

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION- MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159  
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
August 11, 2011**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. John Troy – President	✓	
Mr. Joseph Spalla – Vice President	✓	
Mr. Frank Ventura – Secretary		✓
Mr. Michael Ford	✓	
Mr. Patrick Markham	✓	
Mrs. Katherine Moore	✓	
Mr. Scott Peters		✓

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chuck Vitton, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Mike Rolinitis, Steve Stein, Principal; Judy Splayt, Asst. Principal; Chris Clavenna, Asst. Principal; Ann Lewandowski, Director of Food Services, Ken Stanley, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Ron Kaczorowski, Director of Transportation; Steve Hastings, Director of Technology, Mary Louise Knoerzer, Board Secretary.

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Madeline Kral, Mark Franceschini, Chuck Lief, Bill Zoetvelt, Courtney Sullivan, Joel DeTella, John Izzo, Shana Goetz, Katie Nigro, Peggy Ryan, Tammy Vermeire, Mary Petrizzo, Patty Novak, Melissa Chevalier, Cathy Muehler, Sheryl Canning, Erin Menozzi, Debi Blank, Jim Schmidt, Andrea Espinosa, Pamela McGee, Stacey and Alaynna Farrak, Katherine Barr, Jim Dydo, John Fester, Toni Szostak, laurel McGowan, Kim Rueth, Joyce Siska, Gina Zoetvelt, Victoria Albon.

**PRESS**

Amanda Jacobs, Mokena Messenger; Ginger Brashinger, Southtown Star; Paul Darling, Mokena Patch

**OPENING AND ROLL CALL**

Mr. Troy called the Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Mokena Public School District 159 to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 11, 2011.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Vitton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Public** –Mr. Phelps, a parent, raised concerns regarding his daughters records; also asked the Board to solve their problems and put their egos aside; to move forward and lead the District.

**MTA**- none

**Board of Education** –Mr. Markham publically apologized for his interview and article in the “Patch” regarding his discussion that should have remained in Executive session.

Mrs. Moore stated that this behavior reflected badly on the Board of Education; Mr. Markham’s statement impacted not only the Board, but the administration, teachers and staff. We need to work as a team. Mr. Spalla agreed with Mrs. Moore statements. Mr. Troy agreed the comments were inappropriate; he accepted Mr. Markham’s apology.

Dr. Vitton welcomed and introduced Kirt Hendrick, Director of Business Operation and Steve Hastings, Director of Technology to the BOE and audience.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Approval of previous minutes was tabled until the next Regular board meeting. Board members had insufficient time to review prior to meeting.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### **Presentation of Law Firms**

- Scariana, Himes and Petrarca were represented by John Fester. Mr. Fester made a presentation to the Board.
- Sraga, Hauser, LLC were represented by John Izzo, Ray Hauser, Joel DeTella and Shana Goetz. All four partners made a presentation to the Board.

Questions were asked of and answered by both law firms.

#### **DISTRICT 843 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Dr. Sally Bintz reviewed the Lincoln Way Area Special Education District 843 2011-2012 Budget to the MPS 159 Board of Education. Dr. Bintz answered all questions.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Hendrick reviewed the Financial report with the Board of Education.

#### **TREASURER REPORT**

Mr. Hendrick reviewed the Treasurer's report with the Board of Education.

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

Mrs. Moore agreed all important points were covered in Dr. Bintz's budget presentation.

#### **PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Mr. Hendrick explained the process of the tentative budget. Dr. Vitton thanked Mr. Hendrick for all his time and effort in analyzing and working with the budget prior to him being approved by the Board the previous week at August 4, 2011 Special meeting. Mr. Hendrick answered questions to the best of his ability; offering to supply additional answers.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Finance-** Chairman Peters will schedule meeting(s) to review 2011-2012 tentative budget with the committee including new members, prior to September Board meeting.

- **Policy-First Readings**

- a. 2:20 BOE Meeting Procedures
- b. 2:30 Public Participation at BOE Meetings

Discussion among the Board regarding suggested changes and how to control the additional public participation. A process needs to be in place.

- **Building & Grounds/Transportation-** Chairman Ford scheduled the first meeting for August 25, 2011 at MIS.
- **Parent Advisory-** Chairman Spalla scheduled the next meeting for August 16, 2011. The 2011-2012 Parent Student Handbook changes have been made.
- **Curriculum –** Chairman Troy and Kathy Moore along w/Dr. Vitton will determine the scope, parameters for this committee.
- **Technology-** Chairman Spalla scheduled the first meeting for September 20, 2011; considering taping Board meetings; the 2011-2012 budget in relation to tech dept.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Troy read the statement below to explain the reorganization for Mokena School District 159:

Effective August 11, 2011, District 159 hired Mr. Steve Stein as interim-superintendent and promoted Mrs. Chris Clavenna to principal of Mokena Elementary School. These changes come as former superintendent Karen Perry submitted her intent to not seek a renewal of her contract which will expire on June 30, 2012. During the current school year, Mrs. Perry will serve as assistant to the superintendent.

