



Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Daniel J. Coles

Associate Superintendent
Business Services
William Harkin

Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction
Laura Beltchenko

Assistant Superintendent
Special Education
Janis Morgan

Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources
James LePage

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WAUCONDA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 118 TO BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009 IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 555 N. MAIN STREET, WAUCONDA, ILLINOIS (USE EVENTS ENTRANCE)

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Items for discussion may be added to the agenda at the start of the meeting at the request of the Superintendent or any Board member upon majority approval of those members present.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF C.O.W. MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2009.

6. RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

At this time members of the audience may address the Board regarding agenda items or any other item of interest. Each speaker will be asked to give their name and address for the record and will be limited to five minutes. Audience members wishing to speak during the meeting to a particular agenda item should raise their hand to be recognized at that time. It is the practice of the Board not to address issues pertaining to individual students or employees in open session. If you wish to address the Board on a matter pertaining to a specific student or employee, please submit your request in writing to the Board clerk before the conclusion of this meeting so that the Board can hear your comments in closed session. Thank you.

7. LINKING FOR LEARNING UPDATE

8. REVISION TO GRADES 6-12 MATH SEQUENCES FLOW CHART

9. BOARD REVIEW OF JUNE 2009 COMMUNITY LINK BUDGET ARTICLE

10. REVIEW OF PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOKS 2009/10

11. UPDATE ON 2008/09 DISTRICT GOALS

12. SUBMISSION OF IASB POSITION STATEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

13. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or dismissal of Specific Employees

14. ADJOURNMENT

DATED MAY 1, 2009

THOMAS A. WEBER, SR., SECRETARY

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Education of Wauconda Community Unit School District 118 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2009 by John Armstrong, President.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Armstrong, Dato, Liddell, McHugh, Swanson, Weber

ABSENT: Batson

OTHERS

PRESENT: D. Coles, W. Harkin, J. Morgan, J. LePage, Building Principals and a few guests.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: By Weber second by Dato to adopt the agenda as presented.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By McHugh second by Swanson to approve the minutes of the C.O.W. meeting of March 5, 2009 as presented.

VOTE: All members present voted aye with the exception of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Weber who abstained.

6. RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

Dr. Coles recognized Mr. Feryance, who was in the audience, for running for the Board of Education. Board Members expressed their thanks and hopes that he will stay involved in the District. Mr. Feryance stated that it was a pleasure running with Mrs. Dato, Mrs. McHugh and Mr. Weber.

7. NEW RECOGNITION CORDS FOR WHS GRADUATES

Dr. Coles addressed the Board regarding this new initiative. The goal is to recognize as many students as possible. Dr. Coles reviewed the new recognition cords and criteria proposed by Mr. Klett and his staff. These new recognition cords would be implemented at the upcoming graduation ceremony (May 30, 2009). Additional cords for Service will be added for seniors graduating in 2010 and 2011. Board Members expressed positive comments. Mr. Feryance asked if the colors/categories would be listed in the program at the graduation ceremony. Mr. Klett affirmed that they would be listed in the programs. Discussion occurred regarding the cords for Service, the amount of hours required and the tracking of hours.

8. 1st DRAFT OF 2009/10 BUDGET

Dr. Coles made introductory remarks and stated that Mr. Harkin has done some updates since our last Budget discussion. No action is required at this time. Dr. Coles reviewed the Budget approval timeline.

Mr. Harkin addressed the Board regarding the 1st Draft of the 2009/10 Budget stating that per Board direction, \$700,000 in cuts/freezes have been incorporated into this document. Possible monies the district may receive from ARRA (stimulus funds) are not included in this draft. Mr. Harkin reviewed the Budget calendar, factors that contribute to the financial problems facing school districts and discussed the effects of the tax cap of 1991. Mr. Harkin stated that CPI has come in at 0.1%, which is the lowest rate our district has ever seen, and spoke about possible emergency legislation that may be introduced to change the language in the tax code to combat this. Mr. Harkin discussed the erosion of the 25¢ tax rate swap and the lack of state funding. This draft of the 2009/10 Budget also reflects no FTE increase in the 09/10 staffing plan and no increase to school fees. The total All Funds Budget for 2009/10 reflects a projected deficit of \$661,365.

Dr. Coles discussed an upcoming issue of the Community Link which will include information on how school districts are funded in Illinois and variables affecting District 118. We are facing a shortfall for next year and even more the following year. Dr. Coles indicated that he felt it was time to share these concerns with the community.

