

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MOKENA SCHOOL DISTRICT 159  
MOKENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
February 9, 2011**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Mr. Tim King – President	✓	
Mrs. Katherine Moore – Vice President	✓	
Mr. Scott Peters – Secretary	✓	
Mr. Tony Bruozas		✓
Mrs. Denise Falbo	✓	
Mr. John Troy	✓	
Mr. Frank Ventura	✓	Arrived at 7:02 p.m.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen Perry, Superintendent; Chuck Vitton, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Ellen Belotti, Student Services Director; Barbara Germany, Business Manager; Michael Krugman, Principal; Mike Rolinitis, Principal; Steve Stein, Principal; Patti Bogdan, Asst. Principal; Judy Splayt, Asst. Principal; Chris Clavenna, Asst. Principal; Ryan Adkins, Technology Administrator, Ann Lewandowski, Director of Food Services, Ken Stanley, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mary Louise Knoerzer, Board Secretary.

**VISITORS PRESENT**

Drew Haverstock, Jessica Maffia, Karen Pollak Meredith Toosley ; Dawn Oler, Dick Flesher, Bob and Madeline Kral, Joyce Siska, Lora Grabowski, Pam Widule, Toni Szostak; Beth McGrath, Ginger Brashinger, Katie Nigro, Shana Goetz, Erin Menozzi, Tar McKenna, Joe spalla, Jen Gorman, Kim Rueth, Laurel McGowan, Stacy Cesta, Laura Lynch, Silvia Gonzales, Jennifer Thomas, Mike Ford, Judy Kuypers, Jennifer Hartmann, Donna Dockus, Kate Wojtelewicz, Karrie Bieker, Carrie Zakula, Mark Franceschini, Gina Blazek, Suzanne Gillund, Amy Andricopulos, Jill Moran, Dorelle, Ackermann, Tammy Vermeire, Jack McDermott, Laura Dubois, Rosalie Leitelt, Holly Pignotti, Mary and Brian Cummins, Bob Huscher, Anna Briscoe, Patty DiFiore, Ina Phelps, Georganne Farrell, Laurie Fleischer

**PRESS**

Amanda Jacobs, Mokena Messenger; Caroline Evans, Patch.com; Ginger Brashinger; Southtown Star.

**OPENING AND ROLL CALL**

Mr. King called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Mokena Public School District 159 to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 9, 2011.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Splayt along with recipients of Random Acts of Kindness: Isaac Wynsma, Jamie Widule, Luis Valdez, and Hannah O'Dell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMMENDED AGENDA**

Mr. Toy made a motion to add a Closed Session to the agenda, for purposes of personnel, litigation and leasing; prior to Information Reports to return to the Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moore.

### **On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mrs. Falbo, Mr. King, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Troy  
Nays: Mr. Ventura Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5-1**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **MTA:** Joyce Siska, MTA president, asked the Board to speak loudly so all in the room could hear the proceedings of the meeting.
- *Stacy Cesta*, a resident spoke to the Board regarding the teacher's negotiation freeze.
- *Jennifer Gorman*, school psychologist for the District for 4 years, spoke on behalf of retaining the Rtl coordinator.
- *Laura Lynch* employee of the District for 17 years, spoke on behalf of retaining the learning center coordinators for various reasons.
- *Drew Haverstock* a resident, spoke of the failure of not closing MIS; concerned with the large class sizes and passage of the referendum.
- *Meredith Toosley*, a resident, urged the Board to be united on the difficult decisions that must be made.
- *Beth McGrath* an employee of the District, spoke on behalf the administration at MES as a close knit family that has made great accomplishments.
- **Superintendent Report:** Mrs. Perry thanked the maintenance department for the great job they did in clearing the snow and the community for being so understanding with the obstacles the snow caused.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mrs. Falbo moved, seconded by Mr. Troy to approve the following meeting minutes:

Regular Meeting –January 11, 2011

Closed Session – January 26, 2011

Special Meeting –January 31, 2011 (as corrected)

### **On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mrs. Falbo, Mr. King, Mrs. Moore Mr. Peters, Mr. Troy, Mr. Ventura  
Nays: None Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:42 p.m. Mr. Troy made a motion to go into Closed Session, for purposes of personnel, litigation and leasing; prior to Information Reports to return to the Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Falbo. Closed Session was opened by unanimous vote.

### **OPEN SESSION**

At 8:40 p.m. Mr. King motion to call Open Session to Order. Meeting opened by unanimous vote.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The revenue for the month of January, in all funds, was \$203,732 which represents 1% of the total annual revenue budget. Last year at this time we received \$620,562 in January 2010. The decrease from last year is attributable to receiving State categorical payments in 2010. We have received only \$750 in categorical revenue for the 2010-11 school year. The expenditures for the month, in all funds, were \$1,333,241 or 6% of budget. Last year the expenses for the month of January were \$1,392,882.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Ms. Germany reviewed the Treasurer's report with the Board of Education.

