

BOARD OF EDUCATION                      PRAIRIE-HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION                      DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL CENTER  
3015 WEST 163<sup>RD</sup> STREET                      MARKHAM, ILLINOIS  
MARCH 4, 2014

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Mrs. Barbara Nettles called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was completed in the earlier session.

**2. Roll Call**

The following members were present: Juanita R. Jordan, Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Dr. Becky Adams, and Barbara Nettles. Absent: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis

Also, present were: Superintendent, Dr. Kimako Patterson, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Julia A. Veazey, Director of Business Affairs & Human Resources, Dr. Alicia Evans and Director of Student Services, Mrs. Carrie Ablin.

**3. Energy Systems Group Presentation**

Dr. Patterson introduced Jeff Cohn of Energy Systems Group. He presented to the Board on the value proposition of using his company. He introduced Frank Colichico, General Manager, Kitty Knauntz and Mike Johnson who are both Performance Engineers. He stated that his company will help reduce operating cost for the district through various projects.

Mr. Cohn stated that Energy Systems Group(ESG) is a subsidiary of Vectren a 4.9 billion dollar company. Vectren is a utility company; however Energy Systems Group is on the non-utility side of the company. He stated that performance contracting will reduce the cost of energy. He stated that if we spend less on energy there will be more money available to be spent on student achievement.

Mr. Johnson stated that Energy Systems Group will focus on the critical needs for Highlands school using the funds from the energy grant. Additionally, he stated that they will address the aging air handlers.

Energy Systems Group stated that they will partner with the district to come up with ways to upgrade some of the issues in other buildings. They additionally stated that they can offer greater physical control and guarantee savings to the district. Mr. Cohn stated that Energy Systems Group will reimburse the district if any savings are lost. He also stated that they will assume the risk for all project once the engineer has approved them. Mr. Cohn stated that Energy Systems Group has single source accountability and will stand behind their projects.

**Town Hall Presentation**

Dr. Patterson presented to the board a draft of the presentation that she plans to present at the town hall meeting. She informed the Board of the items that will be discussed which are: vision, mission, demographics, student enrollment, district programs, district assessments, district grants, S.T.E.A.M Academy and National trend data.

There was a brief discussion about student growth at the Junior High. Dr. Patterson stated that she has spoken with all 75 of the junior high staff members and informed them that she expects to see student growth. She stated that she has informed them that if they do not show growth she will be looking to reconstitute the school.

**4. Superintendent Vacation Carryover**

Dr. Patterson requested from the board to be allowed to carryover 6 vacation days to the 2014/2015 school year. She stated that her contract requires that she make her request 60 days in advance. She stated that she will be unable to use all of her days by the end of this school year.

**5. Approval of Policies 3:60, 4:100, 5:50 and 5:90**

Mrs. Nettles informed the board members that they would need to approve the policies at the next meeting.

**6. Approval to Post Policies 5:100,5:120, 5:20, 6:60, 6:250, 7:185, 7:30 and 8:30.**

Mrs. Nettles informed the board that policies will need to be approved and posted for a 30 day review.

**7. Paradise Property PTAB**

Dr. Evans informed the board that she will be asking them to approve an appraisal for the property the 3340 183<sup>rd</sup> street. She stated that the appraisal will cost approximately \$3500.00. She stated that we will share the cost of the appraisal with district 228. Dr. Evans stated that if the district does not fight the PTAB it could mean that the district will be required to refund approximately \$40,000.

**8. Renewal of Lifetouch Photography Contract**

Dr. Evans informed the board that last year 3 quotes were received for portrait services. She stated that Lifetouch was awarded the contract last year. Lifetouch would like to renew the contract for the 2014/2015 school year without a cost increase.

**9. Renewal of Waste Disposal Contract**

Dr. Evans informed the board that Waste Management would like to renew their contract for the 2014/2015 school year with no cost increase. The annual cost of this contract is approximately \$32,000.00

#### **10. Let Bids for Dairy Products**

Dr. Evans informed the board that it is time to let bids for a dairy company. She stated that she would like to compare prices. Crystal Dairy is the company that has been used over the last couple of years. Dr. Evans informed the Board that last year the district spent \$102,000.00 on dairy products.

#### **11. Fieldtrip Cost (Discussion)**

Mrs. Veazey informed the board that she would like to remove the limit on the cost of fieldtrips. The current cost for a fieldtrip can't exceed \$10.00. She stated that this amount limits the places that the students are allowed to go. She would like to remove the limit to expand on the places that the students are able to attend.

A discussion followed regarding the cost.

#### **12. Movie Ratings( Discussion)**

Mrs. Veazey informed the Board that she would like to change the movie ratings for the students to PG. She stated that most of the movies are rated PG which is why she would like to raise the movie rating from rated G to Rated PG. Mrs. Veazey stated that most Disney movies are rated PG. She also informed the Board that all movies will be screened by her department.

#### **13. Web Filtering**

Mrs. Veazey informed the board that the district is in the process of searching for a new web filtering system that would replace Barracuda. She stated that the district has looked at three companies, Web Sense, The Open DNS and I-Boss. She stated that the recommendation is for I-Boss a cloud based filtering program. The program will cost approximately \$16,000.00 for the first year and \$7,000.00 each additional year. She stated that the I-Boss system offers a monitoring component.

#### **14. Data Presentation**

Mrs. Veazey presented to the board historical data on ISAT. She presented a comparison of the old scores and the new cut scores. She stated that once the new cut scores were introduced it seemed that our students were perceived as failures because of the drop in the scores. She stated that the district was making progress until the cut scores were changed. She explained that with the new cut scores we were making progress then the rules were changed. Dr. Patterson stated that neither our students nor our district is failing.

#### **15. New Business**

Dr. Patterson informed the board that she would like to introduce branding for the schools. She stated that she would like to have custom polo shirts and spirit wear

to sell them to the parents at a discount. She stated that Mr. Keller, From Keller Kustoms will give a volume discount to the district.

Dr. Evans stated that the Township Treasurer's payment will be paid \$89,000.00 in the month of March. She stated that she would like to add this item to the regular board meeting for approval. The cost is \$89,422.69 which is a 9.4% increase that will cover cost, productivity, paper and ink.

Mrs. Freeman-Cooper asked the board if it was possible to consider the option of seeking legal counsel from another law firm. She stated that she does not feel that Robbins Schwartz has the districts best interest at heart.

#### 16. Executive Session

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dionne Freeman-Cooper to adjourn to executive session. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Dr. Becky Adams, Juanita R. Jordan and Barbara Nettles. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis.

Motion Carried 9:17 p.m.

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Becky Adams to return to open session. On roll call members voting aye: Dionne Freeman-Cooper, Dr. Becky Adams, Juanita R. Jordan and Barbara Nettles. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis.

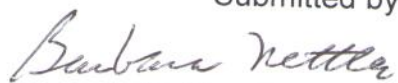
Motion Carried 9:34 p.m.

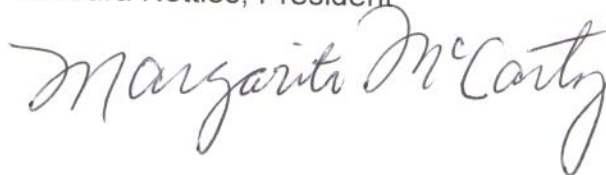
#### 17. Adjournment

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Dr. Becky Adams to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote all members present voted aye. Nays: None. Absent: Dr. Gregory Jackson, Elaine Walker and Sharron Davis.

Motion Carried 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

  
Barbara Nettles, President



Margarita McCarty, Secretary