Mr. Harkin reviewed the Fund Balances and discussion occurred regarding the Working Cash Fund. Mr. Harkin stated that according to current Budget projections, we would begin to abolish the Working Cash Fund next year. Dr. Coles commented that we are getting closer to having to make tough decisions regarding our Budget. We have to start talking about a referendum or cutting programs if the state doesn't turn things around. The Board discussed the best possible time to go for a referendum. Mr. Armstrong initiated a discussion regarding how quickly the 25¢ tax rate swap of 2005 was eroded. Dr. Coles brought up the option of going for a Working Cash Bond rather than an Ed Rate increase, indicating it would cost taxpayers less. It could be used for internal borrowing and we can build in additional monies to do other projects. Further discussion occurred regarding this option. Mr. Armstrong noted that this will still not resolve our problem – we are not taking in enough revenue. Mr. Harkin affirmed this and added that we have to seek other revenue sources. Dr. Coles stated that we need to explore what we can do to hold on as long as possible. There is still hope that the State Construction Grants will come through.

9. FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT 2009/10

Dr. Coles spoke about the 2-year process the Lunch Program Study Committee went through to review/improve our lunch program. Dr. Coles commended Mr. Harkin for working with the state to follow their process and meet all their requirements when preparing the bid documents. Four companies attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting, however, only three submitted a bid. Arbor Management Inc. was the lowest bidder and has met all bid specs. Mr. Harkin noted that although they are the lowest, this price is a 7.5% increase from last year. Discussion occurred regarding the bid process and the bids received. Mr. Harkin indicated that the bids include more whole wheat. Mr. Harkin praised the committee for the great job they did putting together the menus. Mrs. McHugh asked if we would be able to pay lunch fees on line in the near future. Mr. Harkin stated he was not sure at this time. Board direction was given to bring this item forward to the April 16 Business Meeting for approval.

10. LUNCH FEES 2009/10

Dr. Coles stated that the proposed fees reflect the increase in the bid amount from Arbor that was previously discussed. The proposed increase is 25¢. The Board directed the administration to place this item on the April 16, 2009 Business Meeting agenda for approval.

11. STUDENT FEES 2009/10

Dr. Coles stated that the administration is recommending no increase to student fees for the 2009/10 school year. Questions were raised regarding how the money generated by collecting the fees is used. Mr. Harkin explained that the monies go into the General Ed Fund. The percentage of families with unpaid fees was discussed, as well as the practice of holding the report cards of students with unpaid fees. Dr. Coles

confirmed that we do not mail the report cards of students with outstanding fees, but the parents can come to pick them up. Board direction was given to bring this item forward.

12. STAFFING PLAN 2009/10

Dr. Coles pointed out that the proposed staffing plan reflects the Board's desire to freeze current FTE for the next school year. This is not a hiring freeze, as we have vacancies. We will fill the current amount of FTE.

Mr. LePage stated that the 2009/10 Staffing Plan reflects no new staffing, except for the H.S. Art Position which is offset by the State Art Grant obtained by the Curriculum Office and has no impact on the 2009/10 Budget.

Mr. LePage indicated that the Staffing Plan addressed reasonable class size while still meeting the needs of Bilingual Education, Special Education, and Rtl. Minor adjustments may be made between different schools and grade levels to meet enrollment numbers without adding new FTE. Mr. LePage added that staffing needs could arise due to Special Education, Bilingual Education or Kindergarten situations. Board Members commented on the number of positions that area districts are cutting for the 2009/10 school year as reported in local papers. Following further discussion, Board direction was given to bring this item forward for approval at the April 16, 2009 Business Meeting.

13. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN IHSA 2009/10

No Board comments or questions at this time. Board direction was given to bring this item forward for approval at the April Business Meeting.

14. PROPOSAL TO AMEND 2008/09 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Coles presented the 2008/09 Amended School Calendar reflecting our use of three emergency days to the Board. The last day for Kindergarten students will be May 28, 2009. Friday, May 29, 2009 will be the last day for grades 1-12. Dr. Coles reviewed the schedule for the last day of student attendance. Board direction was given to place the Amended 2008/09 School Calendar on the April 16 Business Meeting agenda.

15. CLOSED SESSION

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Weber second by Swanson to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

VOTE: All members present voted aye.