

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2008

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Maine Township High School District 207, Cook County, Illinois, held in the Board Room of the Ralph J. Frost Admin. Center, 1131 South Dee Road in Park Ridge, Illinois, on Monday, January 14, 2008.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Braam called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. Following roll call, President Braam led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey Bergen
Joann Braam
Marijo Bustos
Eric Leys (arrived 7:01)
Edward Mueller
Donna B. Pellar
Sean Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT

Joel Morris
Greg Dietz
Pamela Schau
Ken Wallace
David Claypool
A. Haugan
Steven Isoye
Cheryl Johansson
Hank Thiele
Mike Pressler
Jose Arguello
Jim and Patty Thompson
John and Evelyn Fiorio
Bozena Checheol
Julie Depa
Chris Griffith
Coretta Ursini
Manou Kucek
Lehel Villeystern
Joel Liveris
Laura Liveris
Ingrid Thompson
Matt Petersen
Mary Stancke
J. Donovan
Jim Stanke
Jim Donovan
Roger Plummer
Patricia Gruczka
Peter Butch

Judith Bozman
Lora Sue Hauser
Richard Van Metrie
Margaret Bisberg
Mark Anderson
Judy Foster
Mike Tashman
Leslie Pinney
Dory Kyllingstad
R. Paul Carlson
Marcella Derrick
John Derrick
Corky Allegretti
Rick Allegretti
Susan Bragg
Darlene Purcell
LeeAnn Purcell
Marybeth Sullivan
Jean Thorsen
Pam and Paul Sherwood
Laura Longo
Roberta Koch
Shirley Jauksack
Terry Cerauschi
Grady Hauser
Bruce Olson
David Smith
Grazyna Krynski
Mark Depa
Michael Spratley
Bob Casey
Jeanne Casey
Alicja Niebrzydowski
Sean O'Leary
Josephine Rosales
K. Frizore
J. Allegretti
Mike Allegretti
Caren Hejza
Greg and Mary Fahey

Pat Moy
Ken Fink
Lance Lechner
Pamela Lechner
Joan Doherty
Ken and Darlene Hejza
Barb and Brian Sell
T. Dysart
S. Bomhgetti
Jose Arguello
Frank Izzo
Leslie Izzo
Teresa Durbin
Susan Murphy

Kathy Sherbin
Penny Pullen
Patrick O'Brien
Ann Scholler
Karen Dimond
L. Borchew
Rachel Samlan
Michelle Stein
Kathy DePino
Mary Kashue
Tim O'Regan
Kit KadlecSue Daul
Carmen Patino

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

It was moved by Member Pellar and seconded by Member Bustos to amend the agenda moving Item #3. *207's Best* to #1 on the agenda.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

207's BEST

Maine South Principal, Dave Claypool, introduced Catherine O'Malley, Maine South's candidate for 207's Best for Improved Performance. Mr. Claypool described Catherine as a shy, modest student who was brought to his attention by those who know her well. Catherine has achieved a remarkable level of progress, demonstrating leadership in multiple ways. Catherine has been accepted at Iowa, Indiana University and Purdue and plans to pursue a Physical Therapy career. Mr. Claypool describes Catherine as a self-advocate who pursues her dreams, and a wonderful young woman.

Maine West Principal, Audrey Haugan's 207 Best student for Improved Performance, Jason Kaulback, although not able to attend the Board meeting is described by his teachers as the ideal Maine West student. As a freshman, Jason was a quiet, struggling student, but as a sophomore he began asking questions, paying attention to detail, and is now a great student who is getting A's and B's. Mr. Greg Serrano, a 25-year veteran teacher, states without hesitation that Jason Kaulback is the hardest working student he has ever had.

Maine East Principal, Steven Isoye, was unable to introduce his student, Sara Martinez, to the Board of Education because she was home studying for final exams, but Mrs. Martinez came to accept the award for Sara. Mr. Isoye stated that Sara was a student who struggled to pass classes her freshman year. Since that time, she began to demonstrate a true interest in improving academically, and became involved in activities after school. Sara has become a leader in Orchesis and volunteers to help younger students who are having difficulty transitioning to high school. Mr. Isoye describes Sara as a true success story.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Joann Braam began calling on those who completed a *Viewpoint* card expressing their desire to address the Board.

1. Richard Van Metre of Park Ridge, asked the Board to stand their ground, and not allow "tailoring" of education. Mr. Metre stated that students need to be informed and knowledgeable of the facts surrounding reproduction.
2. Mark Anderson of Park Ridge, thanked the Board for their efforts in educating students and stated that consequences of not understanding contraception can result in a loveless marriage, or disease. Mr. Anderson supports the current Maine South biology curriculum.
3. John Derrick of Park Ridge the parent of a freshman son at Maine South requested that the Board of Education take the necessary steps for immediate removal of the artificial birth control unit from the freshman biology curriculum. Mr. Derrick presented the Board with a three page document stating his reasons for this request.
4. Corky Allegretti of Park Ridge, presented the Board with a two page document citing her concerns with the freshman biology curriculum at Maine South, and respectfully requests the immediate removal of the "teacher added materials" regarding artificial human birth control methods from the freshman biology curriculum.
5. Mike Tashman of Park Ridge, was supportive of students receiving proper instruction regarding reproduction in biology class.
6. Judy Foster of Park Ridge, stated her support of the current biology curriculum.
7. Doris Kyllingstad of Park Ridge introduced herself as a grandmother in her 70's. Ms. Kyllingstad stated her concern is about taking modesty from children; that meiosis reproduction is biology, but not the other references, and that the curriculum should encourage abstinence.
8. Mary Beth Sullivan of Park Ridge, mother of four, currently has a freshman in biology. Ms. Sullivan stated that the depth of material is offensive and inappropriately deep.
9. Darlene Purcell a 40-year resident of Park Ridge, has had six children graduate from Maine South, as well as three grandchildren currently attending schools in the community, and wants to be proud of what the community represents.
10. Debbie Olson of Chicago a RN for 35 years teaches birth control to Chicago high school students. Ms. