

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

**September 21, 2015**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Also present were Eric Poders, MGV; Barbara Saks, Liz Frake, Jen Drozd-Nolan, Mindy Debes, Justine Reich, Corrie Cogan, Vicki Goldberg, Margaret Reynolds, Teachers; Kim Stegich, Staff Member, Parent and Resident; Jenny Montgomery, Tom Werth, Magda Fong, Grant Gilbert, Suzanne Schwartz, Pat Eslick, Kim Moldofsky, Laura Gripman, Peggy Leib, Stephanie Youkhana, Diana Johnston, Alissa McGowan, Lynn Appleton, Katia Aghdassi, Darcy Bloom, Lorri Fishman, Niko Baxevanakis, Kevin Lochner, Tony Stegich, Tony Hofeld, Kimmy and Paul Yaras, Pete and Janine Witko, Parents and/or Residents of District 70; Brenda Glenn, Morton Grove Library; Anthony Ruelli, Payroll Coordinator; Alana McCloskey, Admin Assistant; Brian Galuski, Technology Director; Stephanie Evans, Director of Student Services; Ivy Sukenik, Principal; Jennifer Kiedaisch, Assistant Principal; Phil Collins, Superintendent; and Erin O'Connor, Board Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance.

***Audience  
To  
Visitors***

Rich Linke, Resident – He stated that it is important to support the Board because it is a volunteer position. Also stated that he has hired many people and some are a good fit and some are not. He mentioned that he has nothing against the current administration, but he doesn't see the school going in a positive direction.

Brenda Glenn, Morton Grove Public Library – She shared that there has been excellent participation in the summer reading program, but they are seeing drops in the upper lever grades (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade specifically). She plans to reach out to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers across the community about a better partnership. She shared that they completed an incredible remodel of the library. The meeting rooms are always full and they have a new media lab that is available for teen projects. They also have a new teen space that is always full. She also shared that she loves Deb Handler, the new Informational Literacy Specialist, and mentioned that the transition from Kate to Deb has been smooth.

Laura Gripman, Resident and Parent – She requested more transparency about resignations and why there are so many turnovers. She recommended that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party committee be hired to conduct exit interviews.

Suzanne Schwartz, Resident and Parent – She expressed that she is very happy with the education her sons are receiving at Park View. She believes it is odd for a Superintendent to resign at the beginning of the year and questioned if it was the choice of Dr. Collins to leave Park View. She stated that she was moved by the letter read at the last board meeting by the teachers and feels that the staff knows Dr. Collins better than anyone since they work with him on a daily basis. She would like transparency on the reason behind the resignation of Dr. Collins.

Darcy Bloom, Resident and Parent - She stated that she met with Dr. Collins to talk about his resignation and was told that there is a big difference between wanting to leave and thinking that leaving is the right thing to do in a situation. She stated that prior to Dr. Collins there was no consistency and it showed. She stated that members of the Board entered into a contract with a search firm 2 months before Phil's resignation. She stated that the Board denied her request for a special meeting and she feels like her opinions don't matter.

Kimmy Yaras, Resident and Parent – She brought forward a few questions to the Boards' attention:

- Was Dr. Collins offered a contract for 2016-2017 and beyond?
- What goals did Dr. Collins not meet?
- What are you looking for in a Superintendent that Dr. Collins does not have?
- Do the results of the survey fairly measure hard work and dedication?
- Were decisions made based on decision or facts?

Mindy Debes, Teacher – She stated that Dr. Collins met the goals that were included in the strategic plan and even went above and beyond with his own vision. She stated that Dr. Collins introduced Park View to Professional Learning Communities. She expressed that Dr. Collins shifts the focus away from making sure students are taught to making sure students learn.

Chris Kennelly, Teacher – He stated that Park View did not have a framework for each grade level, so change needed to happen. He stated that the work that was put into the curriculum under the leadership of Dr. Collins and the admin team will allow the school to swiftly assess and coordinate plans for students who need additional instruction.

Jen Drozd-Nolan, Teacher – She stated that the staff are working efficiently and collaborating. She stated that they are focused on defining what students know and are able to do and how they can meet goals. She stated that Dr. Collins led the way with Park View into the digital age and provided support to the students and teachers along the way. She mentioned that his greatest advancement is his ability to identify what Park View needs and help select highly qualified personnel.

