

RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
NOVEMBER 6, 2008
MINUTES

The Board of Education of Rich Township High School District 227 met on November 6, 2008, in the Media Center at Rich Central High School, Olympia Fields, Illinois.

Mr. Brunson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Absent: Norwood

Also Present: Mr. Hunigan, Dr. McDonald, Mrs. Cotton-Ramey, Mr. Hampton, Mrs. Treichel, Mrs. High, Ms. Carter, Mr. Veazey, Mrs. Wessendorf, Mr. Toner
(SouthtownStar)

Mr. Brunson went over the Board goals of Student Achievement, School Climate (Internal Learning Community), and Community Relations (External Learning Community).

Recognition of Citizens Pertaining to Agenda Items

There were no citizens who wished to be recognized regarding agenda items.

Report of the Superintendent

Mr. Hunigan stated he was bringing a proposal before the Board to approve a Strategic Planning Consultant and School Climate Consultant. He noted he was asking the Board to approve Educational Consultants Research Associates, Dr. Lou Gatta, President, as the District's Strategic Planning Consultant and Ms. Frances Curtis Frazier as the School Climate Consultant.

Mr. Hunigan noted that Dr. Gatta had given a presentation at the last Community Relations and Long-Range Planning Committee meeting, and the committee was recommending him for the Strategic Planning consultant position. He also stated that Ms. Frazier's expertise was in the area of school climate, and he had had a lengthy meeting with her. He was recommending her for the school climate consultant position. If approved she will be meeting with staff, students and parents to get a feel of the school climate in the District.

Mrs. Brookins asked if any other individuals had been interviewed for the school climate consultant position.

Mr. Hunigan responded that Ms. Frazier has an extensive background of working with a number of school districts. No other individuals had been interviewed.

Mrs. Brookins asked what happens once Ms. Frazier conducts the school climate survey.

Mr. Hunigan responded that that was a very important part of the process. He noted he will be talking about results of the survey when he discusses his goals pertaining to school climate.

Mr. Imoukhuede asked how much the services would cost.

Mr. Hunigan responded that Mr. Gatta's firm will charge no more than \$50,000 for the Strategic Planning. His firm will be doing an analysis of student achievement data, focus groups, and surveys. Mr. Gatta's firm, along with individuals from the District, will be looking at the English and math curriculums again and the college readiness standards. They will also be reviewing the Mission and Vision statements for the District and looking at the Board goals.

Ms. Frazier will be spending approximately \$7,300, plus travel expenses of approximately \$1,900. She will be meeting with the Board one of the evenings she is in the District. Her expenses and fees will not exceed \$10,000. He noted that the fees for the two individuals are less than the original fee from Dr. Gatta's proposal.

Mr. Imoukhuede noted this was a win/win situation for the District.

Mrs. Moten asked about the curriculum audit between our District and the foundation school districts.

Mr. Hunigan responded that the foundation districts are working with our District in regards to curriculum.

Mr. Imoukhuede moved and Mrs. Owens seconded the following:

(09-46) It is moved that the Board of Education approve Educational Consultants Research Associates, Dr. Lou Gatta, President, as the District's Strategic Planning Consultant and Ms. Frances Curtis Frazier as the School Climate Consultant, as per the attached documents.

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Results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-46 carried.

Mr. Hunigan requested a first reading of Revised Board Policy 2.150 (Committees). He noted that the Special Board Committee appointed by Mr. Brunson had come back with a recommendation that the Board have two Board meetings a month and the only committees would be an Ad Hoc Committee, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee, and the Behavioral Interventions Committee. This change involves a change to Board Policy 2.150 – Committees. Mrs. Moten went over the revised policy.

Mr. Brunson added that the Board will be able to receive more citizen feedback with two Board meetings a month.

Mrs. Moten announced this was a first reading of Revised Policy 2.150.

Mr. Imoukhuede asked to have the first reading waived. Mr. Imoukhuede moved and Mrs. Moten seconded the following:

(09-47) It is moved that the Board of Education waive the first reading of Revised Policy 2.150 and adopt Revised Policy 2.150 into its Policy Book

Results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-47 carried.

Mr. Hunigan brought up the fact that the first meeting in February, 2009, falls on a Parent Conference night. He suggested the Board either have its first meeting of the month of February on February 3 or else have only one meeting in February.

