

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 89**

May 13, 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 was called to order at 6:08 p.m. on May 13, 2010.**

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Anguiano, Gustello, Rivers, Jr., Urso
Board Members Rivers and Neely arrived at 6:10 p.m. and 6:13 p.m.,
respectively
Absent: Diggs

3. ~~**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**~~

4. **Recognitions**

- **SCOTY Awards – Ms. Rosa, Director of Bilingual Services**, read the names of the students who received the West 40 Intermediate Service Center's 2010 Student Citizen of the Year Award from each school, and introduced those winners who were present.
- **Soccer Champion – Interim Supt. Flanagan** introduced the Stevenson School Girls' Soccer Team as this year's champion. The team was accompanied by **Stevenson Principal Janet Kostelaz**.
- **Volleyball Champion – Mr. Cushion, Assistant Superintendent**, announced that the Boys' Volleyball Team from Garfield was this year's champion. Student Devon Ross and **Garfield Principal Annie Lott-Jackson** were in attendance to represent the team.
- **Proviso Math and Science Academy Admitted Students for 2010-2011 School Year – Ms. Phelps, Director of Instructional Services**, announced that 96 students from all 10 schools were accepted into PMSA. She introduced the students by school. Emerson has 7 students; Garfield, 3; Jane Addams, 8; Lexington, 5; Lincoln, 12; Melrose Park, 26 (the highest number); Roosevelt, 4; Stevenson, 22; and Washington, 4. **Pres. Urso** said each year, the District has had more and more students accepted into PMSA. In the 2005-06 school year, it started with just 50 students who were accepted to the academy. It's an honor for parents, teachers and, most of all, the students, she said.
- **Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Math Competition – Ms. Phelps** also recognized a group of 7th and 8th grade students from Irving School who ranked in the top 25 percent of schools from throughout the state on the annual Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics math contest. There were 74 school districts that participated. This is the first year that District 89 has participated; all schools in the District participated in the competition.
- **Destination Imagination** – Mr. Ballard introduced the students who participated in Destination Imagination, a new program offered in the District this year. It was an after-school enrichment program that focused on creativity and problem solving, and was open to all students. A total of 18 participated, spanning grades 3 to 7. The goal was for the teams to take a particular challenge and create something to meet that challenge. One team was selected to participate in a regional competition, in which it took third place. Mr. Ballard recognized the District 89 team sponsors, Kathy O'Halleran and Tracy Kuch, for their outstanding work in implementing this new initiative.
- **Loyola University Medical Student Mentors – Ms. Watkins, Director of Literary Services**, announced the names of 11 students from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine,

who participated in a new mentoring program at Washington School. The program was developed in collaboration with Maywood Youth Mentoring and **Mr. Boyd**, principal of Washington School.

5. **Interim Superintendent's Report**

- A. Registration
- B. Young Authors
- C. Grants Update
- D. Special Education Update
- E. Buildings & Grounds update
- F. PMSA
- G. ICTM
- H. HR Update
- I. FOIA Request

~~Mrs. Flanagan told the Board that the Interim Superintendent's Report was already provided in their Board packets. She said the District had received two FOIA requests in the past month.~~

6. **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.

7. **Acceptance of Comments or Questions from Audience**

Board Member Rivers Jr. asked why the Board has not had a Finance Committee meeting prior to the last two Board of Education meetings. The District is going through trying times with lay-offs. The Board has had four meetings in the past two months – two regular Board meetings and two Town Hall meetings and the Finance Committee chair has not attended any of those, he said. The District's Finance Committee meetings are the only time that the public gets to interact with the Board regarding its finances, **Board Member Rivers Jr.** said. **Interim Supt. Flanagan** said the committee meetings are normally set up by the committee chairs. **Board Member Rivers Jr.** said the chair has not explained. **Interim Supt. Flanagan** said she has not talked to the committee chair. **Board Member Rivers Jr.** said that at a time when the District is going through serious financial difficulties, the Finance Committee chair, **Board Member Johnny Diggs**, is missing in action. He asked if anyone on the Board had heard from him. **Board Member Neely** asked if the Board can make sure it has Finance and Policy Committee meetings prior to the subsequent Board meetings. **Board Member Rivers Jr.** said these financial matters are so important that if the Finance Committee chair cannot perform, a new chair needs to be selected. **Pres. Urso** said his comments were duly noted.