Paul Yaras, Resident and Parent – He stated that as a parent he is bothered by the possibility of losing Dr. Collins and other administrators. He stated that the decision is not just about Dr. Collins. He stated that each member of the Board is an individual with equal rights and can choose to respond to the audience. He mentioned that this would show parents that their voices do matter.

Margaret Reynolds, Teacher – She stated that she feels there is a division in the community over the resignation of Dr. Collins. She stated that it is taking a toll on the School Board members. She mentioned that she has been attending the meetings for the past two years and has witnessed the School Board decision process first hand. She stated that the School Board sought information through community surveys. She also stated that the School Board has confidential information that is kept private for the protection of the staff. She requested that everyone have a growth mindset so we can move forward.

Tony Hofeld, Resident – He thanked and offered his support for the Board. He mentioned that it is a thankless job with no monetary compensation. He shared that Board members have to spend time at meetings and time outside of meetings that they could be spending with their families and friends. He stated that they are responsible for reviewing and adopting policies, monitoring district performance, managing Superintendent performance, hiring decisions, and making sure the District has excellent facilities. He mentioned that he is thankful for the members of the Board who are serving so that he doesn't have to. He stated that the Board has his unwavering support.

Tony Stegich, Resident and Parent – He stated that he would have a trust theme to his comments. He mentioned that when a 7-0 vote is taken the public needs to trust the board that they have reviewed all the information available to them. He encouraged the audience to look at the history of the decisions made by the Board and realize that the Board has earned and deserve trust. He stated that good questions were asked tonight, but action was taken months ago, so people should start asking how they can help in being involved with moving the school forward. He stated that it is time for the next great Superintendent. He concluded that everything mentioned tonight was faithfully implemented by the strategic plan that was put together by the Board.

Lorri Fishman, Resident and Parent – She stated that the simple statement of supporting the Board isn't so simple. She expressed that the audience needs to put trust in the Board during the election process and stand by them.

Jenny Montgomery, Resident and Parent – She expressed concern that it is frustrating and alienating that Dr. Collins has chosen to share facts with certain parents and not others. She stated that she was on the team for Superintendent and Principal interviews, and every candidate was told the most important quality of Park View is the strong community closeness and cohesiveness, which is now in jeopardy. She stated that it is parent against parent, teacher against teacher, and friend against friend. She wants to know who can be responsible to fix this and repair community ties.

Janine Witko, Resident and Parent – She stated that it is not parent against parent or teacher against teacher. She stated that asking questions isn't turning people against each other, and it should not lead to that.

Board Statement from Member McGivern – The Board stated that it is not friend against friend or parent against parent. The Board stated that they will begin interviewing candidates from Exec Connect. They are looking for teachers and parents to serve on the committee and encourage anyone who is interested to let Dr. Collins or Member McGivern know. The Board reiterated that the matter is closed and it is time to move forward.

**7:30PM  
Public  
Hearing**

At 7:30 p.m. a motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Kintner to move to a public hearing regarding the FY16 Final Budget.

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



Dr. Collins provided an overview of his recommendation of the 2015-2016 final budget. He reported that the final budget for FY16 was refined from the tentative budget based on actual numbers from FY15. There are still some unknowns related to the state budget. But, overall there will be a 2.23% increase in expenditures, which includes the construction project. Dr. Collins stated that he was conservative on the revenue side and left some breathing room on the expenditure side to account for a number of unknowns.

***Return to***

***Open Session*** At 7:36 p.m. a motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Eslick to close the public hearing and return to the open meeting.

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

***Approval of  
Minutes***

***Special Mtg.***

**8.12.15** This item was tabled until the October Board Meeting.

***Approval of  
Minutes***

***Regular Mtg.***

**8.17.15** Copies of the Board of Education Meeting on August 17, 2015 were distributed to the Board Members prior to this meeting.

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Eslick to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on August 17, 2015.

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

***Approval of  
Minutes***

***Special Mtg.***

**8.27.15** Copies of the Special Board Meeting on August 27, 2015 were distributed to the Board Members prior to this meeting.

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Greiner to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on August 27, 2015.

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

***Approval of  
Deposits***

A motion was Made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Greiner to approve the deposits for the month of August 2015.

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Lunches                       | \$613.35           |
| Summer Band                   | \$1,140.00         |
| Comcast – eRate Reimbursement | \$11,449.43        |
| eSchool – eRate Reimbursement | \$1,639.50         |
| Workshop Refund               | \$80.00            |
| Insurance/COBRA               | \$1,310.54         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>\$16,232.82</b> |

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

***Approval of  
Payables***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Greiner to approve the payment of bills presented in fund totals as follows:

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Fund 1 - Education      | \$141,268.66        |
| Fund 2 - O&M            | \$25,976.77         |
| Fund 4 – Transportation | \$15,218.76         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>\$182,464.19</b> |

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

***Treasurer's  
Report***

An unofficial year-to-date financial report was included in the Board Packet.

