

THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS; 542 ABBOTSFORD ROAD, KENILWORTH, ILLINOIS 20TH DAY OF JULY, 2009

The Meeting was called to order by President, Karen M. Hartman at 7:08 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered present: Mr. Chris L. Williams, Mrs. Julie Anastos, Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman, Mr. Joseph T. Seminetta, Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber and Mrs. Karen M. Hartman. Mr. Charlie Brown was absent.

Also in attendance:

Dr. Kelley M. Kalinich, Superintendent;
Dr. Marty Powers, Principal;
Mrs. Julie Campanaro, Administrative Assistant;
Faculty Members: Ms. Jennifer Hilliard, Mrs. Lynne Hubert, Science Facilitator and Mr. Bill Gordon, Music Teacher;
Community Members: Mrs. Susan Rooney, Mrs. Paula Zimmerman, Mrs. Carolyn McHugh, Mrs. Kim Schliesmann and Mrs. Maria Jones; and
Mrs. Margie Corp, Representative of the Illinois Science Teachers' Association and son Master Tom Corp.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Board President, Mrs. Karen Hartman invited Dr. Kalinich to introduce those being honored this evening.

Presentation of Outstanding Science Teacher Award to Mrs. Lynne Hubert from the Illinois Science Teachers' Association - Dr. Kalinich asked Mrs. Lynne Hubert to join her for a presentation by Mrs. Margie Corp of the Illinois Science Teachers' Association. The requirements and nomination process of this recognition were highlighted, noting that Mrs. Hubert was selected from a large number of nominees for the distinction of this award. Dr. Kalinich also added her thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Hubert for her service to The Joseph Sears School as a Science Facilitator and presented her with a science related book specifically chosen for her as additional recognition from the Board of Education and the Administration.

Presentation of NSSED - APS Dave Peterson Possibilities Award to Mr. Bill Gordon - Dr. Kalinich invited Mr. Bill Gordon to join her for this presentation. She noted that in May 2009 Mr. Gordon was recognized by the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED) parent organization for his extraordinary service and contributions to the teaching of music to students of all ability levels at The Joseph Sears School. Dr. Kalinich noted that he was singled out because of his ability to engage all of his students and enhance their individual experience within the music curriculum by his differentiated approach. Further, she stated on behalf of the Board of Education and the Administrators, their deep gratitude for his extraordinary talent as a teacher and presented Mr. Gordon with a gift card from Barnes & Noble as a small token of that gratitude.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Karen Hartman invited Public Comment.

Parents present shared with the Board of Education their collective concern over the growing perception of the existence of a bullying problem at The Joseph Sears School and their shared fear that if left unaddressed the bullying issue will undermine the truly great attributes of the School while driving away good families and community members. Additionally they inquired if the Administration had a plan in place to combat this most unfavorable perception. They stressed that they are supportive of the Board and the Administration and wish to offer whatever assistance or insights they have to help change this situation for everyone. Various Board Members thanked the parents for their comments and assured them that the Board of Education has devoted numerous meetings to this very topic both with the whole Board and also in Committee. It was agreed that no single issue is more evident to the Board of Education members or more important than this one. Mrs. Karen Hartman reiterated that the Administration and the Board are focused on correcting this situation and that the District is committed to providing a safe environment for students to thrive. She once more noted that the Board's *Areas of Focus* includes a priority goal related to student discipline and she added that Dr. Marty Powers is fully aware of this primary focus for the School community and will make changes wherever necessary. The Board members encouraged the parents to continue to keep the line of communication open.

There being no further comment Mrs. Hartman directed the Board members to the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Hartman reviewed the Consent Agenda. Dr. Kalinich noted that there were a few typographical errors in the minutes that were corrected and included in the updated version of the minutes distributed. A Board member inquired if an item on the Joseph Sears School Parents' Volunteer Association (JSSPVA) would be impacted by the decision not to purchase whiteboards for the 2009-2010 school year. It was noted that the item referenced would be compatible with the existing whiteboard. There being no further comment, Mrs. Hartman called for a motion.

Mrs. Susan Rohrman moved to approve the Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of the June 15, 2009 Regular and Closed Session as amended and Minutes of the July 6, 2009 Special Meeting and Closed Session; Financial Report for June 2009; Investments for June 2009; Accounts Payable Report for June 2009; Accounts Payable for June 15, 2009 to July 20, 2009; Authorization to Destroy Closed Session Recordings for December 2007; Adoption of the French Textbook series Bien Dit; Adoption of the Latin Textbook series Ecce Romani; the acceptance of The Joseph Sears School Parents' Association (JSSPVA) Allocation Donations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Williams.

Roll Call:

Yes

No

Absent

Abstain

Mrs. Karen M. Hartman

Mr. Chris L. Williams

Mrs. Julie Anastos

Mr. Charles Brown

Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman

Mr. Joseph Semietta

Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber

Motion carried 6 to 0 with one member absent.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Freedom of Information – Dr. Kalinich noted there were no requests since the last Regular Board of Education meeting.

Communications/Correspondence – Dr. Kalinich reported that a school parent had inquired about whether the District had a policy related to the regulation of electromagnetic fields, wireless technology or related technologies. She reported that there are not any Board policies for these topics; however, she would present this inquiry to the Board Policy Committee for consideration.

Enrollment Update – Dr. Kalinich highlighted the current enrollment numbers for each grade level. Additionally, she noted that after discussion with the Personnel Committee, the Administrative recommendation to staff the incoming Eighth Grade as three sections was endorsed. The Administration will continue to monitor closely class size and if the enrollment numbers change for any grade level, she will communicate those changes with the Board via the Education and Personnel Committee meetings, as is our practice.

Report from the Principal – Dr. Marty Powers noted that he will be recommending two new faculty members to hire later in the Board meeting. He noted that he was very confident that the individuals who will be recommended to be hired are highly qualified and will contribute much to the school culture, complementing the current professional and dedicated faculty already in place. Further, he noted that he has had the good fortune to have met with many school community members, parents and students over these first few weeks and he feels he is developing an in-depth understanding of the school climate. He is eager for the year to begin. He hopes to demonstrate to all concerned parties that this school year will see a new attitude among students and faculty working together to resolve the issues the school community perceives as threatening the fiber of the school. He added that he looks forward to working with the Board of Education members to that end.

Setting of Date for Board of Education Recognition Meeting – Dr. Kalinich reviewed with the Board members the plans for honoring the retired Board of Education members, Mr. Tom Colberg and Mr. Michael Tempest. She reported that she had checked with both honorees and they would be available on Friday, August 21, 2009. It was confirmed that this date was convenient for all Board members. Mrs. Julie Anastos volunteered to host the gathering from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Comments and recognition would begin at 7:00 p.m.

Review of Upcoming Events and Activities – Dr. Kalinich reviewed upcoming events and activities and highlighted the Joint Annual Conference which would be held in the fall. She noted that if any of the Board members wished to register they should contact her administrative assistant, Mrs. Julie Campanaro. Dr. Kalinich further noted that the schedule for the conference had not been posted on the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) website as of yet, but the Board members would be notified as soon as it was available for viewing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of and Possible Action to Approve 2009-2010 School Year Education Areas of Focus – Dr. Kalinich noted that at the prior Board of Education meeting the Education Committee member, Mrs. Hartman, asked that the Education goals be revisited by the Committee before formal action was taken by the full Board. Dr. Kalinich directed the Board members to the revised Education Areas of Focus that had been reviewed by the Committee prior to the Regular Board meeting today. The Committee members noted that some of the key Areas of Focus identified related to the Sears School culture and enrichment education. After discussion, Mrs. Hartman invited a motion.

Mrs. Julie Anastos moved to approve the Education Areas of Focus as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Susan Rohrman.

All “Ayes” Motion carried 6 to 0 with one member absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of and Possible Action to Approve Tentative Fiscal Year 2010 Budget and Authorization to Place Budget on Display – Mrs. Hartman invited Dr. Kalinich to review the process and timeline for approving the annual budget. Dr. Kalinich noted that the tentative budget would be placed on display in the District Office, on the District website and at the Wilmette and Winnetka Public Libraries. Additionally, she noted that the tentative budget would be presented and discussed at the September 21, 2009 Regular Board of Education meeting and that a notice would be published in the local paper by August 20, 2009 with notification of a Public Hearing to be held at this September Regular Board of Education meeting. She noted that the Board would not formally vote to adopt the tentative budget until September, allowing time for public inspection and Board member feedback.

Mrs. Hartman asked for a motion.

Mr. Jeff Treiber moved to approve Tentative Fiscal Year 2010 Budget and Authorization to Place the Budget on Display. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Susan Rohrman.

Roll Call:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Mrs. Karen M. Hartman			
Mr. Chris L. Williams			
Mrs. Julie Anastos			
		Mr. Charles Brown	
Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman			
Mr. Joseph Seminetta			
Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber			

Motion carried 6 to 0 with one member absent.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Karen Hartman reminded all Board members that the Board committee draft minutes were included in all Regular Meeting Board packets. As such, she asked if there were any questions about the minutes/reports.

Building and Finance Committee – The Board Members referred to the draft of the Building and Finance Committee minutes for July 14, 2009.

Communication Committee – Dr. Kalinich referred the Board members to the drafts of the Communication Committee meeting minutes for June 19, 2009 and July 7, 2009. She noted that a preview copy of the July 2009, Joseph Sears Letter had been placed at their table space this evening.

Education Committee – The Board members were referred to the draft of the Education Committee minutes for July 6, 2009. Chairperson Mr. Joe Seminetta reviewed the items discussed at the Committee meeting held earlier in the evening, as well.

Northern Suburban Special Education District Governing Board – Representative Mrs. Susan Rohrman referred the Board members to the draft of the minutes from July 8, 2009. Additionally, she noted that at the last NSSSED meeting it was highlighted that the NSSSED budget deficit had been reduced which was a welcome change.