A member of the audience, **Ms. Sandra Sifuentes**, stood up before the Board and asked when **Board Member Rivers Jr.** will receive a response to his question. **Pres. Urso** read aloud the policy regarding the Board accepting comments and questions from the audience, and then called upon **Mr. Sam Valtierrez**, of 816 N. 16th Ave., in Melrose Park. He said he has three boys at Melrose Park School. He has spoken to several parents who are concerned about safety issues. He said two girls at the school were almost abducted while walking from the school. He said he had asked the school principal to write a warning letter for parents the following day. **Pres. Urso** assured him that a letter

to parents would be sent out with students at all school regarding the incident at Melrose Park School, urging them to talk with their children about safety. **Ms. Marina Chavez** said she attended the meeting to let parents know what has been going on in the schools. She invited all mothers to become more involved at the schools so that they can be more aware of the teachers and activities in the schools. She said her son, who attends Stevenson School, has had a problem with his teacher who has been hurting the child's self-esteem. He has low grades as a result and was not able to get into the school that he wanted to attend. She urged parents to talk with their children more and find out how things are going at school. **Ms. Rosa, Director of Bilingual Education**, said there will be a meeting at the Melrose Park Library on May 20th for Melrose Park School parents who are interested in establishing a PTA. She said the District strongly encourages parent involvement in their children's education. **Pres. Urso** said that any time a parent is concerned about their child's progress at school, they should first contact the teacher. If they feel the teacher has not addressed their concerns, they should speak with the principal. Failing that, then they should speak with the Interim Superintendent. She said she wants to make sure that all children in District 89 have every opportunity to succeed, and parent involvement in their child's education is an important part of that.

Ms. Sandra Sosa: I would like to start with **Board Member Jaime Anguiano**. You are the pride of many Latinos. Despite your youth, you are occupying a very important post. Maybe that is why some people are jealous and would like to remove you from the Board. Many of us love you and support you. I know you are willing to offer your friendship, despite the fact that you are a very busy person. But I know that you do it because you are always worried about the children and how they are doing in their education. You are, maybe, one of the few that takes the time to get to know the residents, not only for friendship but to make sure our children are performing well in their education and that we live peacefully in our area. Now, we are here to speak about the problem of our children and that our good teachers are being taken away. At Stevenson, there are good teachers. I would like the Board to speak to me about why you take away the good teachers. I will give you two examples about the worst of Stevenson, Mrs. Sovenia and Mrs. Thompson, of 5th grade. I have passed around a flyer of the harm my child's teacher has done. Two teachers you are taking away, Ms. Magnolia and Mrs. Real, from 6th to 8th grades, are great teachers. From 1st through 4th grades, there are some teachers who are not good. Take away their work and have them do something else, but have no contact with the children. I want to give thanks to **Mrs. Urso** because I've heard they've attacked her. I want to thank her for her braveness and for the tough time she has endured. **Pres. Urso:** Thank you very much. All these concerns will be directed to our Interim Superintendent, and she will set up a meeting with you to discuss these concerns.

Ms. Sandra Sifuentes: My first question is: What has the Board heard in regard to the village's TIF money? **Interim Supt. Flanagan:** We have had a response from Melrose Park that there is no TIF money available. We have not received a reply from Maywood. We called another time for a reply. Lastly, our Assistant Superintendent was supposed to attend a meeting with the Village of Broadview, but that meeting has been rescheduled. All of the communities were sent a letter after the Town Hall meetings (March 30th and April 1st, 2010) by the Board, requesting to learn if there were extra TIF funds available. That was our response so far. **Ms. Sifuentes:** Is it common practice that a village does not have TIF money to give the schools? **Interim Supt. Flanagan:** I do not know. **Ms. Sifuentes:** Is the Board going to look into that? **Interim Supt. Flanagan:** I am looking into that. One thing I'd like to explain is that the only TIF money we would be allowed to get is if there is a surplus. Melrose Park has notified us that there is no surplus. **Ms. Sifuentes:** Have you received anything in writing as to what happened and where that money was allocated? **Board Member Anguiano:** May I suggest that if you have questions, you attend those Village Board meetings. **Ms. Sifuentes:** We have attended and this is a curiosity of mine how Melrose Park is saying they have no extra TIF funds. If you need our help, we are willing to help. **Board Member Rivers Jr.:** I suggest that, as a Board, we talk about this and that we do look into it. I think we can guarantee those villages

