

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President, Mr. Timothy Kollar at 6:08 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as being present: Mrs. Betsy Moerschel, Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson, Dr. Christine L. Stoll, Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre, Mr. Scott Wallace and Mr. Timothy Kollar. Mr. Brian Karaba was absent.

Also in attendance was:

Dr. Kelley M. Kalinich, Superintendent;

Mr. Timothy Kollar entertained a motion to go into Closed Session.

**CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE MATTERS,  
PENDING OR PROBABLE LITIGATION, AND PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR  
USE OF THE PUBLIC BODY**

*Mr. Scott Wallace moved, seconded by Dr. Christine Stoll to go into Closed Session a 6:09 p.m. to consider information regarding specific employee matters, pending or probable litigation and purchase or lease of real property for use of the public body.*

Roll Call:

| <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u> | <u>Abstain</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Mr. Timothy Kollar       |           |               |                |
| Dr. Christine L. Stoll   |           |               |                |
| Mrs. Betsy Moerschel     |           |               |                |
| Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson   |           |               |                |
| Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre |           |               |                |
| Mr. Scott Wallace        |           |               |                |

Mr. Brian Karaba

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:34 p.m. in the Library Technology Center.

Upon Roll Call at 7:39 p.m., the following Board members answered as being present: Mrs. Betsy Moerschel, Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson, Dr. Christine L. Stoll, Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre, Mr. Scott Wallace and Mr. Timothy Kollar. Mr. Brian Karaba was absent.

Also in attendance were:

Dr. Kelley M. Kalinich, Superintendent;  
Dr. Janice Matthews, Principal;  
Dr. Crystal LeRoy, Business Services and Human Resources Manager;  
Mr. Daniel Burst, CIH, Aires Consulting;  
Dr. Gary Krieger, Environmental Specialist - via phone; and,

Mrs. Wendy Cullitan, Public Relations Consultant

Community members: Mrs. Dita de Leeuw, Mrs. Cathy Garvey and Mrs. Denise Seminetta

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Kollar invited public comment. Mrs. Dita de Leeuw addressed the Board with a series of comments, concerns and questions regarding the March 25, 2013 Electromagnetic Field report including how the School plans to use classrooms 112 and 118.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests** – There were none to report.

**Superintendent's Report - Including Electromagnetic Field Final Report (EMF)** - Dr. Kalinich reported that student enrollment is increasing and confirmed three sections of Kindergarten for the upcoming school year.

Additionally, she highlighted the summary of events of the 2012-2013 school year regarding the electromagnetic field topic, and introduced Mr. Daniel Brust, Certified Industrial Hygienist from Aires Consulting and Dr. Gary Krieger, environmental expert. She asked that Mr. Brust present his report to the Board.

Mr. Brust stated that his testing showed an extremely low frequency of EMF levels. His measurements were evaluated with respect to The American Governance of Governmental Industrial Hygienists' Threshold Limit Value for sub-radiofrequency magnetic fields (30 kHz and below). In addition, Mr. Brust relied on the most recent (2010) International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to the Time Varying Electric Magnetic Fields (1 Hz - 100 kHz) for general public exposure. These tests apply to the public at large, including children, and address continuous exposure. After his presentation, a dialogue ensued among the Board members. Mr. Scott Wallace asked Mr. Brust to share "real life" examples of what these numbers meant. He shared that the School's numbers – ranging from .3-1.0 mG - tested well below what one might find in an average home where exposure to microwaves (50-70mG), refrigerators (20 mG) and other household electronics give off much higher levels of exposure.

Mr. Kollar asked about the 2.5 mG reading in Room 118. Mr. Brust replied that Room 118 was tested as an office since it had a computer, printer, and a half-dozen chargers, which would produce slightly higher mG levels in this room, because more electricity is being used.

Dr. Gary Krieger stated that it is important to remember, from a regulatory point of view, that Sears's numbers are much lower than average. Further these numbers really misrepresent the few "higher" mG readings given the children's exposure to televisions, computers, electronic devices and more. Dr. Krieger reported that from a medical point of view these numbers are inconsequential in terms of harmful, long-term exposure to developing children. He continued that over the last century given how much exposure people have gotten from the varying electromagnetic fields, if these exposures were significant, doctors would have seen an explosion in childhood leukemia or tumors. Dr. Krieger summarized the presentation by stating that there is absolutely no concern for the health and safety of Sears' students, faculty and staff.

