

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Board of Education Meeting –January 17, 2012

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the president of the Board, David Beller, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: Amy Anson  
Katrina Bell-Jordan  
David Beller  
Richard Berk  
Una McGeough  
Hank Schneider  
Darius Zakeri

Absent: None

Administrative staff members were present as follows:

Frances McTague, Superintendent  
Leslie Gordon, Highland School Principal  
Robyn Hawley, Old Orchard Junior High School Principal  
Laurie Heinz, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
Jac McBride, Director of Special Services  
Rob McElligott, Old Orchard Junior High School Assistant Principal  
Beth Millard, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Randy Needlman, Devonshire School Principal  
Susan O’Neil, Jane Stenson School Principal  
Irina Ziemann, Director of Information Technology

Absent: None

Visitors: Ryan Berry  
Andy Carpenter  
Natalie Dandino  
Derek Fugate  
Joanne Fuller  
Nikki Guerrero  
Colette Halverson  
Jessica Knopf  
Ryan Levin  
Sarah Newcorn  
Alison Vinkler

1. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President Beller opened the meeting with a statement regarding the recent Sun Times story about a playground incident at Devonshire. President Beller then asked Board members and administrators at the head table to introduce themselves. He asked for comments from the audience regarding items not on the agenda. There were no comments.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Member Schneider, seconded by Member McGeough, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Agenda, which contained the following:

- a. Minutes  
Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 20, 2011  
Closed Board of Education Meeting – December 20, 2011
- b. Personnel: Certified Appointment: L. Murphy, Classified Appointments: C. Dazzo, H. Manthei, P. Park, K. Patel, M. Russell; Certified Resignation/ Retirement: C. Donnelly, F. Eres
- c. Financial Reports
- d. December expenditures as follows: (a) accounts payable checks in December in the amount of \$449,544.69 and (b) December payroll checks in the amount of \$1,929,650.46; for a total of \$2,379,195.15 checks issued for December

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, McGeough, Schneider, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

3. 2012-13 SCHOOL CALENDAR DISCUSSION

Superintendent McTague presented the draft 2012-13 school calendar. She noted that legislation is pending that would require that the first and last days of school be full days. She also reported that the district is considering moving parent-teacher conferences earlier in the trimester. There was discussion about closing on religious holidays.

4. ADOPTION OF POLICY 5144: BULLYING, HAZING, HARASSMENT AND/OR CYBERBULLYING

It was moved by Member Beller, seconded by Member Anson, to adopt Policy 5144: Bullying, Hazing, Harassment and/or Cyberbullying as follows:

The Board shall provide an educational environment for students free from bullying, hazing, harassment, and cyberbullying. The Board is committed to protecting its students from any form of physical, verbal, or mental abuse.

## **Definitions**

### **1. Bullying**

“Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s or students’ person or property;
- (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student’s or students’ physical or mental health;
- (3) substantially interfering with the student’s or students’ academic performance; or
- (4) substantially interfering with the student’s or students’ ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is illustrative and non-exhaustive.

### **2. Hazing**

Hazing is any act that subjects a student to electronic, written, physical, or verbal harassment, mental or physical discomfort, intimidation, embarrassment, ridicule, or demeaning activity committed by an individual student or group of students for the purpose of initiation, maintaining membership, or holding office in any organization, club, or athletic team.

### **3. Harassment**

Harassment includes any unwelcome electronic, written, physical, or verbal conduct, contact or communication that is motivated by or related to individual characteristics such as race, color, national origin, gender, economic status, disability, religion, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation and that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Although harassment that creates a hostile environment may take many different forms, some examples include name calling and other derogatory comments, jokes, gestures or looks, posting or distribution of derogatory pictures, notes or graffiti, blocking, pushing, hitting, or other forms of physical aggression. Where harassment is sexual, it may also include such conduct as persistent unwelcome attempts to interact with someone, spreading of rumors, aggressive physical contact such as kissing, touching, or pulling at clothes in a sexual way.

