

1. *Superintendent's office*

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Evanston Township High School was convened at 6:36 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office. Mr. Metz presided and called the meeting to order. On roll call Ms. Burns, Ms. Graham, Mr. Rochelle, Ms. Livingston, Mr. Baum, Ms. Hayman and Mr. Metz answered present. Dr. Witherspoon, Superintendent, Mr. Hawthorne, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Stafford, Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Nguyen, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Campbell, Director of Human Resources and Ms. Rapp, recorder, were also present.

2. Closed Session to Discuss 2C(1) Personnel, 2C(9) Student Discipline, and 2C(21) Closed Session Minutes - Roll Call

3. Open Session – N-112 - Roll Call

4. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 2, 2011 – Ms. Livingston moved approval of the Minutes of May 2, 2011 and Mr. Baum seconded the motion. All members present voted aye; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Written Communications were circulated.

Information

6. Summer Curriculum Proposals

Dr. Nguyen presented twenty-three summer curriculum projects for the 2011-12 school year. All of the projects were aligned with the school goals of literacy, numeracy, and well-being. Specific priorities are: Curriculum development for newly adopted courses; 1 Humanities; incorporating well-being into the curriculum and professional development to support school goals and 1 Humanities. Due to a reduced budget for curriculum summer projects grant funds were utilized to increase the resources available for the projects. Half of the projects will be paid for with Perkins Vocational Education funds and IDEA funds. They are asking the Board to approve \$83,045 in district funds for the projects.

Board questions and comments: A Board member highlighted the therapeutic curriculum for students of inside school suspension. They are helping students learn strategies to keep them out of inside suspensions in the future. A question was asked about the difference in the work staff has already done to prepare for 1 Humanities and what will be done during the summer. They will be working on designing specific units over the summer. The Assessment team has been working hard and will be finishing some work already started. It was asked if earned Honors would be included in Biology Curriculum Mapping. Dr. Nguyen said that we are not quite ready for that.

7. International Travel for 2011-12

Mr. Hawthorne reported that permission for three international trips during the 2011-12 school year is being requested. In September, forty students will go to Stratford, Canada for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival; in November, eighteen students Spain and in March, fifteen to twenty students will travel to France.

Board questions: Board members noted that the cost of the trips ranges from \$700 to \$2500. These trips are a rich part of the curriculum and should not be limited to only those who can afford the expense. Mr. Hawthorne said that there is

a requirement that teachers provide a plan for fundraising for each trip so that everyone who wants to go can do so. It was noted that it would be difficult to determine if all students who want to attend are able to go since some, who may be concerned about the expense, may not apply. Ms. Pino, department chairperson, reviewed the selection process that includes student interviews, teacher recommendations, and grades. Economic ability is not a factor. Students can be in either regular or honors sections, but they must be taking the language. Fundraising goes on all year and some is done in a collective way to benefit all students going on a particular trip. All students who are eligible to attend are encouraged to apply. In answer to another question Ms. Pino said that the trips are not an integral part of the course, they are an enriching experience. Mr. Hawthorne explained that the small number of trips this year is due to the fact that some trips are on a cycle. Next year there will be more trips.

8. Board Committee Assignments

Mr. Metz announced that the board committee assignments for 2011-12 have been made. In an attempt to make sure that at least one Board member attends every meeting he asked anyone who is unable to attend a committee meeting to reach out to another Board member to attend. Committee lists for 2010-11 and 2011-12 will be sent to Board members.

9. Board Committee Reports

Mr. Metz asked Board members to let him know if they are going to make a committee report at a Board meeting and to submit written reports to be included in the Board packet. During the transition of membership on committees Board members were encouraged to contact the person who was on a committee the previous year.

A. Student Board Member Report

Mr. Chatz said that Student Council elections were held recently and that Student Council is becoming more prominent. Mr. Chatz plans to restructure the position of student board representative. He is working with administrators on an "On Time Campaign" for next year with incentives to get students to class on time. He is also working with deans on alternatives to detentions.

Mayor Tisdahl is sponsoring a meeting on June 4 focusing on activities to insure safety for students. A meeting of the ETHS NAACP on youth engaged in positive activities will be held on Tuesday, May 24th.

10. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Witherspoon mentioned end of the year activities.

11. Finance Committee

Mr. Metz moved to the Finance Committee.

A. Budget Reduction Strategy and Discussion

Mr. Stafford reported on the progress toward reaching the goal set in February to reduce the budget by \$1.5 to \$2 million. The strategy included reductions in: administration, use of IMRF ERI program, supplies, consulting, and added teacher duties. Because the state's budget is still \$3 to \$4 billion out of balance, ETHS will lose approximately \$130,000 in general state aid; another \$100,000 in categorical state aid; \$150,000 bi-annually in textbook funds and other areas. All of these reductions will

cause the district to have a deficit for FY2011. In addition the low CPI, increase in health insurance and high fuel costs will add to the projected deficit of \$800,000 to \$1,400,000 in FY 2012 and \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 in FY 2013. Mr. Stafford explained the budget reduction strategy, value based budgeting. To reach the goal of \$1.5 million in reductions they will use IMRF ERI program; reductions in supplies and contractual services; more teacher duties; reduction of administrators; one teaching staff reduction through attrition; five support staff reductions; reduction in some stipends per faculty input and IMRF fund phase-in versus ARC rate selection. These reductions will amount to \$1,500,000 for FY 2011-12.

