

Calumet Public School
Board of Education District 132
Regular Board Meeting
December 20, 2007

President Stover called the regular Board meeting of December 20, 2007 of the Calumet Public School Board of Education to order at **6:25 p.m.**

Roll call:

Member present: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Members absent: Dominic Gangley and Karen Ivey.

Pledge of allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Superintendent's Report

Celebrating Achievement:

Attendance Award

The attendance award for the month of November 2007 was as follows:

Burr Oak Academy – 90.7% and Calumet School – 94.0%. The award was presented to Burr Oak School at 94.6%.

Presentation by Calumet School Students

The students did presentations on Reading, Poetry, Economics and Writing.

Board Member Training and Operational Review

The Board of Education will participate in the *TAG* program. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008. The *TAG* program will entail 18 hours of training.

Financial Plan

In the month of October the fund balance was 2.3 million. As of November the fund balance increased to 2.8 million and that is mainly attributed to the revenues that are starting to come in. Year to date the District received 4 million on the revenue side. That number will begin to increase as the real estate taxes start to come in.

Facilities Plan

The Facilities meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Mr. Heidman, Board member in the Frankfort School District presented a PowerPoint presentation. He shared information at the meeting. The Board is in the process of reviewing all the information that Mr. Heidman as well as others have given to them.

Information Items:

Sharon Uslan - Manager of *Chevron Energy Solutions*

Sharon spoke about *Chevron Energy Solutions*. Sharon mentioned that the company can help the District by modernizing their buildings and by doing it without a tax increase of a referendum. She introduced the concept of what they do and to get the boards feedback on moving forward with a free feasibility study on behalf of the School District. Sharon stated that

their goal is to provide turn key solutions for k-12 School Districts to modernize their building and update critical assets.

Teaching and Learning Update:

At Burr Oak Academy there are 15 programs serving 150 students involving Reading, Mathematics, Tutoring, Science and Social Studies enrollment as well as Spanish.

At Burr Oak School there are 4 programs serving 90 students in Tutoring, Science and Math enrichment.

At Calumet School there are 4 programs serving 130 students in Tutoring and ISAT Prep. In the Saturday Star Program there are 200 students that have attended each Saturday. These sessions involve Reading, Math, and Writing for 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade. There is also ISAT Prep and Bilingual Tutoring for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The fun programs involve Reading, Geometry, Measurement, Sewing, Yearbook, Newsletter, Multicultural Activities, Photography, Student Council and Skating.

All the students from pre-k through 8th grade received holiday study packets. The activities are fun and they collate with ISAT. One of the activities for the 8th graders involves providing for students an opportunity to have \$2,000.00. They are asking the students to tell how they would spend the \$2,000.00. They are mapping out a spending plan and they are making certain the students don't go over the \$2,000.00. This involves Reading, Writing, and Computing for the skills they are encouraging students to use. All the activities involve the academic piece as well as the fun piece. In January the District will kick off their ISAT achievement prep classes for the students in grades 3 through 8 at Calumet School.

Technology Update:

Kevin and Mike from *Avaya Casual Wire* presented their presentation on the new telephone system that the District is in need of and that the District will propose. This is one major component that is part of the *Erate* Program for the next fiscal year. It is also part of the 3 year technology plan that the District has to write in order to fulfill the requirements for the *Erate* program. The *Erate* program and this telephone system is that 90% of the cost will be underwritten by the *Erate* program.

Kevin and Mike presented to the Board the features of what this telephone system will entail. The District has looked at a number of proposals and *Blue Wire* is one of the top contenders. The *Avaya* telephone system has emerged as the best system. There are some competing proposals that are all putting forth the proposal for the *Avaya* telephone system and *Blue Wire* is one of the distributors of that system. One of the considerations is to implement for this phone system is to be implemented in this fiscal year in February.

The main feature of this product is site to site calling. It is a voice over IP systems where you can network all 3 schools together so communication is simpler and enhanced.

The other features include the following:

Shared voice mails

3 to 4 digit extension dialing between the locations

Intercom capability to each location

911 capability

Outbound controlled calls are locked and controlled

Restricted controlled inbound calls

The system is also expandable and it will grow with the District as software upgrades, so the system will stay current as newer technologies come out. It is a software upgrade to the system so the hardware doesn't have to be replaced. The system is also *Erate*able.

Comments and Questions from the Audience

Hattie Gosberry asked regarding Item #14.3 on the agenda.

What do you mean approve amendment to the Superintendent's contract?

President Stover stated that this is a personnel item but she stated that Dr. Reynolds has a 3 year contract. The Board is obligated to evaluate the Superintendent every year. The Board feels she is doing an excellent job in the District and so there were some positive changes to her contract.

Hattie Gosberry asked why is the Board hiring people back that were fired from this District back in 1990?

President Stover stated that this is a personnel issue and that she can request that information through the *Freedom of Information*.

Hattie Gosberry stated that she attended the Christmas program at Burr Oak Academy on Tuesday. The children sang songs about cotton and watermelon.

Ms. Gosberry asked what is that about?

President Stover stated that Dr. Reynolds will research that and then get back to her after the holidays.

Sharvette Walker asked she would like to know the status of making sure administrators and the principals are doing more communication with the parents?

