposed of; Action is requested at next Board meeting.

TECHNOLOGY: no report

LINCOLN WAY SPECIAL EDUCATION MINUTES

Mrs. Moore presented:

- Opening day went well;
- 536 students road the bus vs. 487 students last year; looking for smaller buses and drivers
- Revisiting the use of Ipads for Board documents
- Joint Site and Long Range Planning met; discussed moving the administration and leaving students at Pioneer Grove

Mr. Stein presented to the BOE:

Mackay Center Life Safety report - District 843 provided to BOE the Life Safety report for the Mackay Center. Action is requested at next Board meeting.

Administrative Salary and Compensation Report - P.A. 96-0434 requires school districts to annually report and itemized salary compensation report. The business manager position will need to be filled in once a person has been hired. Action is requested at next Board meeting.

New Requirement for the FY 12 Annual Financial Report-According to Illinois School Code ILCS 5/17-1 1 was effective on January 1, 2012. This report includes Shared Services/Outsourcing. Action is requested at next Board meeting. Need to add gasoline purchased from Lincoln Way School District 210.

District Student Enrollment - 2012-2013 enrollment figures:

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Ave. Class Size</u>
ES/EC	73	3 a.m./3 p.m.	
Kindergarten	142	3 a.m./3 p.m.	
1 st Grade	152	6	25.3
2 nd Grade	154	6	25.6
3 rd Grade	184	7	26.3
4 th Grade	188	7	26.9
5 th Grade	181	7	25.9
6 th Grade	207		
7 th Grade	229		
8 th Grade	230		
Total	1740		

From the end of last year, May 2012 to the beginning of this school year, we have lost a total of 76 students. This is a 4.1% decrease in our enrollment. Enrollment has decreased. National trend is fewer births; decline is at 12%.MJH had 50 sections of more than 30 students in 2012. This year 2013 MJH has 34 sections for 30 or more students. Mrs. Paben at MJH has done a good job balancing the schedule.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Stein presented an update on transportation on: ridership, recruitment and license requirement as of August 27, 2012.The District will run ten 10 bus routes at each school. In addition, there are two (2) MJH band buses and four (4) kindergarten buses.

	Enrollment	2011-2012			Enrollment	2012-2013		
		Student Walkers	Bused Students	Bused Under 1.5 miles		Student Walkers	Bused Students	Bused Under 1.5 miles
MJH	691	279	412	17	660	189	451	24
MIS	404	120	276	21	370	79	285	18

MES	731	182	467	36	715	114	574	23
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As of August 27, 2012, the District has collected \$181,975 for transportation fees in cash, checks or charges. An additional \$33,075 will be collected through automatic debits beginning September 4, 2012 through May 1, 2013.

Concerns of administration:

- no sub drivers available as of yet
- sports runs to be considered
- 155 more student riding this year vs. last year
- CDL requirements needed for drivers take time; need school bus driver endorsement

Mr. Regan questioned the dollars amounts collected and the amount needed to be collected based on chart; approximately a \$58,000 discrepancy. Mr. Stein would research and provide an update.

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION JOB CHANGE

Mr. Stein presented to the BOE a resolution for an Honorable Dismissal and Reassignment of an Educational Support Personnel Employee-Director of Transportation. The Director of Transportation would go to part-time position effective October 8, 2012.

ACTION REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Recommended Motion:

Mr. Spalla moved to approve personnel recommendation 2 as presented, subject to successful background checks, drug screening and physicals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Franceschini.

2. Classified – New Hire

Vernon Umgelder	Part-time custodian	MJH	8/20/2012	228 days/yr	4 hrs/day
				\$10.15/hr	
Bob Mrozek	Part-time custodian	MJH	8/20/2012	228 days/yr	4 hrs/day
				\$10.15/hr	

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. Spalla moved to approve personnel recommendation 3 as presented; the motion seconded by Mr. Peters.

3. Classified- Leave of Absence

Rachel Aguirre	Bus Driver	District	8/20/2012
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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:

Mrs. Moore moved to approve personnel recommendation 5 as presented, subject to successful background checks, drug screening and physicals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

5.Classified – New Hire

Diana Aguayo Receptionist District 9/10/2012 174 days/yr 7.5 hrs/day
\$8.98/hr

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. Spalla moved to approve personnel recommendation 4 as presented; the motion seconded by Mr. Ford.

