

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 70
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD AT PARK VIEW SCHOOL**

March 11, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mark Thannert
George Karagozian
Wayne Youkhana
Leah Kintner
Lori Eslick
Aneta Greiner
Paul McGivern

Also present were Vicki Goldberg, Carol Trail, Chrissy Botten, Liz Frake, Alyssa Fullerton, Kelli Murphy, Sharon Goldstein, Teachers; Alana McCloskey, Admin Assistant; Laura Dounis, Parent, Staff Member, and Resident of District 70; Suzanne Schwartz, Kimmy and Paul Yaras, Anne Roiniotis, Residents of District 70; Jennifer Kiedaisch, Assistant Principal; Ivy Sukenik, Principal; Brian Galuski, Technology Director; Stephanie Evans, Director of Student Services; Phil Collins, Superintendent; and Erin O'Connor, Board Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience

***To
Visitors***

Paul Yaras, Resident and Parent – He expressed that he was surprised to see the emotions coming from the Board. He mentioned that he appreciates what the Board is doing but wants them to understand that people have their opinions and feelings and should be able to express them without being criticized.

***Informational
Items***

2016-17

Staffing Plan Member McGivern stated that the Board is in charge of the spending for the District, and he would like the audience to understand that it is the responsibility of the Board to ask questions and get additional information in order to make an educated decision, which is why the Board decided to

call a Special Meeting. He also mentioned that the Board is not anti-coach, and no members of the Board want to get rid of the coaches.

The Board discussed each of the new positions being recommended by Admin for the 2016-2017 school year.

0.5 FTE certified and 0.5 FTE paraprofessional for a second section of Blended Preschool

The Board asked questions about the need for this position currently and in the future.

Admin responded that there would still be 23 students on the waiting list this year for Blended Preschool even after the second section is approved. Admin also mentioned that it is hard to tell exactly what other years will look like and if the additional staff will continue to be necessary.

1.0 FTE School Psychologist

The Board asked if the 1.0 FTE is necessary for this position and if they could get by with a 0.5 FTE.

Admin responded that when polling other Districts in the Township they found that there is approximately 1 Psychologist to every 600 students, but Park View has 1 Psychologist for approximately 900 students. Admin also stated that with only one Psychologist the tiered levels of support for RTI aren't being built. Currently, the Principal and Assistant Principal have to take over this role. A full-time Psychologist would be able to build the tiers of support and make sure that social emotional curriculum is being implemented.

The Board asked what the current Psychologist is responsible for.

Admin responded that the current Psychologist is focused on special education, because she doesn't have enough time to help with the general education tiers of support. Admin also stated that their plan of building capacity and bringing special education students back would require a lot of additional responsibilities for the Psychologist. They would be hesitant to bring students back without being able to offer them all of the necessary resources to make them successful.

The Board asked if it is possible to start with a 0.5 FTE Psychologist and then move to a 1.0 FTE if necessary as the year goes on.

Admin responded that there is typically a certain pool of candidates that only work part-time and might not be interested in moving to full-time mid-year.

The Board stated that they understand the need to build capacity but want to make sure the plan is reasonable.

Admin responded that they wouldn't be proposing this plan to build capacity if they didn't think it was reasonable. They stated that it is much more beneficial to have the proactive plans in place in order to do what is best for the students. Admin also stated that there are two pieces to this request for an additional Psychologist. The first piece is that a Psychologist is needed to do the things that need to be done for the students that are in the building currently. Teachers are advocating for the students in the Tier II meetings, but the Psychologist is maxed out and unable to help. The second piece is that the Psychologist is needed for building the capacity for the special education program.

0.15 Increase for larger group of students moving into 6th grade

Admin mentioned that they did not include this position on their priority list because they don't want 30+ students in each class. They don't believe this group of students should have to suffer just because they are a bigger group. Admin stated that they have decided to add coding as a 5th class to be added to the encore rotation for 6th grade in 2016-2017.

The Board asked about the challenge of hiring a 0.15 FTE position.

Admin stated that they will most likely use a current staff member that is part-time and interested in adding onto their schedule to fill this position.

1.0 FTE Kindergarten Paraprofessional

Admin announced that they have removed this position from their recommendation at the March Board Meeting.

1.0 FTE Math Interventionist

The Board asked if this position will be working with the teachers or the students.

Admin responded that this position will be working with the students. It will be the math equivalent of the Reading Specialist.

The Board asked if the Reading Specialists are busy all day and if there has been an increase in reading test scores because of the Reading Specialists.

Admin responded that the Reading Specialists have very busy schedules. They stated that more students have been exited back to gen ed, which is a sign of a successful program.

The Board asked if a 0.5 FTE Math Interventionist would work.

Admin responded that one idea they can look at is adding a 0.45 FTE Math Interventionist to the current open 0.55 FTE PEP math position. That would provide the opportunity to hire a full-time math teacher, which would be a more marketable position. They stated that the compromise would be that they would need to lower the bar for which students would be eligible for the additional math assistance.

The Board mentioned that there needs to be more creativity in teaching students. There should be better use of the technology and reaching out to parents for help.

Admin responded the technology is being used in very creative ways. They stated that the students who need the help of a Math Interventionist are the most at risk kids and need adult support at school.

***Audience
To Visitors***

Paul Yaras, Resident and Parent – He shared that his son is in the RTI program and his test scores have gone up exponentially. He stated that it is a phenomenal program that does work.

Vicki Goldberg, Teacher – She shared that the Reading Specialists are very busy. She has seen an amazing amount of growth in the students, and there are no students in Tier III from Kindergarten and 1st grade because of the help they are receiving.

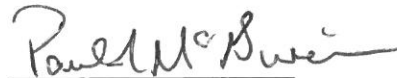
Kimmy Yaras, Resident and Parent – She asked the Board to consider coming to a PTO meeting in April or May so that they can connect the two organizations.

***Move to
Closed
Session***


At 8:11 p.m. a motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Kintner to move to a closed session for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Karagozin, Youkhana, Eslick, Kintner, Greiner and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

Approved by:



President



Secretary

