Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting
Willow Springs School District 108
Saturday, February 3, 2018

President Weeg called the meeting to order at 9:19am.

Present: Doug Ciota, Renee Ristic, Lauren McSweeney, Mary Ellen Weeg, Cindy McSweeney
Absent: Adriana Hawkins, Andy Timmons
Also present: Lori Smuda, Principal; Frank Patrick, Superintendent

The President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion 18-68: C. McSweeney moved and Weeg seconded that the Superintendent's Agenda be accepted as presented.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

Finances

The superintendent reviewed the finances of the District. The District budgeted to spend $265,000 of fund reserve to meet the needs of the Educational Fund this fiscal year. The budget was also prepared using the old General State Aid formula and not the new Evidence Based Funding Formula. The State has yet to make payments utilizing the new formula. The District anticipates receiving more General Aid State funding with the new formula. The strategies the Board has employed are effective to meet the needs of the District.

Mr. Patrick also highlighted some other financial items to keep an eye on: pension reform, Evidence Based Funding fixes, and potential property tax freezes.

Mr. Ciota also brought up the need to pursue private funding for various projects as well. Mr. Patrick will inquire at Argo to see who writes their grants and for opportunities to share grant writing services. Mrs. Weeg will pursue a Willow Springs business identified as a possible donor.

Facility Needs

The State requires a 10 year Life Safety Survey be completed by an architect. The District's was completed in the Summer 2017. The Survey calls for $1.2 million in maintenance repairs over the next decade. The superintendent proposes addressing the Survey items marked as needing work done in the first year, totaling $20,000. Further, the superintendent recommends that the gym mezzanine fencing be replaced, estimated to be a $20,000 repair.

Other projects to consider with time: stainless steel railings on the external stairwells; bathroom replacement in the 1954 and 1975 buildings.

Academic Progress and Programs

Mrs. Smuda and Mr. Patrick reviewed the academic progress of the District. The Illinois School Report Card was used as one snap shot. As a whole, the PARCC scores were disappointing. PARCC data was also shared for the other elementary districts within the AERO Cooperative. District 108's are within the

range of the other AERO District results. The Winter MAP test data was also reviewed by the Board. Also discussed were the District's student demographics and how they differed significantly from the Statewide average. Mrs. Smuda also shared the PSAT results for this year's 8th graders, as administered by Argo.

Math, in particular, is a curricular area that continues to need attention, especially 4th grade and above. One of the reasons for success in the English Language Arts program is the remedial reading program. There is a need for a remedial math program, however, where in the day to find the time to work it into the schedule. A general need for more time in math instruction was also discussed. The Administration will research alternatives to present to the Board.

The Board affirmed its commitment to small class sizes, grades k-2. The levels of student achievement and growth bear out the research that this is an effective use District resources.

The Personnel, Student Lunch and District priorities were tabled for future Board meetings.

Motion 18-69: With the work of the Board completed, Ristic moved and Weeg seconded that the meeting be adjourned.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

President Weeg adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.

Mary Ellen Weeg, President

Cynthia McSweeney, Secretary

CM/fcp