

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 6:00 p.m.
February 13, 2017
Jefferson School – Multipurpose Room
8200 Greendale Avenue
Niles, IL 60714**

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Vicki Lee, Mark Eggemann, Scott Zimmerman, and Tom Sotos. Board member Bob Johnson was absent. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, and five members of the public.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at: <http://www.d64.org/>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President Borrelli invited public comments; none were received.

Public
Comments

REVIEW CANDIDATES FOR BOARD VACANCY

Board President Borrelli announced that per Board Policy 2:70, the Board was obliged to fill the open seat position within 45 days of registering the vacancy with the regional superintendent. Board President Borrelli noted that the Board would deliberate in a closed session following the interviews this evening, but that the Board would vote publicly on the appointment at the regular meeting on February 21, 2017.

Review
Candidates for
Board Vacancy

Board President Borrelli noted that each candidate had been allotted 10 minutes for their interview, and that Board members would take turns asking each candidate the same three questions:

- The vacant Board seat will be available for 10 weeks or 3-4 meetings until filled through the next general election. What knowledge, experience and/or attributes do you feel you will bring to the Board of Education during this short time?
- Within that same timeframe, what knowledge do you already have and how will you gain additional knowledge surrounding the numerous topics being discussed at the District level to provide insight during Board discussions?
- Can you please describe your awareness and thinking surrounding the financing of District capital improvement projects as well as the most recent financing proposal presented to the Board.

Each candidate also was given an opportunity at the end of their comments to add any further statement they would like to make to the Board.

The Board interviewed the following individuals in succession: Monica Wojnicki, Joan Sandrik, Terry Cameron, Alan Martin, Terry Krahl, and Elissa Reiner. At 7:10 p.m., Board President Borrelli called for a brief recess. The Board returned from recess at 7:20 p.m. and continued the interviews with the final two candidates: Chandra Kearney and Larry Woodard.

Board President Borrelli thanked each candidate in turn on behalf of the Board for stepping forward for consideration to be appointed for this short time, and encouraged their continued interest and support for District 64. Dr. Heinz reviewed the next steps that the Board had followed during the process to fill the last vacancy in 2014. Board President Borrelli then announced that the Board hoped to reach consensus on its top three candidates during the closed session this evening, and that he would contact the top candidate to verify that this individual could accept the position. He stated that he would then contact all other candidates to let them know of the Board's deliberations prior to making a public announcement of the preferred candidate on Friday, February 17, when the reports for the regular meeting of February 21, 2017 would be made available. Board President Borrelli noted that the Board would vote on the interim replacement during open session on February 21, at which time the selected individual would also be sworn in and seated.

DISCUSSION OF POLICY 2:100

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Policy 2:100

Board President Borrelli noted that discussion of Policy 2:100, *Conflict of Interest*, is an extension of efforts to review policies concerning the Board's code of conduct, expectations for behavior and communications, and self-governance, which were initiated at the February 6, 2017 special meeting prompted by the recent resignation of a Board member. He noted that the District's legal counsel had provided background information concerning this policy, as the issue has come forward in light of the candidacy of several community members for Board seats at the April 4, 2017 municipal election who also are spouses of current District 64 staff members. Board President Borrelli reported that the District's legal counsel had advised the Board that Illinois case law is settled and holds that the interest of a public officer's spouse in a contract does not necessarily mean that the public officer has an interest, even an indirect interest, in the contract, provided that the contract is not mere subterfuge for the public officer's own pecuniary interest. Board President Borrelli noted that counsel also advised that by law, the fact that a School Board member has a spouse employed by the District does not itself create a conflict. He further reported that counsel had indicated that notwithstanding the legal requirement, counsel generally advises that School Board members abstain from discussing and voting on any contracts that affect their spouses and/or family members in order to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Board President Borrelli pointed out that the District's counsel referenced that such advice is supported by the the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS model exhibit to Board Policy 2:80 *Board Member Code of Conduct*.

With that advice in mind, Board President Borrelli then offered an amendment to Board Policy 2:100, which the District's legal counsel had suggested could be added if the

Board so decided, which would be placed as the second sentence of the existing policy: *However, even when permitted by State law, a School Board member is strongly encouraged to recuse him- or her-self from discussions, deliberation and voting on any item(s) to which the School Board member has a personal or family connection in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.*

Board members then discussed what impact the additional text might have, whether it was redundant to existing policy, and the right of voters to elect individuals to the Board knowing of their affiliation who would be constrained by existing language within Policy 2:100 and other policies regarding Board member conduct.

The policy will be returned for further Board review at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

At 7:59 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn to closed session for the selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)], not to return to open session with no action to be taken.

Adjournment to
Closed Session

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sotos, Zimmerman, Borrelli, Lee, Eggemann

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Johnson

President

Secretary