

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 89
HELD ON
February 11, 2010
906 Walton, Melrose Park, IL 60160**

1. **The Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Education for School District 89 Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview came to order at 6:14 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call**

Present: Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso
(Mr. Anguiano arrived at 6:59 p.m., Ms. Neely and Mr. Rivers arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
3. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
4. **Recognitions**
 - A. **Girls Basketball Champion** – Mr. Edward Douglas, coach of the Lexington Girls Basketball Team, presented the team which took first place in the Championships. Each student received a medal. President Urso and Supt. Perkins congratulated the student athletes for their achievements.
5. **Superintendent's Report (**Indicates Action Item*)**
 - A. **ISAT Testing Schedule** – **Mr. Ballard:** ISAT testing will begin in March. This year, students will take two ISAT tests a day to shorten the days spent in testing.
 - B. **DIBELS Midyear Assessment Update** - **Mr. Ballard:** The mid-year Dibels scores show students are making progress in the benchmark range. **Secretary Gustello:** Does the District track students' test scores from 1st through 8th grades to see if their scores indicate progress? **Mr. Ballard:** The District doesn't track the scores longitudinally by individual student. **President Urso:** From the report, many students are in intensive, but later in the year are at the benchmark 50th percentile. That is not where they need to be; the District should analyze that.
 - C. **Destination Imagination** – **Mr. Ballard:** This is an enrichment program that extends students' learning opportunities and is partially funded through a grant from Motorola. The program is free to the District. An open house held in early December drew a large number of parents. Altogether, 17 students enrolled. Students meet each Wednesday and will compete at the regional level on March 13 in Waukegan. Students work in teams on a challenge involving robotics. **President Urso:** We need to promote this. If it continues, more families might take part in it. A reporter from Pioneer Press has been invited to attend a Wednesday workshop with a photographer.
 - D. **Spelling Bee Update** – The winners of the Bee will be recognized at the March 4th Board Meeting.
 - E. **Grants Update/Public Relations**
 - **West 40 Initiative** – **Mrs. Bland:** We were informed that we received the West 40-UIC Initiative. This is a program where 11 school districts of West

40, UIC and the Chicago community Trust have formed a partnership to empower teachers in the district in the area of math. The total budget of \$829,000 to share with all districts. Program will be housed at UIC and at West 40. Instructions from UIC will come in and work with teachers, who will get credit, mentoring and a grant to cover all their tuition costs. This will be a savings to the District which ordinarily pays teachers' tuition cost. We have teachers who do not have endorsements in science. This is a three-year program. The purpose is to work with teachers in low-income schools and strengthen their teaching skills in Math. It will be known as the West 40 Mathematics Initiative. It will start March 1. Teachers will have to take classes at night in order to receive the math endorsement.

- The District has also submitted a grant in cooperation with Dominican University to create a math and science academy in the district. Marilyn Riordan worked with Mrs. Phelps and several principals on the grant.

F. HR Update/School Site Operations

- Black History Month – **Mrs. Flanagan:** All of the Schools have planned activities to celebrate Black History Month. If there is anyone who would like to know the dates of evening events, I can get that to you. **Mr. Diggs:** Thank you. I would like that information.

G. FOIA Request

Supt. Perkins said there were two FOIA requests.

6. Retire to Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Diggs, seconded by Mrs. Rivers, that the Board retire into Closed Session at 6:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of matters of personnel, probable and imminent litigation, student discipline, and closed session minutes.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

Aye: Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso

Nay: 0

The motion was declared carried.

7. Board Reconvene to Regular Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Rivers, seconded by Mr. Anguiano, to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:12 p.m.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso

Nays: 0

The motion was declared carried.

8. Statement Regarding Public Comments

- If you intend to speak, please fill out completely a "Questions and Comments Form" and present it to the Superintendent's Executive Administrative Assistant at this time.
- The Board will hear comments related to the agenda.
- The Board will hear comments not related to the agenda, however, these comments may be forwarded to the Superintendent or to the school Principal for an individual response.

- Please remain seated until you are called. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

9. Approval of Minutes for Regular Session held on January 14, 2010.

The motion was moved by Mr. Diggs, seconded by Mrs. Rivers.

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso

Nays: 0

The motion was declared carried.