Personnel Committee – The Board members were referred to the draft of the Personnel Committee minutes for July 6, 2009 and July 13, 2009. The Committee met prior to the Regular Board meeting and will review the items discussed at this meeting during Closed Session.

Policy Committee – Dr. Kalinich noted the Committee would be meeting on July 23, 2009.

Questions and Comments from the Board Members – Mrs. Hartman inquired if anyone had any questions or comments. She noted that to improve efficiency in the meeting discussions, she would like to propose the Board implement a previously discussed idea to hold Closed Session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Board of Education meeting at 7:30 p.m. It was agreed that this format would be implemented for the 2009-2010 school year Regular Board meetings. This will be a formal action item to change the Regular Meeting start time at the August Board meeting.

Board Members' Requests for Research – There were none. Dr. Kalinich noted that similar to the Superintendent's Report for this evening's meeting, the future responses to requests for additional research would be found in the Superintendent's Report.

CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER INFORMATION REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mr. Jeffrey Treiber moved, seconded by Mrs. Julie Anastos to go into Closed Session at 8:08 p.m. to consider information regarding the employment of employees and student discipline.

Roll Call:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Mrs. Karen M. Hartman			
Mr. Chris L. Williams			
Mrs. Julie Anastos			
		Mr. Charles Brown	
Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman			

Mr. Joseph Seminetta
Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber

Motion carried 6 to 0 with one member absent.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:10 p.m.

Upon return to Open Session, the following Board members were present: Mr. Chris L. Williams, Mrs. Julie Anastos, Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman, Mr. Joseph T. Seminetta, Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber and Mrs. Karen M. Hartman. Board member Mr. Charlie Brown was absent.

Also in attendance:

Dr. Kelley M. Kalinich, Superintendent

PERSONNEL

Discussion of and Possible Action to Hire Certified Personnel

Mrs. Susan Rohrman moved to hire Ms. Julia Benson for employment as a Junior High Science teacher for the 2009-2010 school year at an annual salary of \$64,100 at the Master's, Step 12 level. Mrs. Julie Anastos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Mrs. Karen M. Hartman			
Mr. Chris L. Williams			
Mrs. Julie Anastos			
		Mr. Charles Brown	
Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman			
Mr. Joseph Seminetta			
Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber			

Motion carried 6 to 0 with one member absent.

Discussion of and Possible Action to Approve Classified Staff Salary Increases for FY 2010

Mr. Jeffrey Treiber moved to Approve Classified Staff Salary Increases for FY 2010 as discussed in Closed Session. Mrs. Susan Rohrman seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Mrs. Karen M. Hartman			
	Mr. Chris L. Williams		
Mrs. Julie Anastos			
		Mr. Charles Brown	
Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman			

Mr. Joseph Seminetta
Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber

Motion carried 5 to 1 with one member absent.

Discussion of and Possible Action to Approve Certified Consultant Salaries for FY2010

Mr. Joseph Seminetta moved to "freeze" the FY09 level of per diem or hourly rate for Certified Consultant Salaries for FY 2010 due to the current economic conditions. Mr. Chris Williams seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Mrs. Karen M. Hartman			
Mr. Chris L. Williams			
Mrs. Julie Anastos			
		Mr. Charles Brown	
Mrs. Susan E. Rohrman			
Mr. Joseph Seminetta			
Mr. Jeffrey A. Treiber			

Motion carried 6 to 0 with one member absent.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Joe Seminetta expressed his dissatisfaction with the handling of a proposed personnel policy and the related committee discussions regarding the policy. He expressed his opinion that the committee discussions were not being conducted in a respectful manner. He reported that he independently contacted the Board's attorney in regards to the proposed personnel policy and potential Open Meetings Act issues.

Mr. Jeff Treiber noted that he thought some assumptions were being made without knowing all of the follow up that had occurred since the last Personnel Committee meeting. This included that he and Chris Williams had been in contact to clarify their positions and apologize for any unintended disrespectful dialogue that occurred.

Mrs. Susan Rohrman expressed her concern with Open Meetings Act issues in the process for the development of the proposed personnel policy and her present displeasure with the Board. Mrs. Rohrman left the meeting at 9:35pm.


Mr. Chris Williams noted that he was not prepared for this discussion, but that he did not like the current dynamics on the Board to continue.

The Board agreed to set a date for the Board of Education to participate in a training/discussion with a representative from the IASB to develop a common agreement/understanding by all Board members as to the role of each Board member and the group as a whole. September 1st, 2nd and 3rd were identified as possible dates for this meeting. Dr. Kalinich will contact IASB to make the necessary arrangements for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Julie Anastos moved, seconded by Mr. Chris Williams, to adjourn the Board of Education Meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Voice vote: all yeses. Motion carried.

Attest for Distribution: 
Kelley M. Kalinich, Secretary

Approved: _____
Karen M. Hartman, President

ATTEST: _____
Kelley M. Kalinich, Secretary