**Report from the Business Services and Human Resources Manager-** Mr. Kollar welcomed Dr. Crystal LeRoy to the District and stated the Board is confident that she will excel in her dual role in Business Services and Human Resources. Dr. LeRoy said that she has primarily been working on the end of fiscal year projects and the unaudited end of fiscal year financial summary, noting that there is approximately \$1 million surplus. She is focused on ensuring that the year gets off to a productive and accurate start. She also stated that regular summer projects including repairs and maintenance are going well and she has begun to get employee benefit package forms distributed. She is also reviewing the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)/Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) reporting. Several Board members asked how the District ended up with such a large surplus. Dr. LeRoy noted that while she is still examining the Fiscal Year 2013 budget she thought it was a combination of some of the expenses of the planned roof replacement occurring in Fiscal Year 2012, as well as an increase in anticipated revenues collected

**Report from Principal Including Summer Curricular Work and Student Withdrawal Report -** Dr. Matthews provided highlights of the science curriculum work that is in process with the three new Junior High Science Teachers (one each in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades), including the expansion of the IQWST (Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology) curriculum. The team is focused on mapping out the new curriculum and met with consultant Dawn Novak, Math and Science and Coordinator in Arlington Heights, who is helping them better, understand IQWST. The teachers are reviewing the Next Generation Science Standards as addressed in the IQWST curriculum. Dr. Matthews stated that she is very pleased with the work accomplished to date. It was also suggested this would be important to present to the Education Committee in the fall since it is being discussed as a part of the Strategic Plan.

She also noted that the Junior High Advisory Committee have been meeting to discuss the expectations the School has for Junior High students, as well as how faculty wants the Advisory to work in terms of dress code, honor roll, character recognition, community service and demonstrating respectful behavior throughout the School. The Committee had several recommendations:

Honor Roll and Panther Pride -As a follow-up to the last Board meeting regarding the Honor Roll, Dr. Matthews reported that she met with all of the Township principals and learned that currently no area schools use an Honor Roll. Mr. Kollar asked why this was the case. Dr. Matthews explained that no specific answer had been shared, but she believes it is a combination of the implementation of standards based curriculums, as well as consideration of student privacy. As such, Dr. Matthews and the Junior High Advisory Committee will be recommending that the Honor Roll be discontinued. Dr. Matthews also stated that the faculty further recommends forgoing the Panther Pride Awards, as it recognizes a limited number of students from an outstanding student body. The teachers support this idea and instead recommended making personal connections with parents via email or notes to bring attention to student's achievement in a more personal way. Mrs. Moerschel stated that while she likes the idea of not having an Honor Roll, the important question to ask is: Why do we have an Honor Roll? She stated that the initial purpose of the Honor Roll has changed over time since the student evaluation is based on students meeting of benchmark standards and so many students should be and are eligible to receive it. She added that she believes the Panther Pride Award should be more closely reviewed since it correlates to the School's four cornerstones of *Kindness, Honesty, Respect* and *Responsibility* modeling what the District wants the children to embody. Mrs. Moerschel further noted that the Panther Pride Award also includes the consideration of academic performance. Dr. Matthews interjected that the Junior High Advisory Committee is planning to meet again to finalize their recommendations and she will include the feedback from the Board for this discussion.

Dr. Stoll asked if Sears' students receive less A's than at other Township schools and whether or not grade inflation is occurring. Dr. Matthews shared that not all schools keep data, but she has learned that most of the other schools actually give more A's than Sears. She continued that the important issue is to have standards that require students to learn at a certain level while still allowing them the opportunity to improve their learning with targeted, enriching instruction. A discussion ensued among Board members who agreed that if the School continues with the Honor Roll it must be meaningful and impactful.

Mrs. Moerschel asked if the Junior High Advisory Committee could keep a report of how these recommendations come to pass so the Board has a better understanding of the thinking behind the process and so that the Strategic Plan Curriculum Subcommittee is in sync. She asked the report be made available to the Education Committee and then reported to the full board. Dr. Matthews said that the Advisory Committee is meeting on July 16 at which time she will gather information and report back to the Education Committee. Mr. Kollar concluded that the discussion on this topic would continue at the next Board meeting.

