

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION – COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203 AND INDIAN PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 204, HELD AT NAPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL, 899 NORTH MILL STREET, NAPERVILLE, IL FEBRUARY 1, 2019, AT 7:30 A.M.**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34A.M.

**2. Meeting Opening**

2.01 Roll Call District 200 Board Members Present - Brad Paulsen, Ginna Erickson, Chris Crabtree, Jim Vroman.

2.02 Roll Call District 203 Board Members Present – Kristin Fitzgerald, Terry Fielden, Donna Wandke, Paul Leong, Kristine Gericke, Janet Yang Rohr

2.03 Roll Call District 204 Board Members Present - Michael Raczak, Natasha Grover, Susan Demming

**3. Welcome**

3.01 Superintendent Dan Bridges welcomed all to the 2019 Legislative Breakfast. He gave a brief history, stating that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that we have come together to meet with our Legislators and to have you meet us and know how we operate and what are some issues that are important to us. This is a great year for us to gather with a change in administration in Springfield and new legislators.

We hope that you will learn who we are and who to contact if you have questions as you do your work in Springfield. The legislators were encouraged to ask how legislation being discussed will impact our school districts.

Following Superintendent Bridges welcome, he gave a brief overview of District 203 stating that District 203 is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest School District in the state. Over the last several years we have seen a big change in the demographics of students we serve as well as a big shift in socioeconomic status. We continue to be proud of our tradition of excellence.

Superintendent Karen Sullivan, Indian Prairie School District 204 also welcomed all. District 204 is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the state. We serve students from Naperville, Aurora, Bolingbrook and Plainfield. All three of our districts are members of the Large Unit District Association (LUDA.)

In the new Evidence Based Funding Model, District 204 is tier 2, We, too have seen our demographics change over the years. We now have over 100 languages spoken by our students and families. Along with our changing demographics, we have seen a big shift in socio economic status.

Welcome to everyone we know and welcome to all the new members. We would like you to visit us and ask us questions.

Dr. Jeff Schuler, Superintendent of Community Unit School District 200 welcomed all to the Legislative Breakfast. District 200 serves students from Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield and Carol Stream.

Demographics are similar to 203 and 204. District 200 is in the process of building a new Early Learning Center.

We spend a lot of time engaged in things we don't want but at the core are the good things happening with our students and our desire that those continue. When you hear from us, you are hearing from us on behalf of 60,000 students. Want to continue to deliver the programs that have made us the districts that we are.

Superintendent Bridges thanked the Legislators for the service that you give and the work you do in Springfield. We do appreciate the sacrifice you make for us in Springfield. Please keep the contact sheet so you know how and who to be in contact with. We all belong to IASB. We are all three active members and these three districts have been very involved and will continue to do so.

- 3.02 Michael Raczak, President, Indian Prairie School District 204 Board of Education  
Michael thanked the state Representatives and Senators for participating in what should be an informative meeting with good discussion. He introduced his Board of Education members. Michael talked about how resolutions provide guidance that ask for thoughtful and nonpartisan participation.  
School safety is a big priority so District 204, introduced a resolution to not have schools used as voting places. Students and staff need to be separated from voters who are in the buildings on election days. The cost to the district is \$10, 000 per election day to cover security.  
Mr. Raczak thanked all for coming here on this day
- 3.03 Brad Paulsen, President, Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education, welcomed all and introduced the District 200 Board of Education.  
District 200 has not, and has no plans to discuss arming teachers at our local schools. While we understand the diversity of the state, our situation is different from districts downstate. We have many local resources. We are sympathetic and acknowledge that they may not have the resources.  
If the resolution passed and law changed, we wouldn't know what the local control would look like if we sent students and teachers to districts who might arm teachers. What would the community think about our sending students to areas that have local control and might choose to arm teachers. Teachers and staff are very concerned about the issue. The state needs to offer funding for training security professionals, mental health, Social Emotional Learning training.  
School safety is going to be a very important topic going forward. Utilize our districts to truly understand the impact these decisions will have on our districts.  
Thank you District 203 for hosting us today.  
Brad echoed appreciation to all for taking the time to listen to our concerns and the challenges we face.
- 3.04 Kristin Fitzgerald, President, Naperville Community Unit School District 203 Board of Education, expressed appreciation to all for taking the time out of their busy schedules to participate in this very important discussion that impacts all districts. Kristin introduced each Board of Education member.

