

LELAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Regular Meeting Minutes – Board of Education
Wednesday, March 18, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.
Room 10, Elementary Building – 370 North Main Street Leland, IL 60531

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

President Wesson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present for roll call were members Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, and Wesson. Also present were administrators Abrell and Siemers, and recording secretary Flower.

II. RECEPTION OF VISITORS, GUESTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDIA.

President Wesson welcomed Andrea Bloom of the Earlville Post, Brian Feltes, and Aaron Wahlgren.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Wesson asked to place report number 09-127 after approval of the agenda.

Plote moved, and M. Johnson seconded the motion, to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEM

Report No. 09-127 Presentation on District Property Casualty Insurance Coverage

Brian Feltes from Brian Feltes and Associates gave an overview of the district's property/casualty insurance coverage through the Illinois School District Agency (I.S.D.A.), reviewing coverage, limits, and cost. The district has worked with Mr. Feltes and the ISDA program since 2001.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Review of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting and Executive Session, February 18, 2009

Financial Reports, Bills & Payroll

Report No. 09-117 Second Reading of Policies 6:160, 6:230, 6:300, 6:320, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50, 7:100, 7:210, 7:230, 7:230-AP, 7:240, 7:290, 7:300, 7:340

The board reviewed fifteen policies: 6:160 Instruction – English Language Learners; 6:230 Library Media Program; 6:300 Graduation Requirements; 6:320 Library Media Program; 7:10 Students – Equal Educational Opportunities; 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools; 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 7:210 Expulsion Procedures; 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities; 7:230-AP Deleted; 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities; 7:290 Adolescent Suicide Awareness and Prevention Programs; 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics; 7:340 Student Records.

Report No. 09-118 First Reading of Policies 2:220-E1, 4:55, 4:55-AP, 4:120, 4:120-AP, 4:130, 4:170, 4:170-API, 4:170-AP6

The board reviewed nine policies: 2:220-E1 School Board – Exhibit – Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Records and Minutes; 4:55 Operational Services – Use of Credit and Procurement Cards; 4:55-AP Administrative Procedure – Controls for the Use of District Credit and Procurement Cards; 4:120 Food

Services; 4:120-AP Food Services – Administrative Procedures; 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; 4:170 Safety; 4:170-AP1 Administrative Procedure – Comprehensive Safety and Crisis Program; 4:170-AP6 Administrative Procedure – Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at a Physical Fitness Facility.

Report No. 09-119 Interagency Agreement with the Regional Office of Education and Illinois State Police

The agreement with the Illinois State Police for the processing of criminal history record information requests is up for renewal.

M. Johnson moved, and McCullough seconded the motion, to approve the consent agenda.

Voting aye: Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, and Wesson.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Report No. 09-120 Amended School Calendar for 2008-09

If the district does not have to use a snow day, the following are the end of the year dates: Wednesday, June 3 – Last Regular Attendance Day w/2:00 p.m. Dismissal; Thursday, June 4 – No School – Teachers’ Institute Day; and Friday, June 5 – Report Card Pick-Up (no bus service).

The 2008-09 school calendar will be amended to reflect using emergency days due to four school days canceled for inclement weather, and also the re-scheduling of the parent/teacher conferences for 1st semester .

Baccalaureate would be Sunday, May 17 and Commencement on Sunday, May 24.

Plote moved, and C. Johnson seconded the motion, to approve the amended school calendar for 2008-2009.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Report No. 09-121 Approval of Proposed School Calendar for 2009-10

Board members reviewed the proposed school calendar for 2009-2010, with August 19 the first day of student attendance (1/2 day), and May 25 the last day of student attendance. There would be 87 pupil attendance days in 1st semester, 89 in 2nd semester. Spring break would be March 29 – April 5.

Board members preferred changing the school improvement day (with early dismissal) in September from the first Wednesday to the second Wednesday. The second Wednesday is already set for early dismissal day due to the fair.

The calendar is very much in alignment with IVVC, Earlville, and Somonauk. The calendar committee met, and faculty input was received to develop this proposed calendar. This calendar must also be submitted to the Regional Office of Education, and then the Illinois State Board of Education.

M. Johnson moved, and Plote seconded the motion, to approve the school calendar for 2009-10.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Report No. 09-122 Graduation Requirement Addition

The administration is recommending the addition of Spanish I as a graduation requirement. Reasons include: a) Educational research says that learning a foreign language helps improve the performance of a student in mastering English; b) We are becoming a much more diverse society and economy and having at least a basic understanding of the Spanish language will help students in the “real world”; and c) Many colleges and universities are recommending or even requiring at least 1 year of a foreign language for admission. This course would be a requirement at the 9th grade level.

M. Johnson moved, and C. Johnson seconded the motion, to approve the addition of Spanish I for all freshmen as a graduation requirement.

During discussion, board members discussed whether all freshman students should take Spanish I, or only those intending to go on to college. While they felt it may be too difficult for some students, the administration emphasized that these students have been exposed to Spanish already, with a six week course during sixth, seventh, and eight grades.

Members discussed postponing the vote on the above motion, letting members take in consideration the above discussion, having Dr. Abrell bring numbers back to the April board meeting of students who took Spanish the last two years, and number of freshmen wishing to take Spanish next year if it were not a requirement.