*Junior High Service Points and Cubs Game* - Dr. Matthews added that the Junior High Advisory Committee also recommends making the annual Cubs' outing an all-school field trip, rather than tie it to earning 18 or more Service Points, as has been the tradition. The teachers sensed the students' pressure to complete their points in order to go to the game and questioned what was motivating the students to be of service. They recommended having a simple Service Award Picnic instead to honor the students who provide service to the School. Mrs. Nelson stated that she feels that earning Service Points is important given that community service is a part of the Strategic Plan. The Board remained open to the idea of changing the event as an experiment to see how this change might impact the number of students who continue providing service. Mrs. Moerschel requested that the discussion continue at the Education Committee.

Mrs. Nelson asked what the teachers think of Science IQWST program. Dr. Matthews stated that this program was piloted in Grades 6-8 during the 2012-2013 school year and the consultant helped teachers enhance the implementation and utilization of the materials, as well as to expand with additional pilot lessons this school year, Dr. Matthews added that the Science Teachers will prepare a full report to share with the Education Committee after the initial work is completed this summer.

Dr. Matthews then reviewed the report of students not returning to Sears for the coming year. Most of the students leaving Sears are moving out of the area. One 8<sup>th</sup> grader is transferring to a private school because she intends to enroll at Loyola Academy in ninth grade and her parents feel this will be a better transition for her.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Kollar asked if there were any questions regarding the Consent Agenda. He requested that the June 17, 2013 minutes be amended to include that the Board thanked Dr. Noell for her contribution to Sears. Mrs. Nelson noted that the JSSPVA and Booster Club received more recognition in the Board Briefs than in the Minutes and asked as a practice moving forward that the content be in sync. It was also agreed that Public Comment participants be identified by name, unless it is a group sharing similar comments.

There being no further comments, Mr. Kollar asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Mrs. Stacey Van Metre moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended to include the meeting minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Board meeting and June 28<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting, Approval of Financial Report for May 2013 and June 2013, Approval of Accounts Payable for June 2013, Approval of Accounts Payable for June 18, 2013 to July 15, 2013, Acceptance, Approval of 2013-2014 Salary for Teacher Annuitants, Mrs. Meg Boland, Mrs. Marilyn Crow, Mrs. Vicki Handwerk, Mrs. Baiba Kuntz and Mrs. Gail Moses, Approval of 2013-2014 Salary for Office Support Staff, Mrs. Angela Calabrese, Mrs. Julie Companaro, Mrs. Debbie Geib, Mrs. Leslie Jackson and Mrs. Dale Lucksha, Approval of 2013-2014 Salary for Technology Specialist, Mr. Max Casa, Approval of 2013-2014 Salary for Returning Instructional Assistants, Approval of Hiring of Student Services Teacher, Mrs. JaLynne Butler and Social Worker, Mrs. Bonnie Gamze and Approval of Family Medical Leave request for Mr. Max Casas. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christine Stoll.

Roll Call:

| <u>Yes</u>  | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u>    | <u>Abstain</u> |
|---|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Timothy Kollar<br>Dr. Christine L. Stoll  |           |                  |                |
|   |           | Mr. Brian Karaba |                |
| Mrs. Betsy Moerschel<br>Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson<br>Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre<br>Mr. Scott Wallace |           |                  |                |

The motion carried with a vote of 6 yeases with one member absent.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Review and Discussion of the Strategic Plan Progress** - Mr. Kollar opened this session by asking the Strategic Plan Subcommittee chairs Mrs. Moerschel (Curriculum), Mrs. Nelson (Culture) and Dr. Stoll (Communication) to provide updates from their meetings.

Dr. Stoll stated that all three Chairs intend to meet together since there has been overlap in work thus far and the group wants to ensure clarity and continuity of purpose to ensure that the Curriculum, Culture and Communication all fall naturally within the Strategic Plan. In addition, she stated that the Subcommittee is presenting suggestions to the Communication Committee, which will serve as a preliminary model of objectives for the Board’s consideration at the August Board meeting. After receiving feedback, the Communication Committee will present a revised draft for Board approval. Dr. Stoll shared that another reason the subcommittees determined the need to meet together was to ensure that all of the pertinent comments are included, regardless of where they end up in the Strategic Plan. She added that the process has been very valuable because a limited number of themes have been gleaned, leaving the sub-committees with a clear direction as to key objectives. Finally, Dr. Stoll stated the results of the Parent and Faulty/Staff surveys are complete and this data will be incorporated into the planning process.