### **STUDENT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Ms. Germany reviewed the Student Activity Report with the Board of Education.

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

Mrs. Moore reported the following:

- Dedication of Transition House is April 9, 2011
- Most furniture was donated; District #843 presented a TV to the House.
- Students will begin arriving in April.
- LW Foundation will host a fundraiser April 2, 2011- Fashion and Variety Show with students and families of LWASE District 843.
- Looking for donated items from the area schools for silent auction for this fundraiser.
- Superintendent's evaluation was completed. The Board President will present to Dr. Bintz.
- Raised fees 10% for out-of-district students.

### **TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**

Mrs. Germany reviewed the Tuition Reimbursement report with the Board of Education.

### **FEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011-12**

Mrs. Germany presented proposed fee increases for lunch and registration for 2011-2012. Recommendation: Lunch prices increase 50 cents; Registration fees increase 20 percent.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS IF REFERENDUM PASSES**

Mrs. Perry presented the recommendations by the Administrative Team if the April Referendum passes.

1. Educational Programming
  - a. Return class sizes to where they are this year – move toward additional class size reductions in the future.
  - b. Reinstate Full Day Kindergarten
  - c. Reinstate Early Start Program (if eliminated)
2. Reduce or eliminate transportation fees implemented in January for the 2011-2012 school year
3. Reinstate Rtl coordinator position
4. Reinstate Extracurricular Activities
5. Reinstate 12 month secretaries from 11 months
6. Reinstate Assistant Principal Position
7. Reinstate Learning Center Coordinators
8. Reinstate Volunteer Coordinator

### **REDUCTION IN FORCE**

Mrs. Perry presented a preliminary list of potential teachers to be RIF'd for the 2011-2012 year based on a number of assumptions and three different scenarios.

Caryn Hill (K – 9)

Lori Meehan (K – 9)

Joey Horn (PE)

Rebecca Rodey (Music)

Leanne Lavery (PE, K – 9)

Melissa Chevalier (K – 9, LA)

Don Shaughnessy (K – 9, Math, SS)

Tiffany Davis (K – 9)  
Erin Darling (K – 9, SS)  
Meghan Darnell (K – 9)

The proposal is to release 6 or 7 of these teachers. The decisions as to which teachers will be RIF'd are based on the Board's decision with regard to PE, Music and Early Start.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS FOR 2011-2012**

Mrs. Perry presented the recommendations for Budget Reductions for 2011-2012.

- Elimination of Assistant Principal position
- Elimination of Extracurricular Activities with the exception of: Kids Connection; Kids Connection Coordinator at MES and MJHS; Student Support Team (SST) Coordinator; PASS for math.
- Reduction in Force – certified personnel – refer to above
- Increase to Registration and Lunch Fees – Increase in revenue of approximately \$120,000.00
- Elimination of Learning Center Aides \$60,680.00 in savings
- Elimination of Computer Aides - \$27,815.00 in savings
- Elimination of Rtl Coordinator - \$67,338.89 in savings
- 2- 12 month secretary reduced to 10 months (203 days) \$12,025.58 in savings or
- 2- 12 month secretary reduced to 11 months (223 days) \$7,806.08 in savings
- Elimination of Sub Caller – \$5,456.00 in savings
- Elimination of Volunteer Coordinator (newly added to three-year deficit reduction plan) \$27,128.00 in savings
- Elimination of Nurse position at MIS – \$40,711 in savings

**BOARD POLICY 2:160**

Mr. Ventura presented the first reading of Board Policy 2:160.

**ACTION REQUESTS**

Mrs. Falbo reviewed District bills this month. Mrs. Falbo move to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mrs. Falbo, Mr. King, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Troy, Mr. Ventura

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**PERSONNEL**

**A. Classified – Termination**

Erazo, Jeanette	Bus Driver	2/3/2011
Pollak-Hohl, Lisa	Bus Driver	2/3/2011

**B. Classified – Leave of Absence Request**

Stone, Lory	Custodian	MIS	1/28/2011 -	Unpaid Medical LOA
				To return upon dr.'s release

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to approve personnel recommendations A and B as presented, seconded by Mr. Troy.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mrs. Falbo, Mr. King, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Troy, Mr. Ventura

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Moore moved to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar as presented, seconded by Mr. Troy.

**On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mrs. Falbo Mr. King, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Peters, Mr. Troy, Mr. Ventura

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO ACTION REQUESTS**

No questions.

**ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2011 AGENDA**

- Policy Approval
- Approval of Reduction in Force
- Approval of Recommendations if Referendum passes
- Approval of Recommendations for Budget Reductions

**GOOD OF MOKENA**

- Rachel's Challenge – February 16, 2011 Mokena Junior High; 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Troy clarified his statement from the last Board meeting explaining our job as Board members is to continue to provide a quality education to our children regardless of financial woes at this present time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:20 p.m. Mrs. Moore moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Troy the February 9, 2011 meeting.  
Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

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President



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Secretary