

MINUTES OF A CHARTER SCHOOL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 203 W. HILLSIDE ROAD, NAPERVILLE, IL
MARCH 18, 2013, AT 5:00 P.M.

Call to Order President Mike Jaensch called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Board members present: Jackie Romberg, Suzyn Price, Mike Jaensch, Jim Dennison, Susan Crotty and Terry Fielden. Absent: Dave Weeks.

Administrators present were: Dan Bridges, Superintendent; Carol Hetman, Chief Human Resources Officer and Dave Zager, Associate Superintendent for Finance/CFO. Also present at 4:40 p.m. was Robb Cooper, Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper DiNolfo & Gilbert, Ltd.

Closed Session Fielden moved, seconded by Crotty to go into Closed Session at 4:04 p.m. for consideration of:

1. Discussion of lawfully closed meeting minutes. 2/19/13, 3/4/13 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
2. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
3. Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
4. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
5. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).

Open Session Dennison moved, seconded by Crotty to return to Open Session at 5:05 p.m. A voice vote was taken. Those voting Yes: Fielden, Dennison, Price, Crotty, Jaensch and Romberg. No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call Board Members present were: Jackie Romberg, Suzyn Price, Terry Fielden, Jim Dennison, Mike Jaensch and Susan Crotty. Absent: Dave Weeks.

Administrators present: Dan Bridges, Superintendent; Jennifer Hester, Associate Superintendent for Learning Services; Tim Wierenga, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Analytics; Roger Brunelle, Chief Information Officer; Bob Ross, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; Kitty Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Carol Hetman, Chief Human Resources Officer; Susan Rice, Director of Communications; Julie Carlsen, Director of Community Relations; Kate Foley, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services; Dave Zager, Associate Superintendent for Finance/CFO; and Bob Hawkins, Interim Deputy Superintendent.

Public Hearing **Virtual Learning Solutions Charter School**
Mr. Jaensch opened the Public Hearing at 5:06 p.m. He explained the background, purpose of the hearing and some of the legal aspects of the hearing

as required by the Illinois School Code.

Presentation by Applicant

Zach Wasilew, introduced himself. He is the Vice President of K12, the partner organization selected by the Virtual Learning Solutions Charter School Board of Directors to run the charter school. He presented information supporting the proposal received by the District in order for the Board to make an informed decision to grant or deny the charter school proposal.

Public Comments

Carol Tritschler

Urged the Board not to rush into a decision. While there might be a place for a virtual school, based on the company's track record, she noted that she is not in favor of it. It eliminates socialization with other students and teachers.

Karen Rowland

Noted that it is wonderful to give parents a choice. It might accommodate students partaking in high level sports and with many learning styles. For those students who would be interested, choice is good. Teachers will have a pension not relying on tax dollars.

Robert Rowland

Noted that this is about the future of education that is coming whether we like it or not. Education had been changing over the years and this is an opportunity for a certain group of people to have a choice. In an advanced community like Naperville, he urged the Board to have an open mind and give parents the choice.

Carol Higgins

Noted that she is a teacher and has put her children through D203. The human element of schools cannot be replaced by on line school plus taking tax dollars away from the D203 will result in other programs disappearing. She asked the Board as a parent and teacher to deny the charter school proposal.

David Madson

Stated that he is a taxpayer and teacher and the charter school has a record of poor performance, scandal and lawsuits. In the pursuit of seeking profits, the students of D203 will be shortchanged. If it is a nonprofit, he questioned where the money comes from for salaries and expenses. District 203 can and does meet the needs of all students and is staying on top of technology. He urged the Board to deny the request.

Lisa Yost

Is a special education teacher in D203. She noted that we provide excellent services and support for all students. Programs are designed and progress is monitored with input from families. She indicated that virtual school data shows academic decline. She is opposed to the charter school.

Dan Iverson

Is a stakeholder in every possible way and stated a resounding no to the charter school in this area. He noted that in an environment where public funds are

harder to come by, why would we give money to a profit making company. D203 is enormously innovative and the curriculum meets the needs of future learning and all students. He stated that there is no reason to consider this.

Keith Klingeman

Noted that there may be a place for virtual learning but it is not through a multi- million dollar publicly traded corporation whose goal is profit. Their canned curriculum is designed to cut down on cost, enrichment and special needs. He noted that he is adamantly against the charter school and urged the Board to deny the request.

Jane Brueggemann

Noted that real schools provide real people with a vital influence on students. Teachers pick up on the nuances of a child's needs. The organization K 12 is not well reputed. She urged the Board to research very thoroughly and not give one penny to go to organization that claims to be nonprofit but clearly puts investors first.

Duncan Hughes

Noted his opposition to the charter school proposal stating that D203 is an excellent school system and is why they moved here. He stated that virtual learning would deprive students of day to day personal contact with teachers and peers, deprive the community of the socializing element of public school system, and detract from in school learning. He noted that the D203 faculty is well equipped to handle learning.

Stephanie Hughes

Noted that public education should not be delivered by a private organization for profit. She urged the Board to thoroughly explore the charter school proposal. She questioned how much instruction is live and how much is recorded and who owns the recorded elements of the instruction. She suggested that the executive pay in this system is out of control.

Board and Administration Comments

Superintendent Bridges noted that he and other administrators had several questions they would like to ask. He provide copies of the questions and requested that all questions, whether unanswered or unasked be responded to by Thursday, March 21. He noted that the Board received charter school research information and read a list of the items. Zach Wasilew responded to questions from Dave Zager, Dan Bridges, Jennifer Hester, Kate Foley, Bob Ross and Roger Brunelle. Board members each asked questions as well.

Closing Comments and preview of next steps in review process

Mr. Jaensch thanked everyone for attending. He noted that in order to provide transparency, both the power point and prepared questions will be posted on the District website. He noted that all Board meetings are public meetings; additionally he invited any representatives of the charter school to attend. At the next Board meeting on April 1, the Board will have discussion regarding the charter school proposal. At the April 15 Board of Education meeting, the Board will take action on whether to grant or deny the charter proposal. Within seven days of the Boards' vote, the District will file a report with the Illinois

State Board of Education, as required by the Illinois School Code, indicating approval or denial of the proposal.

Adjournment Dennison made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting at 7:10 p.m. Crotty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Price, Romberg, Dennison, Jaensch Fielden, and Crotty. No: None The motion carried.

Approved April 15, 2013

Mike Jaensch, President
Board of Education

Ann N. Bell, Secretary
Board of Education