

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES,
ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER ON MARCH
24, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order President Suzyn Price called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Suzyn Price, Dean Reschke, Debbie Shipley, Mike Jaensch, Jackie Romberg, and Susan Crotty. Terry Fielden arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Middle School Discussion Jodi Wirt noted that for tonight's discussion, representatives from different disciplines, years in the District as well as different levels were invited to take part. Dr. Leis explained that this is meant to be an open-ended discussion with no right or wrong answers.

The differences between a middle school and a junior high philosophy were discussed. Although we call our secondary schools, junior highs, we do use the middle school concept of small teams of teachers at different levels who comprehensively act as a support system for each child. There are advantages to the smaller community – team concept. The teams of teachers get to know the whole child, whereas in a junior high setting for instance, a math teacher only teaches math and across all levels.

There was a discussion about the exploratory options, and the need to revisit expansion of the music program. The push to take a foreign language has hurt the students' ability to take exploratory classes. At this age, sometimes parents are not certain how much involvement they should have with their children and school. There is a need to continue to educate parents about the different means of communication that are available and to inform them about what is happening with their child's team at school.

There was a discussion about the difference in junior high children of today compared to the past. Ethnic and socio-economic diversity are among the big changes. Discussion centered on how to deliver the material to meet the need of all students especially those transferring into the District who might have catching up to do.

Communication between the levels is improving. We are getting data earlier and more of it to help bridge the levels. There is a lot of strength in the fact that we are a unit district that provides a constant flow of information for transitions.

Board members noted that they could feel the passion these educators have for their students similar to the feeling at the high school level discussion a few weeks ago.

Public Comment None

Adjournment Shipley moved, seconded by Reschke to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.
A voice vote was taken. Those voting yes: Fielden, Jaensch, Reschke,
Romberg, Crotty, Price and Shipley. No: none. Motion carried
unanimously.

Approved April 20, 2009

Suzyn Price, President
Board of Education

Ann N. Bell, Secretary
Board of Education