Sexual harassment also includes unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors when:

- a. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the receipt of educational or other school-related benefits, or

- b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for educational or other school-related decisions affecting that individual

#### **4. Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is a subset of bullying, hazing, and harassment. For purposes of this policy, cyberbullying is defined as the use of e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, pagers, cell phones, or other forms of information technology to deliberately bully, haze, harass, threaten, or intimidate someone. Cyberbullying can include, but is not limited to, such acts as making threats, provocative insults, or demeaning remarks about another student's distinguishing characteristic such as race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, or unfavorable discharge from military services.

#### **Regulations**

1. It shall be a violation of the Board of Education policy for a student, employee or school visitor to bully on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic.

No student shall be subjected to bullying:

- (a) during any school-sponsored education program or activity;
  - (b) while in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities; or
  - (c) through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
2. It shall be a violation of the Board of Education policy for a student, employee or any school visitor to bully, haze, harass, or cyberbully a student or to engage in conduct which would actively or passively support acts of bullying, hazing, harassment, or cyberbullying.
  3. It shall be a violation of the Board of Education policy for a student to report false allegations or a false complaint of bullying, hazing, harassment, or cyberbullying.
  4. It shall also be a violation of the policy for an employee, student, or any school visitor to retaliate against a student for instituting a good-faith complaint of bullying, hazing, harassment, or cyberbullying.

#### **Disciplinary Consequences**

1. Violation of this policy may result in discipline. If the harasser is an employee, discipline will be determined in accordance with Board policy and the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. Students who violate the policy will also be subject to appropriate discipline in accordance with Board policy and the District's Code of Conduct. This may include suspension and/or expulsion.

2. Students may be disciplined for acts of bullying, hazing, harassment, or cyberbullying occurring on or off-campus and/or outside of school hours in the same manner they are otherwise subject to discipline for acts that violate School District policies and/or procedures when acts could: (1) affect the school climate or atmosphere; (2) affect the peace, health, safety, or welfare of students, teachers, or any other personnel, and/or (3) disrupt or interfere with school or school activities. Any violation is subject to suspension or recommendation for expulsion.

3. The parents/guardians of students who commit any act of bullying, hazing, harassment, or cyberbullying will be notified.

4. The School District reserves the right to make referrals for these students to appropriate mental health and law enforcement professionals.

### **Notification**

The School District shall annually communicate this policy to students and their parents/guardians. This annual notification shall include disseminating information to all students and parents/guardians explaining the serious disruption caused by bullying, hazing, harassment, and cyberbullying and that these behaviors will be taken seriously and are not acceptable in any form.

### **Adoption and Update of Policy**

The Board of Education shall update this policy beginning every two years after the policy's initial adoption and shall file this policy with the Illinois State Board of Education after the Board adopts or updates it.

Legal Ref: 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7

Adopted: 1/17/12

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, McGeough, Schneider, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

### **5. ADOPTION OF POLICY 5137: STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES**

It was moved by Member McGeough, seconded by Member Zakeri, to adopt Policy 5137: Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries as follows:

Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.

The District shall comply with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) as they may be applied to an elementary school district. The protocols,

policies, and by-laws of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) shall serve as guidance regarding the implementation of comparable IHSA rules at the elementary school level.

The District shall provide information on this policy as part of a written document that student athletes or their parents/guardians are required to sign before any student athlete participates in practice or interscholastic competition.

The District shall use education materials provided by IHSA to educate coaches, student-athletes, and parents and guardians of student athletes about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

Legal Reference: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.53

Adopted: 1/17/12

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, McGeough, Schneider, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

6. SRO UPDATE AND STUDENT WELFARE REPORT

Principal Robyn Hawley and the Old Orchard Jr. High management team presented an overview of the behavior management program in the school. The role of team problem-solving meetings, the CHAMPS program, other behavior supports, and the SRO was discussed.

Director of Special Services Jac McBride reviewed the various social/emotional supports to students. She described the Second Step social skills program currently being used in grades K-6. She highlighted the faculty professional development provided in this area.

President Beller thanked the presenters for their report.

7. It was moved by Member Schneider, seconded by Member Anson, to adjourn to closed session at 8:55 p.m.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, McGeough, Schneider, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

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Beth Millard, Board Secretary

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David Beller, President