10. Approval of Personnel Items

Appointment of Certified Personnel

- A. Certified Resignations
- B. Certified Request for Leaves
- C. Certified Transfers
- D. Educational Support Personnel Transactions
- E. Resignations of Non-tenure Certified Staff
- F. Volunteers/Student Teachers
- G. Termination of Non-Certified Employee

President Urso said the position of parent coordinator has been withdrawn.

The motion was moved by Mrs. Gustello, seconded by Mr. Anguiano.

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso

Nays: 0

The motion was declared carried.

11. Approval of January Bills/Payroll

The motion was moved by President Urso, seconded by Mr. Anguiano.

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso

Nays: 0

The motion was declared carried.

12. Adoption-Updated Board Policies 2:20, 2:40, 2:70E, 2:110, 3:40, 4:30, 4:40, 4:100, 4:110, 4:140, 5:30, 5:90, 5:100, 5:120, 5:250, 5:280, 5:330, 6:110, 6:320, 6:340, 7:190, 7:240, and 8:100, respectively.

The motion was moved by Mr. Diggs, seconded by Mrs. Rivers.

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Urso

Nays: 0

The motion was declared carried.

13. Approval of Bid Award-Architectural “High Priority” Scope of Work

The motion was moved by President Urso, seconded by Mr. Anguiano.

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Rivers, Rivers, Jr., Urso

Nays: 0

Abstention: Neely

The motion was declared carried.

14. Acceptance of Comments or Questions from Audience - NONE**15. Old Business**

- 16. New Business - Secretary Gustello** asked about the survey of district employees regarding the annual District 89 Retirement and Recognition Dinner and said she hoped the dinner was not being eliminated. **President Urso** said it is not being eliminated. She said the survey was undertaken because previous dinners have not been well-attended and this was an effort to gather information to ensure people would be satisfied with the location and encourage attendance. Eighteen survey responses were received. She said the board can discuss the dinner venue at the March 4th board meeting and provide guidance for the Superintendent on how to proceed. **Ms. Neely** asked if the board made the decision to conduct a survey, and said that in the future, if a board member decides to do a survey, the entire board should be apprised. **Mr. Rivers** said he was sure it was done in good faith, but that it is not appropriate for one board member to make such a decision alone. **President Urso** duly noted their comments. **Mr. Diggs** said the topic was discussed two meetings earlier where two Board members were absent, and again at the last meeting, to determine how to best solicit information. **Ms. Neely** and **Mr. Rivers** said they were at the last board meeting and didn't recall it being discussed. **Mr. Diggs** said there was discussion about increasing participation, but no directive. **President Urso** said the event is a staff function where the Board recognizes staff, their achievements, and service to the district.

Mr. Rivers said he understood that the Board voted tonight to terminate District's Buildings and Grounds Director Chip Carswell, effective immediately. He said he was not notified of this pending action until earlier today and asked when the item was added to the Board's agenda. He said a revised agenda was not posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting. **President Urso** and **Supt. Perkins** said the revised agenda with notification of termination of an employee was properly posted 48 hours in advance. **Mr. Rivers** asked why he has not received any formal complaints about Mr. Carswell prior to his termination. **President Urso** said the subject was discussed in closed session.

Mr. Diggs commented on statements brought up publicly in a recent newspaper article, in which Board of Education members were quoted. He said the district must be ready to institute far-reaching reforms. He said despite the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech, it has not always been treated as an absolute right. He added that, "We may not all like to hear what one says but we have the right to say it." **Mr. Rivers** responded that one also has the right to dissent from the majority opinion, regarding the Board's vote at its last meeting in January to not renew the Superintendent's contract. He said that as Mr. Diggs has served on the Board for only a few months, he should have recused himself from the vote. **Ms. Neely** said she respected what Mr. Diggs just said, but noted that he made comments in the local newspapers and that she exercised her right to make her comments to the newspaper as well. She added that she did not saying

anything bad about anyone. **President Urso** said that, in his short tenure on the Board, Mr. Diggs has done his homework and makes thoughtful and informed decisions.

17. Motion for Adjournment

A motion was made by President Urso, seconded by Mr. Anguiano, that the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Ayes: Anguiano, Diggs, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Rivers, Jr., Urso

Nays: 0

The motion was declared carried.



Marie Urso, Board President



Loretta Gustello, Board Secretary