

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Minutes of the Study Session  
held at 8:30 a.m. on August 17, 2013  
Emerson Middle School – Learning Resource Center  
8101 N. Cumberland, Niles, IL 60714

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Other Board members present were Vicki Lee, John Heyde, Terry Cameron, Scott Zimmerman, Dathan Paterno and Dan Collins. 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 one member of the public.

Board President Borrelli recapped the key items in student learning, finance and facilities for further discussion identified during the Study Session on August 16. He then reviewed the description of the principles of effective governance provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Discussion then turned to changes in the teacher/administrator evaluation process, the three types of student assessments used by District 64 and their relationship to Educational Ends measures. Following this review, Board members and administrators moved to a more detailed discussion of Board goals around student learning. The current Board goals in the student learning area were reviewed, including the relationship to the District's Strategic Plan, mission statement and the graphic developed to display the Board's 2011-13 goals.

Following a brief break, the Board then focused on specific student learning goals in relation to Educational Ends and 21st century learning. Board members and administrators engaged in a lengthy discussion about the metrics needed to track attainment of student learning goals, and further discussed the current Educational Ends statements and related assessments. As part of the deep exploration of this area, the Board and administrators focused on the importance of setting and monitoring individual student growth goals as a key indicator of progress, and the various assessments available to track this growth through Tier I (Measures of Academic Progress), Tier 2 and Tier 2 assessments. Discussion then moved to a discussion of technology in relation to supporting and achieving these student growth goals. The Board then agreed on goals for student learning that include: continuing to review and refine the District's current Educational Ends statements, assessment and targets; developing student growth goals measured by various tiers of assessments; maintaining competitive scores for the District overall on the state assessment, as it transitions from the current Illinois Standards Achievement Test to the new tests linked to the Common Core State Standards; and developing recommendations for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning including a 1:1 computing model and a proposal for its funding, integration with the curriculum, and a plan to measure and monitor its implementation. The Board also charged administration to present a proposal regarding specific metrics for student growth within 60 days.

Following a short recess for lunch, Board President Borrelli offered a recap of the morning session on student learning, and then introduced the discussion of Board facilities goals. The Board delved more fully into understanding the District's life safety

projects from its 10-year Life Safety plan and also what would be required for the completion of the Facility Master Plan including the educational adequacy study. The Board and administration further discussed the capacity of the existing buildings to accommodate enrollment growth, and bridged into a discussion of average class sizes. It was noted that the District's last complete demographic study had been completed in December 2009 by consulting demographer Dr. John Kasarda, and that with the current uptick in housing turnover observed within the community that a new look at the projections might be useful. Board members and the administration also discussed the difference between construction vs. project total costs, and discussed the Field School work looking at whether activities designated as part of the District's Maintenance Plan could be separated from the life safety projects. The timing of whether to accelerate the schedule for the District's next required 10-year life safety survey also was discussed. The Board then distilled three goals related to facilities, including directing administration to provide the Board with the capacity of each school based on the 6th day of enrollment; initiate an update to the demographic study; and to continue with present projects under consideration in the Facility Master Plan Phase 1.

Board President Borrelli then moved into a formal discussion of Board finance goals, the last area designated for review at the study session. The Board agreed to organize its discussion around reaching consensus on key points to develop a complete economic philosophy. In turn, the Board focused its discussion on five key areas, allowing all members to state their views in order to achieve consensus prior to moving to the next item. The discussion began with three areas: the District's annual tax levy; student fees and the use of annual operating fund surplus; and the method of financing facility projects. Following a brief break, the Board returned to discuss two additional items in its economic philosophy: the target year for the earliest return to taxpayers for an operating expense referendum; and the need for continued fiscal discipline. Board members reached consensus on: continuing to levy in accordance with past practice to maximize revenue under the tax cap, and demonstrate fiscal discipline to ensure meeting the Board's goal of not returning to the community for a referendum prior to 2020-21; maintaining student fees at the current level pending the Community Finance Committee and administration further report due late this fall; using any positive balance to the Operating Fund at the end of the year to extend the assumed time of the next referendum and not for adding new expenses; using fund balances for the 2013-14 capital projects but relying on debt extension bonds going forward for further capital improvements; extending a return to taxpayers for an operating expense referendum past the previous 2016-17 target to no earlier than 2020-21; and continuing a policy of strong fiscal discipline.

Following the establishment of goals in these three areas, Board President Borrelli then opened a discussion on setting goals for the Superintendent. Dr. Bender suggested that it would be most fruitful to mold his goals around the Board's identified areas; he thanked the Board for developing clear goals. Board members then shared their reflections about the specific goals or areas they had hoped to discuss and what had been accomplished during the intensive, two-day study session.

Board President Borrelli noted that the draft goals agreed upon today would be gathered into one document and included for approval at the upcoming business meeting. He also noted he would suggest companion goals for the Superintendent for further discussion at that time as well.

Upon motion of Board member Paterno and second of Board member Heyde, it was moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss employment of specific individual [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)] and not to return to open session with no action to be taken.

AYES: Collins, Paterno, Zimmerman, Borrelli, Cameron, Heyde, Lee

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion carried.

The Board study session adjourned from closed session at 4:15 p.m.

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President

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Secretary