

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES,
ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER ON
JULY 30, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

Call to Order

President Mike Jaensch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Board members present: Dave Weeks, Jim Dennison, Mike Jaensch, Jackie Romberg, Susan Price, Susan Crotty and Terry Fielden.

Administrators present were: Mark Mitrovich, Superintendent of Schools (by speakerphone); Melanie Raczkiewicz, Associate Superintendent for Operations; Kitty Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for School Services and Programs; Dave Zager, Assistant Superintendent for Finance; Ralph Weaver, Director of Facilities and Construction; Melea Smith, Director of Communications; Tim Wierenga, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; Kitty Murphy, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Special Education.

Public Comment

David Shaftman commented that he thought the Board acted wisely at their July 20 Board Meeting when they postponed the vote on the Abraxas proposal so there would be more time for discussion. He expressed concern for the students' safety. He is also concerned that the staff at Abraxas will be equipped to handle the variety of needs for 9, 10, 11, and 12 grade students together.

Consent Agenda

1. Appointment of Labor Attorney
2. Personnel

Price made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Fielden seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Weeks, Price, Jaensch, Fielden, Crotty, Dennison, and Romberg.

Discussion with
Action

1. Alternative High School Agreement

At the Board meeting on July 20, there were several questions to be answered. Mr. Zager and Mrs. Murphy gave a PowerPoint presentation and the following points were discussed:

- AARA Fund Parameters
 - IDEA Part B \$3,822,128
 - IDEA Preschool \$139,804
 - Expended or Obligated by 09/30/2010
 - Must be used to Supplement not Supplant
 - Non-public allocation requirement
 - 15% to early intervention services
 - Allowable Expenditures are the same as those for IDEA Part B special education grant
- The process used to develop the AARA budget
 - Allocations and parameters were presented to staff across the district
 - The lists were reviewed against the parameters and prioritized

Draft budget prepared and reviewed for submission to the State Board

- What will happen in two years when the funding is no longer available?
 - Some items are one-time purchases
 - Staff has been told that this is a two year position
 - Will look at other items and programs in the special education budget that are no longer needed depending on the effectiveness of Abraxas
 - The program will be closely monitored for the effect it is having on the students.
 - The obligation for the third year means that we are locked in, we are buying slots.
- If the Board decides they still want to provide programs for these students, the decision to renew should be straight forward depending on the effectiveness of the program.
- Providing a similar in-house program would be difficult to have up and running efficiently with the expertise that Abraxas already has. Other ALOP programs were compared and Abraxas offers an integrated social emotion learning program of good quality at less cost per student than any other programs.
- Positive pointers for sending District 203 students to Abraxas:
 - District 203 curriculum – will make the transition back into school easier and reinforce to the students that they are making progress intellectually as well as emotionally.
 - Cannot fully emulate the curriculum, but will cover the high points to accommodate transition back into school.
 - We are involved in the hiring of high quality staff.
 - It provides an opportunity to get our students back into our schools.
- Terry Fielden and Dave Weeks made a site visit to the Abraxas facility. It is a former hospital – a nice facility that needs minor cosmetic upgrades. The courteous staff explained the program and how the facility would be secured. Abraxas has similar programs in other cities, so they have a model.
- Mr. Zager reviewed the overall budget for a 30 student ALOP program
- Mike Blacharczyk, Abraxas, gave a brief synopsis of the qualifications of the staff that have been hired to date. There are a few positions still open.
- Mrs. Murphy explained that the parameters for evaluating the program are being developed. Abraxas already has a Service Integration Plan that will be used as a basis for the parameters.
- It was discussed that the person in the District who currently runs the ALOP program would stay in contact with Abraxas and deal with the evaluations and continuity the program will need.
- Mrs. Murphy explained that Abraxas will be one of several programs

available to students and that staff teams at the high schools look carefully at all the options available to match a student's needs with the appropriate program.

- Board members thanked District 203 staff and the Abraxas staff for providing the information to enable the Board to make its decision.
- Mike Blacharczyk confirmed that our curriculum is proprietary and that none of it will be copied or used independently without our consent and knowledge. The contract will contain language to that effect.

Mr. Weeks made a motion to approve the three-year Alternative High School Agreement subject to legal council's review of the contract. Fielden seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Romberg, Dennison, Fielden, Jaensch, Weeks, and Price. No: Crotty. The motion carried.

2. Change Order – NNHS Parking Lot

Mr. Weaver noted that this change order was not an emergency, but rather a significant scope change at the recommendation of the City of Naperville that he wanted to make the Board aware of. The change order includes additional fire hydrants as well as the best management plan for storm water retention.

Fielden made a motion to approve the Change Order as submitted. Crotty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Weeks, Price, Jaensch, Fielden, Crotty, Dennison, and Romberg.

Adjournment Fielden moved, seconded by Price to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. A voice vote was taken. Those voting yes: Fielden, Jaensch, Weeks, Romberg, Crotty, Price and Dennison. No: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved August 17, 2009

Mike Jaensch, President
Board of Education

Ann N. Bell, Secretary
Board of Education