***Education  
Report***

Dr. Sukenik mentioned that the education report would be brief because most of the topics are highlighted in the strategic plan. She reported that the Fun Fair was a huge success and thanked Margaret Reynolds for all of her hard work. She also thanked PTO for their support at the Fun Fair as well.

Dr. Sukenik also reported that she is taking proposals for clubs. So far Park View will offer a Guitar Club, a Book Club, and a Mosaic Club.

***Special  
Education  
Report***

A copy of the NTDSE Board Minutes from the meeting on August 13, 2015 were included in the Board packet.

Member Kintner reported that they have a new sensory room at Molloy that was paid for with the help of the trivia night fundraiser. She also reported that they went into closed session at their meeting approve the collective bargaining agreement.

***Building  
And Grounds***

Dr. Collins reported that the big air conditioner and a couple of the smaller units had issues at the start of this year, but they are all fixed now.

Dr. Collins also reported that he is working with the facilities committee and the village to install a stop sign at the MPR door. The stop signs by the main door are smaller than typical signs, so he wants to replace those. The stop signs will either be 30" reflective signs or flashing red light stop signs. Dr. Collins is getting the cost for both options. The Park District is supportive of the idea, and since it is not a village street, the village supports what the school district and park district decide. Public Works will help with the installation.

***Informational  
Items***

***Enrollment  
Report***

2015-2016 Enrollment Report as of September 15, 2015:

|       | <u>K-8</u> | <u>PreK</u> |
|-------|------------|-------------|
| M     | 467        | 6           |
| F     | 383        | 9           |
| TOTAL | 850        | 15          |

***FOIA  
Requests***

Request received via email on August 19, 2015 from Joseph Hart. Response sent via email on August 24, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 2, 2015 from Suzanne Schwartz. Response sent via email on September 10, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 3, 2015 from John Young. Response sent via email on September 11, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 4, 2015 from John Young. Response sent via email on September 14, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 10, 2015 from Tom Foley. Response sent via email on September 16, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 15, 2015 from Tom Foley. Response due on September 22, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 15, 2015 from Patrick McCraney. Response sent via email on September 17, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Request received via email on September 16, 2015 from Heather Ledet. Response sent via email on September 17, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

Response sent via email on September 16, 2015 from Tom Foley. Response due on September 23, 2015. No action is needed from the Board.

***Policy  
Review First  
Reading***

Included in the Board packet was a summary of policies that were recently reviewed by the Policy Committee (Member Kinter and Member Karagozian). These represent a set of policies from one PRESS issue (October 2014).

Member Kintner provided a brief overview of the policies and their impact on the District.

***Strategic  
Plan Action  
Plans***

Included in the Board packet was the Strategic Plan action plans for 2015-2016.

Administration presented the Board with a detailed overview of all the components. A copy of the summary can be found on the Board of Education page on the district website.

***Action Items***

***2015-2016  
Final  
Budget***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Greiner to approve the budget for the 2015-2016 school year as presented.



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

***Application For  
Recognition  
Of Schools***

A motion was made by Member Youkhana and seconded by Member Eslick to approve the 2015-2016 Application for Recognition of Schools as Morton Grove School District #70 is in compliance with all Illinois School Code and Administrative Code requirements.

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

***Hiring of  
Parapro-  
fessionals***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Kintner to approve the hiring of Ms. Allison Kay in a full-time paraprofessional position and Mr. Daniel Redmann in a part-time paraprofessional position for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

***Old  
Business***

Member Eslick reminded the Board about the Board self-evaluation scheduled with Barb Toney from IASB on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

***New  
Business***

None

***Audience  
To  
Visitors***

Margaret Reynolds, Teacher – She thanked Ivy for her kind words as well as Alyssa McGowan for raising nearly \$2,000 at the Fun Fair by donating all of the food. She also thanked Kim Stegich who was her right hand woman during the Fun Fair.

Paul Yaras, Resident and Parent – He stated that the stop signs at Lake and Austin are reflective and the signs at Shermer and Beckwith are flashing.

***Adjournment*** A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Greiner to adjourn the Board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Approved by: Paul McQuinn  
President

EO  
Secretary