

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

July 20, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Also present were Darcy Bloom Boedefeld, Janine and Peter Witko (departed at 7:15 p.m.), Residents of District 70; Barb Toney, IASB; Stephanie Evans, Director of Student Services; Brad W. Voehringer, Superintendent; and Erin O'Connor, Board Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience
To Visitors None

***Community
Engagement
Workshop***

***Objectives/
Agenda
Overview***

Barb Toney explained the session objectives and reviewed the meaning of a balcony perspective. She also explained the difference between public relations and community engagement.

The Board discussed what the community may want to know about the District and why engaging the community is important.

***Define
Community
Engagement***

Barb Toney asked the Board to share recent examples of how they have informed and listened to the community. Barb shared that it is much easier to inform than listen. Barb went through the promises from the Board to the community and from the community to the Board. Barb mentioned that the Board needs to model attitudes and values through dialogue and not debate. She shared that many people have pieces to the answer and more than one solution may exist.

***Key
Principles of
Community
Engagement***

Barb reviewed and discussed the key principles of community engagement, which included:

1. Pursue civic engagement, not public input
2. Engage people as citizen-owners, not customers
 - Get them to look at common concerns and not how it affects them personally
3. Discover voices, not simply demographics
4. Seek synergy, not consensus
5. Seek to educate, not merely inform

Barb asked the Board to discuss what they heard that might have challenged some of their previous assumptions or practices.

The Board questioned how they can effectively hold a community forum without it becoming a complaining session. Barb explained that it can be accomplished by making sure the purpose is clear and asking specific people to be involved in the focus group.

***Benefits of
Community
Engagement***

Barb explained that the main benefits of community engagement are understanding of community-wide concerns and values, developing a new contract and culture, and practicing proactive leadership rather than reactive response.

***Overview
Board Role***

Barb provided the Board with an overview of the Board's role, which includes:

- Preparing for community engagement
- Clarifying the purpose, involving the community, considering tools and tactics
 - Clarifying and articulating purpose
- Why are you engaging in this process?
 - Identifying and recruiting members

- Ask and develop a recruiting message by finding the WIIFM
 - Identifying resources
 - Utilizing and communicating results

Barb also reviewed the public participation spectrum, which includes the stages of purpose, inform, consult, involve, and collaborate.

***Review
Of Key
Concepts***

Barb Toney showed a video summarizing the key concepts from the community engagement workshop.

***Scope of
Implementation
Work***

Barb mentioned there are other facilitated community engagement sessions available for the Board to consider in the future.

***Wrap-up/
Next Steps***

Barb asked the Board to take some time to think about all the information from the workshop today and discuss it at a future board meeting.

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

Approved by:

VP Anita Greiner
VP President



Secretary