

**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159 - BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
December 18, 2013**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mrs. Danielle Didrickson- President	✓	
Mr. Jim Andresen- Vice President	✓	
Mrs. Anna Briscoe- Secretary	✓	
Mrs. Stacy Cesta	✓	
Mr. Aaron Janik		✓
Mr. Patrick Markham	✓	
Mr. Joseph Spalla	✓	

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Omar Castillo, Superintendent; Kathleen Wilkey, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Eileen Parente, Director of Student Services, John Troy, Director of Business Operations & Transportation; Mike Rolinitis, Principal; Judy Splayt, Assistant Principal; Steve Hastings, Director of Technology, Mary Louise Knoerzer, Board Secretary, Cathy Lark, Debi Blank and Katherine Barr.

**VISITORS:** Mickie Brunner, Tom Briscoe, Kristin Vargas, Madeline and Bob Kral, Alicia and Michael Meyer and Brandon Wilson.

**PRESS:** Sarah Janssen: Mokena Messenger; Benjamin Feldheim; Mokena Patch

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Didrickson, the Board of Education, Administration and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Didrickson called for roll call prior to 2013 Tax Levy Hearing.

**TAX LEVY HEARING**

At 7:01 pm Mrs. Didrickson declared the 2013 tax Levy Hearing opened.

No public comments.

Mr. Andresen moved that the Board of Education close 2013 Tax Levy Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Briscoe.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

At 7:03 pm Mrs. Didrickson called the December 18, 2013 Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Mokena Public School District 159 to order.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**PUBLIC:** Mrs. Brunner, addressed the BOE and administration regarding the allergy program in place in the district the BOE and procedures regarding the Epi-NOW program the approved snack list and procedures for compliance.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** Mrs. Didrickson thanked Mrs. Brunner and asked for her participation in the Severe Allergy Parent Group. Her concerns would be addressed.

Mr. Andresen announced the Mokena Lions will be hosting "Reptile Rampage" at VFW Hall on January 2, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASE:** Mrs. Lark introduced her first grade class; they presented via the interactive projector a class project on animals. The students were very excited and please to present their project.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr. Spalla moved to approve minutes for the Regular and Closed Session Meeting November 20, 2013; seconded by Mrs. Cesta. Board was unanimous.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Castillo updated the BOE:

- Teacher contract negotiations schedule
- Annual Conference of Culturally Diverse Students

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mrs. Wilkey presented to the BOE:

- A need to create a Library Technical Assistant; included a job description

Questions were asked and answered for the BOE

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**

Mrs. Parente updated the BOE on:

- Health Coordinator Meetings
- Networking with the Director of Silver Cross Hospital to provided professional development for staff, students parents and community

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS & TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Troy updated the BOE on:

- Pension Reform with Illinois Legislature.
- Bus Drivers have CPR refresher course that evening with Mokena Fire Department

**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY**

- Interactive Projectors installation completed except for two
- In the process of working with Mrs. Sorely and the district E-Rate filing

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Splayt reported on behalf of MES to BOE:

- Leadership team met and reviewed SIP goals.
- Principal of the Day – Lisabella Dimitrijevic did a wonderful job
- KISS event w/first grade was this week
- 1<sup>st</sup> bus Behavior celebration event took place this week

Mr. Melnychenko reported on behalf of MIS to BOE:

- Fourth Grade Shedd Aquarium field trip this week
- Fifth Grade Talent show participants have been chosen
- DARE graduation December 10 at 1:15 pm with Officer Mc Vickers

Mr. Rolinitis reported on behalf of MJH to BOE:

- Principal of the day was Noah Ivicic- enjoyed his temporary role
- MJH NHS sponsored Candy Cane swap
- Working with LW East for 8<sup>th</sup> grade student placement
- Band concerts 12/20 8:30 and 9:15 am invited all to attend
- Reviewing the concept of banning backpacks at MJHS

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Troy reviewed the Financial Report with the BOE. The revenue for the month in all funds was \$190,052 or 1% of budget. The expenditures for the month in all funds were \$3,969,105 or 20.1%.

**TREASURER REPORT**

Mr. Troy reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the BOE reporting an ending balance of \$12,711,998.05.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALLERGY PROCEDURES**

Dr. Castillo updated the BOE on proactive procedures in place through-out the district to strengthen the safety of students and staff with food allergies. We will work the Parent Advisory Committee to review procedures and improvements.

**FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN**

Mrs. Wilkey and Mr. Troy provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation to the BOE and community in regards to reinstating full day kindergarten beginning Fall of 2014.