Mrs. Owens responded that February is a busy month, and she felt there should be two meetings. Mrs. Brookins noted that the first Tuesday was not convenient for her to attend a meeting. Mrs. Owens suggested that Mr. Hunigan check with Mrs. Norwood to see if

she is available on February 3 for a meeting. Mr. Hunigan stated he will get back to the Board.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Mr. Hampton introduced Mr. Gerry Andino from Interior Systems, Inc., who gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Design Project Plan for the Rich East Student Cafeteria and the Rich Central Student Cafeteria. Following the presentation, Mrs. Owens moved and Mrs. Brookins seconded the following:

- (09-48) It is moved that the Board of Education approve the “Hiring of Interior Systems, Inc. for Rich Central and Rich East Cafeteria Furnishings” in accordance with Business Office Memorandum 09-08.

Results of the Roll Call Vote were as follows:

Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-48 carried.

Mr. Hampton requested approval of a partnership with FlexMedia for portable fencing. He noted that information on FlexMedia had been presented at two Budget/Property Committee meetings. Mr. Hampton stated that the committee recommendations were that the District have one FlexMedia fence at each of the three campuses. This would mean that there would have to be 75 advertisers. It was his recommendation that the District start with one portable fence to be used at all three campuses and then expand as the District partners with more advertisers. Currently, FlexMedia has 13 commitments for advertisements. The goal is to have one fence at each of the campuses. This fence is at no cost to the District. In fact, beginning in Year 2 FlexMedia will give the District \$5,000 for Year 2 and \$5,000 for Year 3.

Mr. Brunson added that the District retains control over the advertisers.

Mrs. Upshaw moved and Mr. Imoukhuede seconded the following:

- (09-49) It is moved that the Board of Education approve the “Partnership with FlexMedia for Portable Fencing” in accordance with Business Office Memorandum 09-09.

Results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-49 carried.

Report of the President

Mr. Brunson reminded the Board of the reception for students with an ACT of 22 or higher scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rich South Student Cafeteria.

Mr. Brunson reminded the Board and public that the next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rich Central Media Center.

Mr. Brunson asked Board members to report on the Technology Conference which took place recently in Seattle, WA.

Mrs. Brookins noted that the conference had been one of the best conferences she had attended. She stated we are in an age of technology. Mrs. Brookins talked briefly about electronic books, the Apple Mac Book for English teachers, data being produced by scientists, and technology for students. She noted that the District is preparing kids for jobs that do not exist now.

Mrs. Owens noted that she had attended a session on data and on-line learning. This is going to be happening in the next 5 to 10 years.

Mr. Brunson reminded the Board of the Snowball Closing Ceremonies scheduled for Sunday, November 9, at 11:00 a.m. at Camp Manitoqua. He asked Ms. Wessendorf to say a few words about Snowball II. Ms. Wessendorf noted that there were 104 students signed up for Snowball II. This Spring will mark the 25th anniversary of Snowball in the District.

Recognition of Citizens

Mr. Veazey was recognized. He noted he was curious about the policy or practice the Board uses regarding going to conferences, who attends, the budget for such conferences for the year, and how does the Board measure if the conference has been successful or

meaningful. He asked if the Board tracked ideas that come from the conferences and say that this is something they got from going to the conference.

Board members responded to Mr. Veazey's comments. They noted that they had been introduced to various aspects of technology and had implemented some of them in the District. Board members stated they felt it was money well spent to go to conferences. They are better informed of what is taking place in regards to education. In addition, it is one of the Board members' responsibilities to continually develop. The District supports professional development with the staff and also with itself. The Board members can learn about the latest innovations and see best practices and models that work.

Mr. Veazey responded that he was not being judgmental but wanted to know the process or policy used. How does the Board determine what is bad or good? Who gets to go? Where is the measurement.

Mr. Brunson stated that there was a policy in the Board book for conference attendance. He stated he will visit the policy at the next meeting.

At 8:40 p.m. Mrs. Moten moved and Mr. Imoukhuede seconded the following:

- (09-50) It is moved that the Board of Education go into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity, and to discuss pending litigation.

Results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-50 carried.

At 10:20 p.m. Mrs. Owens moved and Mrs. Upshaw seconded the following:

- (09-51) It is moved that the Board of Education reconvene its regular meeting.

Results of the roll call vote were as follows:

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Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-51 carried.

At 10:21 p.m. Mrs. Owens moved and Mrs. Upshaw seconded the following:

(09-52) It is moved that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting.

Results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Aye: Brookins, Brunson, Imoukhuede, Moten, Owens, Upshaw
Nay: None

Motion 09-52 carried.

President

Secretary