The possible savings by the use of on-line forms was discussed. Ms. Rodino said we are making a transition to electronic forms and are communicating electronically. The goal is to have people opt out of receiving paper copies. Currently all forms are available online, parents can pay bills through the web store. Other areas of reduction discussed included postage, paper and duplication. The Joint Legislative Task Force will have a meeting with legislators to discuss financial issues with Springfield. Mr. Stafford went over the details of the expected savings of the IMRF ERI and the associated expenses. By year five we will have saved \$1.7 M. An additional savings will come from new employees being in IMRF Tier 2. A question of reducing Special Education expenses came up. Mr. Hawthorne said that, because of state law, we sometimes have no choice on where to place students. Mr. Stafford will provide a list of the reductions in teacher stipends at the next Board budget meeting. Ms. Rodino will also provide a breakdown of students in special education facilities. Mr. Stafford explained the possible changes to the Teachers Retirement System.

12. Comments from the Public – Mr. Futransky reported on the Beyond Diversity For Community Leaders conference.

13. Consent Agenda

Ms. Livingston made the motion to approve the following Consent Agenda and Ms. Hayman seconded the motion. On Roll Call Ms. Graham, Mr. Baum, Ms. Livingston, Mr. Rochelle, Ms. Hayman, Ms. Burns and Mr. Metz voted yea; nays, none. Motion carried.

- A. Approval of Bills for the period of April 29, 2011 through May 13, 2011 in the amount of one million, three hundred eighty-seven thousand, six hundred eighteen dollars and forty-nine cents (\$1,387,618.49). And for payroll of May 13, 2011 in the amount of one million seven hundred forty-four thousand, nine hundred fifty-four dollars and eighteen cents. (Copy available in the Business Office).
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for April 2011
- C. Approval of a contract to North and South Tower Masonry Repair Bid to Mark 1 Restoration Company at a cost of \$556,100.
- D. Approval of a contract for Field House Roofing Repair to Olsson Roofing Company in the amount of \$255,500.
- E. Personnel Agenda

Appointments to Staff

Chair
Exempt
Summer School

Change in Status - Educational/Stipends/Adjustments

Teachers
Support Staff

Retirements

Teachers
Support Staff
Safety
Custodians
Maintenance
Nutrition Services
Exempt
Engineers

Resignation

Coach

Addendum

Appointments to Staff

Teachers
) Support Staff

14. Old and New Business

A. Old Business

Board members discussed the subject of asking administrators for data on various topics. They realize that if they can create a distraction by asking administrators to provide data that can pull administrators away from their mission. Some felt that all Board members should be part of the discussion about what data is needed so that the data requested is aligned with the district goals as established by the Board. Mr. Metz cautioned that as a group Board members need to be thoughtful with their requests. District Goals are on an upcoming agenda. Some board members feel the goals need to have specific, measurable objectives.

B. New Business

Mr. Metz explained that there have been requests to review board policy on the topics below. The requests were discussed and following the vote each was sent to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

1) Communication with the Public

Motion to refer to the Policy Committee for consideration was made by Ms. Livingston and seconded by Ms. Graham. All members voted aye; nays, none. Motion carried.

2) Agenda/Package

Motion to refer to the Policy Committee for consideration was made by Mr. Baum and seconded by Ms. Livingston. Ayes, four; Nays, three. Motion carried.

3) Committee Assignments

Motion to refer to the Policy Committee for consideration made by Ms.

Graham and seconded by Mr. Baum. All members voted aye; nays, none. Motion carried.

4) Programmatic Review

Motion to refer to the Policy Committee for consideration made by Ms. Livingston and seconded by Mr. Rochelle. Ayes, six; nays, none; abstain, one. Motion carried.

Mr. Stafford reported that Freedom of Information Act requests have been received and responded to from Mr. Martinez and Mr. Garrett.

15. Closing

A. Polling the Board

Ms. Graham hopes everyone will support the golf outing and social hour on June 17 sponsored by the ETHS Foundation. The Foundation has been playing an important role in supporting ETHS.

Ms. Burns has received phone calls from people asking how the PEG work relates to what we are doing at ETHS. The administration will provide a summary of these items. Ms. Burns thanked Dr. Witherspoon for bringing community leaders together for Beyond Diversity training.

Ms. Livingston congratulated the spring sports teams. She attended the Freshman and National Honor Society meetings, Senior Awards Night, the spring band and orchestra concert and a jazz program at the Skokie Theatre.

Mr. Metz said that the senior awards program was inspirational. He was excited to share the news that the Freshman A baseball team has won Central Suburban League champion honors along with 2 other teams. This is the first time since 1998 that we have been first in the CSL.

B. Adjournment

At 9:55 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Livingston moved and Ms. Graham seconded a motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting will be held on June 13, 2011.