

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

BOARD
APPROVED
JUN 10 2014

Rockford Public Schools

Administration Building
Superintendent's Conference Room
Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The special meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Kenneth Scrivano at 5:08 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson, Mr. Tim Rollins, Dr. Michael Harner, Mr. Michael Connor (arr. 5:18), Mrs. Laura Powers

Absent: None

Motion by Dr. Harner seconded by Mrs. Makulec that the Board **hold** an executive session to conduct a self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics in the presence of a representative of a statewide association of which the body is a member; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Approved: 6-0-1

The Board was in executive session from 5:10 p.m. until 6:41 p.m.

- I. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano called the Special Meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 6:52 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
Board Members:
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson (arr. 6:55 p.m.), Mr. Michael Connor, Dr. Michael Harner, Mrs. Laura Powers
- III. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Ms. Dione Baldwin requested information on discipline data, school closings, school achievement results by school and the Kennedy Middle School pool status.
 - Mr. Arthur Johnson spoke of issues working with the District, black mold exposure, environmental questions not addressed, building problems, and work orders submitted to Administration.
 - Ms. Kate Schnell spoke of committee structures and her opposition to ending those. She expressed her concerns of guidelines for student discipline cases.
- IV. Discussion Items
 - A. Committee Structure
Attorney Hoadley began the discussion of moving to a Committee of the Whole and its benefits. That particular structure allows for discussion from all Board members and goes towards governance issues.
Comments:
 - *Decision to change would take place through Board policy.*
 - *Members need to learn how a Committee of the Whole functions. Currently three members sit on the Board's two standing committees, Education and Operations. There are no Board members on the Accountability, Community Input Committee, and Budget and Finance Subcommittee.*
 - *Committee of the Whole is essentially a discussion forum. It allows deeper discussion, and more give and take with Administration.*
 - *Committee of the Whole allows for more free form conversation; however a structure needs to be created to view.*
 - *Concern for reconstituting committees was discussed and the urgency for the coming year.*
 - *Current committee structure allows discussion for presentations and issues, and not to eliminate this.*
 - *Information needs to be gathered, and progression to a Committee of the Whole will take time.*

B. Guidelines for Student Discipline Cases

Mr. Scrivano reviewed the discipline guideline questions recently assessed at the April 26, 2014 Quarterly Strategic Planning meeting. The questions are as follows:

1. Is the rule in our Code of Conduct?
2. Was the student given due process?
3. Does substantial evidence exist to support the conclusion that the student violated the rule?
4. Was the rule consistently applied according to the code of conduct and based on circumstances of this case?
5. Was the discipline reasonable and proportional to the violation?

The questions were drafted and presented to Board members at the April 26, 2014 Quarterly Strategic Planning Meeting. These were created as a means to create consistency, efficiency, and to ensure that Board members were being uniform in making decisions. Discussion centered on the changes in the discipline packets; information that had been included is no longer part of the packet. Contents of the packet are determined by statute. Atty. Hoadley advised members the packets are mostly computer generated, so information is drawn from entries on E-School. This helps to prevent errors that would occur as a result of transcriptions, etc. The District also wishes to follow the ten-day due process in an efficient manner. Specific items that must be included are: grades, attendance, infractions within the past two years, and the incident at issue. The questions are broad enough when analyzing. These encompass the various factors a court would review; egregiousness of the student's conduct, the history of the student's past conduct, the likelihood the conduct will affect the delivery of educational services to other children (the impact on other children), the severity of the punishment, and the interest of the child. Each case needs to be examined individually, based on the specific factors. Additions to the guidelines included adding to question four "the rule was not applied in a discriminatory and retaliatory fashion." Another suggestion was made for question five, is the Board being consistent with what it did before? Currently, a value stream mapping event is taking place in Student Services and Alternative Learning (SSAL). Once this is complete, Board members will receive feedback on the process and will review the information. Mr. Scrivano will work with Atty. Hoadley about changing verbiage guidelines.

C. Review of Administration's 2014/2015 Report Schedule

Mrs. Makulec requested a conversation with members regarding the proposed 2014/2015 Report Schedule presented at the April 26, 2014 Quarterly Strategic Planning Meeting. The current report schedule will end June 30, 2014. The proposal is divided into sections, and the question came up what were the plans for the 2014/2015 report schedule. Dr. Jarrett explained there are currently over two-hundred reports and the Administration has recommended a more concise version. Board members attending the April 26, 2014 meeting did not reach a consensus regarding the proposed schedule.

Administration was asked to provide the current report schedule and illustrate what would be removed.

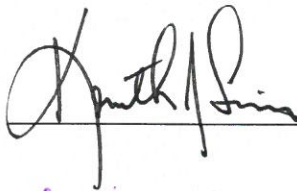
Motion by Ms. Jackson seconded by Mrs. Powers to **adjourn**.

Approved: on voice vote

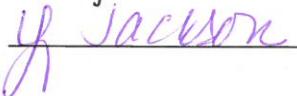
Adjournment: 7:54 p.m.

V.

President:



Secretary:



Approved:
/lf