Gunderson moved, and McCullough seconded the motion, to postpone voting on the above motion until the April board meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Report No. 09-123 Place Proposed New Textbooks on Public Display

The district needs to adopt two new textbooks at the high school level for the 2009-10 school year. The Illinois Textbook Loan Program through ISBE will cover most of the costs of the texts. Mrs. Siemers conducted readability analysis on the two texts and they are rated more appropriate for the targeted age/grade level than what we currently use. Current texts being used are eight years old. The textbooks need approval for public review for 30 days and may be officially approved to be adopted at the April 15 board meeting.

Up for adoption are: World History text: World History, Human Legacy, (full survey), Holt Publishers, 2008; and U.S. History Text: American Anthem (full survey), Holt Publishers, 2009.

Gunderson moved, and C. Johnson seconded the motion, to put the new textbooks on public review for the next 30 days.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Report No. 09-124 Let Bids for Auditor

The district needs to begin the process to hire a new auditor. The board needs to direct the administration to seek bids to take effect July 1, 2009. The request for bids will be published in the Ottawa Times.

Gunderson moved, and M. Johnson seconded the motion to direct the superintendent to seek bids for a new district auditor, publishing the request in the Ottawa Times.

Voting aye: Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, Crissip, and Wesson.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Report No. 09-125 Approve District Goals for 2009-10

Board members met from 6:30-7:30 this evening and worked on goals for the up-coming 2009-10 year.

Gunderson moved, and M. Johnson seconded the motion, to approve the district goals discussed earlier in the evening.

Voting aye: C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, Crissip, Gunderson, and Wesson.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Report No. 09-126 Disposition of School Property

In accordance with Board of Education Policy 4:80, Dr. Abrell notified board members of the need to dispose of outdated technology equipment (including the pay phone). He recommends disposing of the equipment at the May 18th LaSalle County Governmental Agency Electronic Recycling event. The drop site is the LaSalle County Governmental Complex at 707 Etna Rd., Ottawa. The district needs to transport the equipment to that location. The equipment has no re-sale or monetary value.

The district also needs to dispose of the old piano for the music department. It could either be sold at the March 21st Lions' Club auction, or note its availability for purchase on the school newsletter, fair market value being less than \$400.

Gunderson moved, and M. Johnson seconded the motion, to dispose of outdated technology equipment and the old piano from the music department in accordance with school district policy, taking advantage of the recycling event May 18th in Ottawa.

Voting aye: M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, and Wesson.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

Report No. 09-128 Recognition Awards

LaSalle County Excellence in Education Program for all school personnel will be held Thursday, May 7, 2009 at Pitstick's. Last year, 177 plaques were presented to certified and non-certified employees of LaSalle County School Districts. Based on the nominations of district staff members, the following employees are recommended for recognition:

Educator Award

Kathy Love
Amy Cameron

Support Staff Award

Ron Robinson

Retiring Educator

Donna Garcia

12 years or more of service on a Board of Education

Mike Johnson
Bill Wesson

They are all to be commended for this recognition.

- Report No. 09-129 Tentative High School Enrollments**
Dr. Abrell will send out tentative high school enrollments to board members during the week.
- Report No. 09-130 Cafeteria Report**
The cafeteria report showed a balance of \$140.42 for Feb., \$69.50 YTD.
- Report No. 09-131 District Enrollments**
The district is down 5 students compared to a year ago.
- Report No. 09-132 Building Administration Report**
The board reviewed the Building Administration Report.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **Matter pertaining to an individual student.**
- **For the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee of the public body.**

Gunderson moved, and M. Johnson seconded the motion, to go into executive session at 8:34 p.m.

Voting aye: McCullough, Plote, Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson and Wesson.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Plote moved, and M. Johnson seconded the motion, to go back into regular session at 10:00 p.m.

Voting aye: Plote, Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, and Wesson.

Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

In attendance in open session: Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, and Wesson.

Principal Siemers left during closed session.

- Report No. 09-133 Student Discipline**
Board members heard a student discipline case during closed session.

Gunderson moved, and Crissip seconded the motion, to uphold the guidelines of the Senior Trip as described in the two information letters given to all participating seniors January 9 by sponsor Kari Hickman.

Voting aye: Crissip, Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, and Wesson.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Report No. 09-134 Personnel

Recommendation for Non-Renewal

Dave Blindt, H.S. Math Teacher

Renewal of Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts

First Year

Julie Jansen, Tari Jansen, Kevin Larson, Kathy Love, Shannon Rapp

Second Year

Stephanie Arias

Third Year

Nancy Daily, Laura Edwards, Jennifer McMillin

Fourth Year

Margo Gudmunson

Support Staff Release

Melissa Hart, Playground Supervisor, effective Feb. 17, 2009

Support Staff Hire

Bob Charlier, Playground Supervisor, effective immediately

Recommendation to Hire – 2008-09

Extra-Curricular – Kari Hickman, Middle School Asst. Track

Recommendation to Hire – 2009-10

Certified Staff – Chris Coakley, H.S. Business Education Teacher

Gunderson moved, and McCullough seconded the motion, to approve the personnel report.

Voting aye: Gunderson, C. Johnson, M. Johnson, McCullough, Plote, Crissip, and Wesson.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Report No. 09-135 Evaluation of Superintendent

In closed session, board reviewed the evaluations of Superintendent Abrell by faculty and staff and board members. They continue to enjoy their working relationship.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

- The next I.V.V.C. meeting is April 8th, 2009.

IX. FUTURE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

There were no additional items for discussion.

X. ADJOURNMENT

M. Johnson moved, and Gunderson seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Plote, Secretary

William Wesson, President