

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Minutes of the Study Session
held at 5:30 p.m. on August 16, 2013
Emerson Middle School – Learning Resource Center
8101 N. Cumberland, Niles, IL 60714

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Other Board members present were Terry Cameron, Dan Collins, Dathan Paterno, Scott Zimmerman, John Heyde and Vicki Lee. Also present were Superintendent Philip Bender, Assistant Superintendents Lori Hinton and Joel T. Martin, Business Manager Becky Allard, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services James Even, Director of Facility Management Scott Mackall, and two members of the public.

Board President Borrelli stated the purpose of the meeting was to develop goals for the Board and District for the next 3-5 years. Following a brief dinner break, the meeting resumed at 6:15 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Hinton described three data sources the District uses to understand student achievement, including Educational Ends assessments and goal statements; Measures of Academic Progress (MAP); and the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). In respect to performance trends related to these three assessment measures, she reported that since 2008, District 64 has consistently met targets on almost 90% of Ends assessments; since 2008 an increasing number of students have been performing above the 75th percentile on MAP; and since 2006, District 64 has seen an increasing number of students performing in the “*Exceeds*” category on the ISATs. She suggested three opportunities that could be considered for growth, including: reviewing the District’s Educational Ends assessments in light of the District’s vision for 21st century learning and refine them to reflect what we currently value; continuing to increase the percentage of students exceeding standards on the ISAT and MAP, which could be worked into the Ends; and setting a target worked into the Ends for the percentage of students achieving their “expected growth” over the course of the school year based on MAP testing for reading and math. Dr. Hinton described variables on the horizon related to testing as the state implements the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). She also shared data for District 64 in relation to a list of comparable districts on various measures. Dr. Hinton then discussed ways to improve student learning and the degree to which the District meets its mission statement by focusing on the consistent delivery of high impact instruction. She noted that high-impact instruction is the result of content planning, formative assessments, research-based strategies, community-building and student engagement. Dr. Hinton noted that the Curriculum Team has a commitment to providing explicit professional development on high-impact instruction. She noted that District 64 provides this support to teachers through professional development and job-embedded coaching, and that in 2013-14, the focus will be on formative assessment and research based strategies. She also briefly responded to a request for background information on the benefits of preschool and full-day kindergarten. Board members and administrators then engaged in a dialogue to clarify their understanding of this information and share views on what goals they value and ways to measure progress.

Business Manager Allard reported on the state of the District's finances. She pointed out fund balance increases since the successful 2007 referendum; reviewed specific actions the District has taken to reduce costs over the past four years in transportation, utilities, insurance, photocopying and administrative staffing reductions; and provided an overview of fund balance projections for the future. Ms. Allard discussed the impact of depleting the District's fund balances to finance capital projects, and the prospects for extending the time before approaching the community for an operating expense referendum beyond the 10 years initially envisioned since the 2007 referendum. She identified some of the variables that impact the District's local property tax revenues, which are subject to the tax cap linked to the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). Board members and administrators then engaged in a dialogue on finances, noting that a previous Committee-of-the-Whole on Revenues in June and budget presentations for 2013-14 had provided the Board extensive opportunities to explore issues in this area.

Facility Management Director Mackall gave an overview of the Facility Master Plan and facilities projects, including priority one projects identified in the District's Maintenance Plan from December 2011. He reviewed the priority projects completed thus far at Carpenter, Field, Franklin and Lincoln in 2012 and 2013; he noted that the facilities work completed in summer 2013 had been included in the 2013-14 tentative budget. Mr. Mackall reported that the Board is now considering the second phase of work at Field to complete the mechanical and life safety upgrades. He also pointed out that the Board is considering whether to authorize the additional studies needed to fully complete the Master Plan. Mr. Mackall then reviewed the Life Safety projects remaining to be completed at all schools, and the timeframe for that work to be accomplished. Board members and administrators then engaged in a dialogue on facilities, again noting the previous opportunities the Board had been given to delve more deeply into this area in conjunction with its budget discussions and facility project presentations by architects Fanning Howey.

Following a short recess, Dr. Bender then provided an overview of his history in District 64, and some of the challenges and achievements during his three years here including the successful conclusion of the Roosevelt and Washington facility projects, a Board member resignation, selection of a new architectural firm, commencement of work on a Facility Master Plan, and the impact of continuing budget constraints. He also discussed the importance of the Board reaching consensus on goals, so that Superintendent and administrator goals can be aligned directly to them. He then discussed proposed goals for the District for 2-5 years and 5-10 years and beyond. For the shorter term goals, he noted that with the implementation of CCSS, the District will have a process in place that will allow students to do more critical thinking on a global level and it will allow District 64 to compare itself across a much broader population. He also pointed out goals for facility improvement and for continued spend management to meet the financial commitments related to the 2007 referendum. He then noted the need to support the development of an evaluation system for teachers. Looking toward longer-term goals, Dr. Bender pointed out that District 64 can focus on increasing student achievement by providing research-based instructional practices and making sure the District has a system of accountability and support for implementation in place. He also identified his goal of continuing the work of the Board Advanced Technology Committee, and also look at the use of Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM), inquiry-based learning and related concepts to help students meet the continued demands as 21st century learners. Dr. Bender further proposed goals of

working with the community to consider developing a proposal for a comprehensive, needs-based preschool program, and also working with the community to look at the possibility of developing full day kindergarten at all buildings. Dr. Bender then responded to a range of Board member questions, including 1:1 computing and other technology issues as well as metrics for measuring progress toward goals.

To wrap-up, the Board then identified the key items in student learning, finance and facilities to be discussed further at the Saturday session.

At 9:40 p.m., upon motion of Board member Zimmerman and second of Board member Cameron, the Board adjourned by voice vote.

President

Secretary