will say there is no money. There should be money coming to our schools. To get a letter back, saying there is no money, and not to pursue it is derelict of our duty. **Ms. Sifuentes:** I understand. I'm sure you'll discuss it at closed session and we're not privy to that and when we come back in open session, there is nothing posted. **Board Member Neely:** Maybe this issue can be placed on our Finance Committee meeting agenda and we, as a Board, can discuss it. **Board Member Rivers Jr.:** This is what happens when you don't have Finance Committee meetings. **Pres. Urso:** The Superintendent and Board will continue this investigation. Ms. Sifuentes, we have allowed you additional time to speak. Please state your next question. **Ms. Sifuentes:** Thank you. As Board Member Rivers Jr. mentioned, you haven't found Mr. Diggs. What is the Board going to do as we are in a critical situation, financially? **Pres. Urso:** We'll discuss this as a Board. **Ms. Sifuentes:** When will we find out what is going on? Are we talking a month or three weeks? **Pres. Urso:** I can't give you a time but it won't be long. The Board will discuss it and we'll get the information to you as soon as we can. **Board Member Neely:** Are we clear, as a Board, what the concerns are? I know President Urso said we'll discuss this as a Board. Are we clear what we'll be discussing? One issue is, regardless of whether a chair is here or not, we still need to have a meeting. **Pres. Urso:** I understand the issues. **Board Member Neely:** Because the committee is not a closed-session item. That is something we need to discuss here. **Pres. Urso:** I did ask for a Policy and Finance Committee meeting at the next meeting. We'll discuss his absence in closed session. I know Regina Rivers has a Policy Committee meeting next month. **Board Member Neely:** In the future, I don't think we need to have a chair person agree to have a meeting. Those meetings are standing and supposed to be held every month. The staff persons in charge of scheduling them, Mr. Cushion for Finance and Mrs. Flanagan for Policy, should still schedule them. **Pres. Urso:** Those are Board committees and they are called by the Board. **Board Member Neely:** That has never happened in the past. **Pres. Urso:** We'll have a Finance and Policy Committee meeting at our next scheduled Board meeting on June 10th. The time will be determined and posted with ample time for people to attend. We are at the end of the public comments section. We are now on Section 8 and will retire to closed session.

8. Retire to Closed Session

A motion was made by Gustello, seconded by Rivers, that the Board retire into Closed Session at 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of:

- A. Student disciplinary cases, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9);
- B. 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, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/02(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057;
- C. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); and
- D. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/02(c)(11).

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

6 Ayes:	Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Rivers, Jr., Urso
0 Nays:	None
1 Absent:	Diggs

The motion was declared carried.

9. Board Reconvene to Regular Session

A motion was made by Rivers, seconded by Anguiano, to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:46 p.m.

In calling for a vote, **Pres. Urso** noted that **Board Member Rivers Jr.** had had to leave the meeting after closed session.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

10. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Session of the Board of Education held on:

- April 15th, 2010

Town Hall meetings held on:

- March 30th, 2010
- April 1st, 2010

Closed Sessions of the Board of Education held on:

- January 14th, 21st and 26th of 2010
- March 18th, 2010
- April 15th, 2010

Secretary Gustello made a motion to table the vote until the Special Board of Education meeting on May 20th. She noted some Board members had just received the minutes and would like more time to review them.

The motion to table approval of the minutes until the Board's May 20th meeting was moved by Gustello, seconded by Neely.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

11. Approval of Personnel Items

- A. Appointment of Certified Personnel
- B. Certified Resignations
- C. Certified Request for Leaves
- D. Certified Transfers
- E. Certified Retirees
- F. Termination of Employees
- G. Educational Support Personnel Transactions
- H. Volunteers/Student Teachers
- I. Salary Adjustments/Title Change
- J. Reduction in Force of Probationary Teachers

K. Reduction in Force of Classified Staff

The motion was moved by Urso, seconded by Anguiano.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

12. **Approval of April Bills/Payroll**

The motion was moved by Gustello, seconded by Urso.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