With the knowledge that this would be Mrs. Perry's final year with District 159, and in order to facilitate the district's transition to a future district and building administrative team, the Board of Education decided to move forward with personnel transitions for the 2011-2012 school year.

Assistant to the Superintendent job description was included.

### **ACTION REQUESTS**

#### **PERSONNEL**

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

Mr. Markham moved to approve the reassignment of Mrs. Perry to assistant to the superintendent effective August 11, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

##### **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

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

Mr. Markham made the motion to appoint Mr. Steve Stein to interim superintendent effective August 12, 2011; to appoint Mrs. Chris Clavenna as principal of Mokena Elementary School for 2011-2012 school year. Both of their salaries will be based on the negotiated contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

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

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

Nays:

Abstain: None

##### **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

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

Mrs. Moore made the motion to reinstate the sub caller, to be determined for \$5, 456/year for 2011-2012 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

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

Ayes: Mr. Ford, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Spalla, Mr. Troy

Nays: Mr. Markham

Abstain: None

##### **MOTION CARRIED 4-1**

#### **4. Classified– New Hire**

Bartos, Michael	Bus Driver	District	August 22, 2011	4.25 hrs/day \$13.89/hr
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#### **5. Classified– Additional Hours**

Collins, Kim	Bus Driver	District	August 22, 2011	Increase hours from 4.0 to 4.25 hrs/day
Kupiec, Laura	Bus Driver	District	August 22, 2011	Increase hours from 4.0 to 4.25 hrs/day
Shaffern, Helen	Bus Driver	District	August 22, 2011	Increase hours from 4.0 to 4.25 hrs/day

#### **6. Classified– Resignation**

Varriale, Sherry	Assist. Cook	District	August 4, 2011	
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##### **Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to approve personnel recommendations 4,5 and 6, as presented, subject to successful background check, drug screening (if applicable) and physical. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

Mrs. Moore motioned to table accepting the resignation of Leanne Lavery, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher due to contract issue. The Board gave Mr. Stein the authority to post the position before school starts.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REASSIGNMENT AND JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore move to approve the job description of assistant to the superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore move to approve the job reassignment of Mrs. Perry to assistant to the superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Markham.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**DISTRICT BILLS**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mr. Markham reviewed District bills this month. Mr. Markham moved to approve the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

The Board requested to review the entire bills list each month.

**FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET**

The Board approved by majority the 2011-2012 Special Education budget.

**APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to approve the recommendation to appoint Kirt. A. Hendrick to serve as District 159's treasurer for a term beginning August 11, 2011 and concluding June 30, 2012 and approve the notice and resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**DATE CHANGE FOR SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to change the Regular September Board meeting from Thursday September 8, 2011 to Wednesday, September 14, 2011 for a Public Hearing and meeting of Board to adopt the final budget. Mr. Spalla seconded the motion.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved that the Board of Education approve the Tentative Budget for the 2011-2012 school year and approve the Public Hearing on the Budget for Wednesday, September 14, 2011, as required by State Statute. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spalla.

**On Roll Call**

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2011 AGENDA**

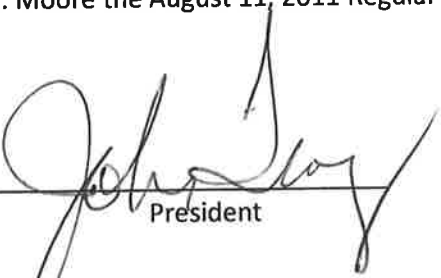
- Public Hearing 2011-2012 Budget; and Approval
- Previous Minutes Approval
- Enrollment , Bussing and Technology update
- Policy Approval


**GOOD OF MOKENA**

- Mr. Markham thanked Mr. Romanek, Mr. Warner and Mr. Bagdan for their offer to provide their services to help with various extra-curriculars.
- Mrs. Moore asked the new Board members about the July Board Training workshop; Mr. Ford and Mr. Spalla stated it was very informative; new ideas that may be incorporated in our district. Mrs. Moore encouraged all Board members to attend the IASB November Training in Chicago.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:36 p.m. Mr. Ford moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Moore the August 11, 2011 Regular meeting. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

  
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President

  
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Secretary