Ms. Fitzgerald talked about the resolution process. Each year districts are able to draft resolutions to be considered by the resolution committee. Each November, all School Boards are able to vote on the resolutions. Those resolutions become vital as they can be drafted into legislation. District 203 drafted a resolution about how School Boards can have abatements of the tax levy that passes on savings to taxpayers. Additionally, we are hopeful this conversation will set the groundwork to have discussions such as this on a more regular basis.

In closing, Kristin Fitzgerald expressed that in writing resolutions we have the opportunity to direct legislation. Please ask us what the impact of the resolution will be.

Superintendent Bridges introduced Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent, DuPage County.

Dr. Ruscitti works with all schools and cooperatives and 16 higher education opportunities. There has been a lot of change over the last 15 years. We embrace change and work together. When the superintendents speak with one voice, they can make an impact.

#### **4. Introduction of Legislative Guests**

Superintendent Bridges introduced:

Illinois State Representatives: Grant Wehrli, Karina Villa, Amy Grant, Terra Costa Howard, and Stephanie Kifowit.

Illinois State Senators: Laura Ellman, Jim Oberweis, Linda Holmes, Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Suzi Glowiak.

Upon their introductions, each gave a few brief comments.

#### **5. Discussion Items**

##### **5.01 Mutual Interests**

Superintendent Sullivan stated that the three districts are working to understand what is meant by the Instructional Day. With EBF, a section of the school code was left out regarding the instructional day, there is guidance on the total number of days but not length of day. We oppose going back to the old language entirely. We want the flexibility to allow us to prepare students for their century not ours. We need to teach students how to learn online and to have blended learning. These don't always fit into a tight five-hour day. We believe that districts will not abuse the flexibility. Parents are pushing for elearning days. Elearning days Could help with polling days. We urge you to get people to the table to talk about this before going back to old language fully.

Superintendent Shuler asked about the long term solution to the pension funding. The roll back from a 6% cap to a 3% cap. We have some concern with rolling that back. There is a teacher shortage so we often ask teachers to take an extra section. Teachers who assume additional responsibilities expect to get paid for the extra work. The 3% does not cover some of the issues that are out of our control. Look for some carve out opportunities so we can get covered when we are trying to cover students without adding new teachers. Senator Oberweis offered some

dialogue that could begin the conversation. Engage us in the solution and we will work to manage it. We need time to put some structure in place.

Superintendent Bridges noted that it is important to understand this pension reform and how it impacts us. Paying penalties for end of career enhancements can be quite costly and not something we can always control.

Superintendent Bridges introduced the mandates since 1992. Some come with financial costs and some with no financial costs. Please reach out to school districts to understand the impact these mandates can and will have on districts.

A higher minimum wage is a good thing but there are impacts and costs, largely financial to districts. Can we do this over time so that our budgets can be made to cover?

6. Public Comment

None

7. Adjournment

Superintendent Bridges thanked all for attending and participating in this very important discussion.

7.01 Motion to Adjourn

District 200 – Motion to adjourn made by Chris Crabtree, seconded by Jim Vroman.

District 203 – Motion to adjourn made by Donna Wandke, seconded by Terry Fielden.

District 204 – Motion to adjourn made by Susan Demming, seconded by Natasha Grover.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 a.m.

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Brad Paulsen, President, Board of Education  
Community Unit School District 200

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Kristin Fitzgerald, President, Board of Education  
Naperville Community Unit School District 203

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Michael Raczak, President, Board of Education  
Indian Prairie School District 204

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Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of Education  
Naperville Community Unit School District 203