4. Transportation- Honorable Dismissal of Full-Time Classified Staff

Ron Kaczorowski Director of District 10/5/2012
Transportation

Public comment:

Mr. Rooney asked the BOE why they were changing the transportation director to a part-time position.

Mr. Markham said an analysis was done of job duties; could be redistributed to current bus drivers and custodians; District 159 has only ten routes compared to District 210 100 routes; making the same salary; new business manager could take over some of the re-assigned duties.

Mrs. Moore clarified it was 10 routes per buildings.

Mr. Peters questioned a change at this time with a new business manager soon to start; no sub drivers available with only ten bus drivers for ten routs in the District.

On Roll Call

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

MOTION CARRIED 4-2-1

Mr. Markham presented the next personnel action item, the hiring of Mr. John Troy as Business Manager for the District now that the Board of Education had filled the seventh seat.

Recommended Motion:

Mr. Ford moved to approve personnel recommendation 1 as presented; subject to successful background checks, drug screening and physicals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

1. Administrative - New Hire

John Troy Director of Business District 9/6/2012- \$68,000 annual salary,
Operations 6/30/2013 prorated

Board of Education comments:

Mr. Peters stated the district has had three business managers in the three years; candidates do not have school finance experience; the district deserves someone with experience in this position; go with an interim manager so district can search again in the Spring 2013.

Mrs. Moore stated the District needs someone strong in this role with experience in finance and accounting; as a certified business official.

Mr. Ford stated this is a one year contract; endorses Mr. Troy; looking forward to working with him.

Mr. Franceschini stated Mr. Troy has plenty of business experience; will make up for the lack of school experience.

Mr. Spalla agreed with Mrs. Moore; felt Mr. Troy was the better and stronger candidate.

Mr. Regan stated it was great he was local resident was a former School Board President.

Mr. Markham is pleased to recommended Mr. Troy as business manager for District 159. This candidate has experience with the district; knows the history of the District; aware of the Board goals; contract negotiations; no other candidate had this experience. His additional statement is attached.

On Roll Call

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

Nays: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters

Abstain: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-2-0

ADJOURMENT

At 9:55 pm Mr. Peters moved to adjourn to the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 5, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.



President



Secretary

Policy 2:220 Request my vote on Business Manager Candidate be recorded and following statement appended to it.

VOTE on John Troy:

I vote for the candidate for Business Manager (John Troy) as I asses him to be quite simply the best candidate. Some of the reasons for my decision are:

There are a full seven votes on this board; we waited until we seated the seventh. I feel confident the community was well represented in this important decision.

Candidate (John Troy) has a vested interest in the fiscal management of the community tax monies, the district monies as the candidate both lives in the Community and has a child in the school. Quite a unique balanced perspective. (This better balances the fact that nearly 75% of employees, managers etc, do NOT live in the district and share the burden of taxes imposed by the district.)

Candidate agreed to take nearly a \$20,000 cut in salary from the district last level of pay for Business Manager. (Further, it provides a \$32,000 relief in the 2013 proposed budget which earmarked \$100,000 in salary for this position)

Candidate has experience other applicants never had. Additionally, Candidate even has experience in negotiation of teacher contracts.

Candidate has an in depth knowledge of this districts needs, challenges and operation.

Candidate has proven history of fiscal responsibility. Familiar with the new board's approach to measure all spending against the impact (positive) relationship with the "students needs".

Candidate actually has more scholastic degrees than any other candidate.

Candidate is a fully certified Attorney.

The Superintendent and the board vetted 15 applicants.

Candidate performed well in his work (internship) at District 210, where Dr. Wyllie runs a very tight ship.

Further, we have been informed by the Accreditation official relating to "candidate" proficiency.

"Well done - good report and well presented - for assumptions used, calculations look good - Executive Summary and Summary & Conclusions sections should parallel each other - suggest bring-down some of your conclusions in the financial section to the summary - liked the court settlement - as you move toward an SBM (School Business Manager) position, it's good to know that others have done so ... I know at least a dozen SBMs who were school board members and then became SBMs" NIU Professor Dr. Don Johnson.

In addition there is a new trend and evidently concerted effort to adapt to a "new era" in school funding as it relates to taxation. Attached are examples of the newer path the School officials are implementing for good reason.

Signed



Patrick Markham President Board of Education Dist. 159