

LWV Park Ridge Observer Report Meeting: Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Date: July 9, 2018

Observer: Cindy Grau

Start/End Time: 7pm for public meeting. Closed session was earlier. It was scheduled to do Superintendent Heinz's review but due to absences it was deferred. The board discussed IMRF issues for several employees instead.

End time was approximately 11:20pm. The observer left the meeting at 10:50pm and watched the rest of the meeting on video at home.

Members Absent: Larry Ryles absent, Mark Eggeman arrived at 7:25pm

Several administrators were also present, including Superintendent Laurie Heinz, CSBO Luann Kolstad, Asst. Sup. For HR Joel Martin, Attorney James Levi from Hodges Loizi, Director of Facility Management Ron DeGeorge and Asst. Sup. for Student Learning Lori Lopez

Citizen Comment:

One person asked about Special Education (SPED) Committee and whether public comment would be at that point in the meeting.

One person commented that the Superintendent hired an Admin. Assistant with a \$82,500 salary. The Superintendent agreed to get more information about the starting salary and why it is so high and how that will benefit students.

One person spoke about the Lease for Childcare with Confidence, a preschool program that meets at Jefferson School. She showed the organization is a non-profit and that they pay for garbage in their lease. They are serving children in the community and helping Oakton students do their student teaching there. They want to continue leasing at Jefferson. The board is supportive of CCWC but may need the space.

Discussion/Action:

Construction Budget for Summer of 2019 projects was approved as presented.

Discussion of the Hendee Education Service Center continued. The district's lawyer noted that if the district leases space for the office they will need to pay real estate taxes which they do not do if they own the building. This makes most choices other than owning the ESC building cost prohibitive. After discussing 5 different options for how to move forward with the question of renovating or moving to another building the board decided to put feelers out to the City to see if they would be interested in using the building as a Police Station. Perhaps the District could do a property swap or some other agreement with the City for fee waivers. The board will revisit this issue again in the fall.

The future of the Jefferson Early Childhood Center was discussed as to how it relates to providing full-day kindergarten to the district. After discussing 5 options the consensus was that the most financially sensible option might be to have Jefferson become a Kindergarten building for the whole district and add on space for the Hendee Education Service Center at the same location.

The makeup of the SRO Committee was discussed. There are many groups that would be asked for input. The Board agreed to having 2 Board Members – Biagi and Sotos; 2 principals from the Middle

Schools – Morrison and Murray; Asst. Sup. for Student Learning - Dr. Lopez; and two community members – one in support and one not in support of the SRO program. This will leave an option for one other person on the Committee TBD. Some options were discussed such as the Intergovernmental liaisons from Park Ridge and Niles, Special Education committee members, and a District 207 member.

Before discussion, the Board approved the creation of a Special Education Committee that reports directly to the Board. Board members Ryles and Sanchez were assigned to the committee. After the approval Dr. Heinz asked that the formation be delayed until the new Student Services Director Dr. Frost can determine how the Administrative Committee called PT3 (which is addressing special education issues) and the Board Committee should work without overlap of responsibilities. The main difference between the two committees is that PT3 reports to the administration while the Special Education (SPED) Committee reports directly to the board. Two parents spoke on this issue. One said that the formation of the Special Education Committee is a step toward building trust back with the parents of special education students and she does not want to see it rolled into the PT3 group. Individual board members had apologized to parents earlier in the school year after hearing their stories during public comment at board meetings. The formation of the committee is to help increase board oversight of the Special Education program. The PT3 was formed before the new Student Services Director was hired. It has five subcommittees and is tasked with implementing the recommendations of the 100 Day Audit findings performed by the interim Director. Dr. Heinz stated the PT3 group has yet to define a mission statement. The makeup of the two groups was discussed but nothing conclusive was decided.

Administrative Salaries were approved with a 4 -1 vote with Tui voting “present” due to a potential conflict of interest. Biagi voted no because there was no information in the numbers about market adjustments. The administrators are being sorted into 3 groups: 1 aligned with PREA, the teacher’s union; one aligned with PRTAA, the teacher assistant union; and one hybrid group. This is being done to make salary increases more streamlined. The amount approved was up to \$73,500 or 3.47% increase.

The Consent Agenda was approved except for the lease with Childcare with Confidence. They owe property taxes from 2003-2008. The lease will be approved subject to review and approval by the district’s lawyer that the school district will not be held liable in any way for the debt.

The last item of note is a Year To Date Freedom of Information Act report that will be forthcoming. The board feels the requests are costly.

League Action Needed:

Observer noticed there were no instructions for how to enter the building or where to go in the building once inside. The obvious door had no sign on it. This would be helpful information for the public to have.

Observer noticed that Roberts Rules of order do not seem to be followed closely. Voting of motions was done immediately after the motion with no discussion. In two cases information came out after the vote

that would have been helpful to the vote. There is also no directing of the floor during discussion – the discussion is free flowing with members interrupting each other.

Lastly, community members had to wait until 10:30pm to hear discussion and make comment on the formation of a Special Education Board Committee. It would be helpful to accommodate public input by moving those topics to earlier in the agenda as the issues of concern to the community are well known by the board.