Ms. Beck stated that the District has taken a great deal of time and effort to address the facilities needs of the buildings and the bathrooms are the high priority. There will be significant changes particularly with the sanitary nature of the bathrooms. The toilet dispensers will be enclosed in much more sanitary. The bathroom stalls and toilet seats will be applied all the features a bathroom should have. There have been issues of vandalism and those are being addressed at all the facilities. The District has hired a Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. He will begin to give attention to those areas and support the District significantly on the maintenance aspect of the buildings.

Sharvette Walker stated that she would like to request more lighting in the field area for safety of the students leaving the after school programs.

Ms. Beck stated according to the presentation from *Chevron* those are types of projects that can be introduced as part of the energy and the lighting efficiency and renovations for the schools. The District needs more lighting because more vandalism is starting to take place around the school buildings, so by having that lighting that can provide more security to the buildings and the students. The District will take that into consideration.

President Stover asked for a motion to go into closed session at **7:33 p.m.** to discuss information regarding appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee or officer, contracts, grievances, negotiations, litigation, the sale of real estate, student discipline, Superintendent's evaluation, or Board/Superintendent goals.

It was moved by Barbara Thomas and seconded by Abe Wilson.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangle and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to convene into open session at **8:10 p.m.**

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by Grace Wallace.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve items # 10, 11, and 12 under the consent agenda.

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes

October 11, 2007 – Special Board Meeting – Open Session.

November 8, 2007 – Regular Board Meeting – Open Session.

Personnel Items

The personnel list consisted of 2 certified personnel, 3 classified personnel, 1 retirement, 1 resignation and 1 termination.

Approval of November Bills and Payroll

Total Accounts Payable \$836,814.35

Total Payroll \$707,079.44

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Tax Levy Resolution as presented.

It was moved by Grace Wallace and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing reduction of certain fund levies as presented.

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the amendment to the Superintendent's contract as presented.

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the continuing Board/Superintendent's goals as presented.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Abe Wilson.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Information Literacy Standards designed to reinforce the relationship between school libraries and student learning.

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Calumet Team Leader proposal.

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Schools Library Division Erate Funding proposal for Fiscal year 2008-2009.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Abe Wilson.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Ganglely and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

Minutes for December 20, 2007**Open Session****Regular Board Meeting**

President Stover asked for a motion to approve to allow two Board members to meet in January 2008 to review closed session minutes.

It was moved by William Connor and seconded by Grace Wallace.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangley and Karen Ivey

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Motion Carried

Old Business**Update from Illinois State Board of Education Conference**

Barbara Thomas stated that she attended 2 classes. One class she attended with President Ernestine Stover and the class was on Presidents. The other class she attended was on *The Masters Board Members Leadership Academy*. In this class there were two individuals from the Illinois School Board Association sharing the opportunities for Board members on how to become *Master Board Members*. An educated Board is everyone being a *Master Board Member*, one that is versed on the laws or the laws of the *ILL State Board Association*. There are four levels to complete before becoming *Master Board Members*. Barbara Thomas and President Ernestine Stover are at level two. It is a process where they have to attend classes. These classes are not free they require funding. After the completion of the four levels you will have a good Board who can make sound decisions and can work for the community, students, staff and teachers. The Boards task is to become educated so that they can serve their community and students as best as they can. Barbara Thomas encouraged the Board to go as far as they can so they can become knowledgeable in what they are doing, and when community people come to them they are able to respond in a way that they understand.

New Business**Summer School Planning**

Dr. Reynolds stated that in January they will begin summer school planning. The District will have *Summer Bridges* as well as other summer school programs. The District will also be looking at the universal screening which is the NWEA assessment to see where the students are at and to target those students who really need it first.

Registration 2008-2009

The District will look at how to organize more people so that stations are available to serve a larger population to increase enrollment.

School Calendar – Calendar Committee

There has been a recommendation made regarding the *Professional Development*. The recommendation made was rather to having the (8) ½ days to have (4) whole days so that students are not pieced. The District will also compare their calendars with the High Schools.

Closed Session Minutes

The closed session minutes will be reviewed by all the Board members in January. They will all be taking turns. They will have to go back as far as when Mrs. Price was the President. The tapes have to be looked at by law. They will decide whether to keep the tapes closed or present them to the public.

100th Year Anniversary of School District 132

100th Year Anniversary of School District 132 will begin on February 1, 2008. The District wants to put together a great celebration. The District will put together a committee. The District welcomes teacher, administrators and the community.

TAG Program “Targeting Achievement Through Governance”

The classes will start on Tuesday, January 15, 2008. The classes will be about 2 to 3 hours long. Classes will start at 4:30 p.m. The Board members will complete a survey on the computer before January 2, 2008.

Abe Wilson stated that the survey should not be done. This is a test and he is totally against it. This survey is asking them too much access to go into in depth on how they feel personally about the District. Abe Wilson presented the 9 reasons of why they should not do the survey. (See attached report).

Abe Wilson stated that he attended the Christmas party at Burr Oak Academy. The Christmas program was very nice. There were about 200 people there. Abe Wilson stated that Ms. Gosberry probably took offense. He felt there was nothing wrong with singing those particular songs.

William Connor stated that if they look back at the stages of their history it was the songs that were song in fields that passed messages through to individuals in terms of identifying as to what certain people were doing. It was a message being conveyed. People have the tendency of loosing the essence of where history is.

Adjournment

The Board meeting of December 20, 2007 adjourned at **8:51 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education