Mrs. Moerschel noted that the Curriculum Subcommittee has benefitted from having a diverse group of faculty members representing various grade levels and sharing their different perspectives on the curriculum. She mentioned how rewarding it has been to turn these findings into goals and objectives. Mrs. Moerschel added that the themes that are coming forth in the subcommittee meetings mirror the themes that emerged in the Community Focus Group.

Mrs. Nelson shared that the Culture Subcommittee consists of parents, faculty and Dr. Matthews. The first question the Subcommittee analyzed was: What does the ideal culture look like at our School? This helped them discuss key components of culture. She stated the subcommittee feels strongly that when speaking about the community, it includes all stakeholders, such as students, parents, faculty, staff and community members. The subcommittee identified positive cultural issues among faculty, as well as those needing attention.

The Board agreed to target a review of an initial draft at their August 19, 2013, Board meeting.

**Discussion of and Potential Action to Employ Interim Administrators** - Mr. Wallace prefaced the discussion by noting that the recommendations under consideration are designed as a temporary solution for the coming year. The Board reviewed the concept of hiring Interim Administrator Mr. Charles Freiburger, to conduct Teacher Evaluations in coordination with Principal, Dr. Janice Matthews. In addition, the District would purchase services from NSSED, where appropriate, to fill in for needed supervision and services to students.

Mr. Kollar entertained a motion to approve the proposed administrative plan. *Mr. Scott Wallace moved to approve the hiring of Interim Administrator Mr. Charles Freiburger to conduct Teacher Evaluations in coordination with Principal, Dr. Janice Matthews. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christine Stoll.*

Roll Call:

| <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u>    | <u>Abstain</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Timothy Kollar       |           |                  |                |
| Dr. Christine L. Stoll   |           |                  |                |
|                          |           | Mr. Brian Karaba |                |
| Mrs. Betsy Moerschel     |           |                  |                |
| Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson   |           |                  |                |
| Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre |           |                  |                |
| Mr. Scott Wallace        |           |                  |                |

The motion carried with a vote of 6 yeases and one member absent.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Review and Annual Report Review** -- The Board reviewed the Annual Report and made suggestions for minor edits. Dr. Kalinich noted that upon finalization, the Annual Report will be mailed to all District community members in July and posted to the website, as is the typical practice.

**OTHER BUSINESS** - There was no additional business to discuss.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Dita de Leeuw addressed the Board again with additional comments and questions regarding the March 25, 2013, Electromagnetic Field Final Report and the plans of the School to use classrooms 112 and 118.

*There being no further Public Comment or business, Mr. Kollar entertained a motion to return to Closed Session to continue discussions regarding specific employee matters.*

*Dr. Christine Stoll moved, seconded by Mrs. Stacey Van Metre to return to Closed Session to discuss specific employee matters.*

Roll Call:

| <u>Yes</u>               | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u>    | <u>Abstain</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Timothy Kollar       |           |                  |                |
| Dr. Christine L. Stoll   |           |                  |                |
|                          |           | Mr. Brian Karaba |                |
| Mrs. Betsy Moerschel     |           |                  |                |
| Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson   |           |                  |                |
| Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre |           |                  |                |
| Mr. Scott Wallace        |           |                  |                |

The motion carried with a vote of 6 yeases and one member absent.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:27 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as being present: Mrs. Suzanne S. Nelson, Dr. Christine L. Stoll, Mrs. Stacey M. Van Metre, Mr. Scott Wallace and Mr. Timothy Kollar. Mr. Brian Karaba and Mrs. Betsy Moerschel were absent.

Also in attendance was:

Dr. Kelley M. Kalinich, Superintendent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, Mr. Scott Wallace moved, seconded by Dr. Christine Stoll to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 p.m.*

The motion carried with a voice vote of all yeases.

Attest for Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelley M. Kalinich, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Kollar, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelley M. Kalinich, Secretary