**Focus Study Focus Areas:**

**Current Research-** CCSS, KIDS, Internal Data, LW area schools

**Staffing**

**Budget-** staffing, transportation, classroom furniture and supplies, teaching materials

Mrs. Didrickson thanked Mr. Troy and Mrs. Wilkey on behalf of the BOE for a very thorough and detailed report. Also thanked the kindergarten teachers for their insight.

**TRIPLE I CONFERENCE**

Dr. Castillo commented this is a great local event to provide professional development to Board members and appropriate district personnel. Great amount of information was provided within a limited space and time. Training workshops were available for all Board members. All attendees thoght this was a great opportunity.

At 9:10pm Mrs. Didrickson moved to have a ten minutes recess.

At 9:26pm Open Session resumed.

**ELECTRONIC BOARD PACKETS**

Mrs. Knoerzer and Mrs. Briscoe and Dr. Castillo reviewed with the BOE the research of the Electronic Board packet programs; to streamline the preparation, distribution and publishing of the board packets. The recommendation by the subcommittee is BoardBook also endorsed by IASB.

**LINCOLN WAY ARE SPECIAL EDUCAITON MINUTES**

Mrs. Cesta reported to the BOE:

- Policy Advisory Committee will be meeting regarding future withdrawal procedures
- Joint Board meeting rescheduled for 2/24/14 at 6:30pm Pioneer Grove
- LWAS 843 is grateful to MPS 159 for allowing MJHS building to host extended summer program
- Other districts are touring the Transition House
- District 843 hosted Santa- children and parents appreciated the opportunity

**ACTION REQUSTS**

**DISTRICT BILLS**

**Recommended Motion:**

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

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**PERSONNEL**

Mr. Spalla moved to approved Personnel item 1-3 as presented; subject to successful background check, drug screening (if applicable) and physical; seconded by Mr. Markham.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla  
Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**1. Classified – New Hire**

Darlene Cain Sub Food Server District 11/20/2013 \$9.00/hr when needed

**2. Classified – Resignation**

Lory Stone Custodian District 12/31/2013

Sunyoo Ku Food Server 11/22/2013

**3. Certified - Medical Leave of Absence**

Andrea Kinsella-Lacny Teacher MES 1/6/2014 for remaining of 2013-14

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Spalla moved to approve consent agenda items 1-2, seconded by Mrs. Briscoe as presented.

The following consented agenda items were approved as follows:

1. Job Description–Lead supervising bus driver
2. Acceptance of Epi-Pen NOW

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

**Recommend Motion:**

Mr. Spalla moved to award the bid for workers' compensation insurance to the low bidder, Mesirow Financial / IPRF, in the amount of \$60,517 dollars. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cesta.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**TRUTH IN TAXATION CERTIFICATION**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Briscoe moved the District is in compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act so I move that this Board of Education Authorize the President to sign the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act for the 2013 Levy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andresen.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Markham, Mr. Spalla

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**LEVY APPROVAL**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mr. Spalla moved that the Board adopts a certificate of tax levy resolution for the 2013 levy in the amounts of: Education Fund \$10,640,000; Building Operations & Maintenance Fund \$1,200,000; Transportation Fund \$440,000; Working Cash Fund \$65,000; Municipal Retirement Fund \$300,000; Social Security Fund \$300,000; Tort Immunity Fund \$120,000; Special Education Fund \$425,000..... As Presented in the 2013 Certificate of Tax Levy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Briscoe.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mrs. Cesta, Mrs. Didrickson, Mr. Spalla

Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

Mr. Markham voted "Present".

**ITEMS FOR JANUARY MEETING**

- Tentative 2014-2015 School Calendar
- Electronic Board packet program
- Full Day Kindergarten vote
- Update on new printer program
- Board Self Evaluation

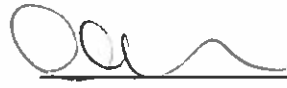
**GOOD OF MOKENA**

- Holiday Concert at MJH 12/20 9:15 am
- Thank you from the BOE to Mrs. Lark's 1st graders for the wonderful presentation
- Thank you to the administrative team for the detailed Kindergarten presentation

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:55pm Mr. Spalla moved to adjourn the Regular December 18, 2013 meeting to go to Closed session for purposes relating to Collective negotiations and Leasing of Property; Pursuant of ILCS 5 120/2 (c)(2)(5); to return. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Briscoe. The Board was all in favor.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Mary Louise Knoerzer, Executive Secretary

  
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President

  
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Secretary