13. **Motion to Approve Updated Board Policies: 2:200, 2:250, 4:110, 4:150, 4:160, 5:10, 6:20, 6:50, 6:60, 6:185, 7:10, 7:20, 7:180, 8:70, biometric palm reader policy, and promotion policy, respectively.**

Ms. Neely moved that the Board table these until a Policy Committee meeting could be held June 10. Usually in between a reading and a final update, the Board holds a Policy Committee meeting to discuss the proposed updates, she said. The motion was moved by Neely, seconded by Gustello.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

14. **Bid Awards – Custodial Supplies**

The motion was moved by Urso, seconded by Gustello.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

15. **Request for Contract Renewal – Preferred Meal Systems, Inc.**

The motion was moved by Anguiano, seconded by Urso.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

16. Prevailing Wage Resolution

The motion was moved by Urso, seconded by Rivers.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

17. Request to Approve Appraisal Services Quote

The motion was moved by Rivers, seconded by Urso.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

18. Approval of a Contract for Staffing Options and Solutions Speech Agency

The motion was moved by Gustello, seconded by Anguiano.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

19. Approval of a Contract for Psychologist Interns

The motion was moved by Neely, seconded by Anguiano.

Board Member Neely asked if it was customary that the District has contracts with interns and pays them a stipend. She asked where the funding for the stipends would come from. Mrs. Dixon said the District typically has not paid interns in the past. Other school districts have paid stipends. They pay the money upfront and the state reimburses them. District 89 plans to pay the stipends using money from the AARA grant. Once those grant monies are exhausted, it will not pay them. To become psychologists, the interns must do externships; consequently, there will be a follow-up evaluation of their work. It is an excellent opportunity for the District to utilize psychologists who are in training. When they complete their professional education, they will be very knowledgeable about current mandates. This year the District had social work interns, but did not pay them. The District is only extending payments to the psychologist interns because they are working under direct supervision.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

20. Approval of Final Payment to Cartrese Carswell

The motion was made by Anguiano, and seconded by Rivers, to approve the final payment to Cartrese Carswell per contract approved on July 9, 2009 and per Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement as discussed in closed session.

Board Member Neely asked District 89 Attorney Meaghen Russell to make sure she would provide information previously discussed in closed session.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

21. Approval of a Resolution to Recognize Ruth Bland

The motion was moved by Gustello, seconded by Neely, to approve a resolution in recognition of Ruth Bland, who is retiring after 7 years of serving in School District 89.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

22. Approval of a Resolution to Recognize Barbara Dawn Cromartie

The motion was moved by Anguiano, seconded by Urso to approve a resolution in recognition of Barbara Dawn Cromartie, who is retiring after 20 years of serving in School District 89.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

23. Approval of a Resolution to Recognize Robert Hodges

The motion was moved by Gustello, seconded by Neely, to approve a resolution in recognition of Robert Hodges, who is retiring after nearly 12 years of serving in School District 89.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso
0 Nays: None
2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

24. Approval of a Resolution to Recognize Joe La Spisa

The motion was moved by Rivers, seconded by Anguiano, to approve a resolution in recognition of Joe La Spisa, who is retiring after 34 years of serving in School District 89.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

25. Approval of a Resolution to Recognize Kurt R. Vance

The motion was moved by Neely, seconded by Rivers, to approve a resolution in recognition of Kurt R. Vance, who is retiring after 41 years of serving in School District 89.

When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.

26. Old Business – NONE

27. New Business - NONE

28. Motion for Adjournment

A motion was made by Neely, seconded by Anguiano, that the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

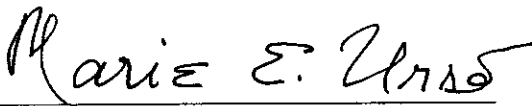
When the question was called, the following vote resulted:

5 Ayes: Anguiano, Gustello, Neely, Rivers, Urso

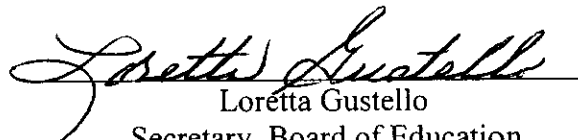
0 Nays: None

2 Absent: Diggs, Rivers Jr.

The motion was declared carried.



Marie Urso
President, Board of Education
School District 89



Loretta Gustello
Secretary, Board of Education
School District 89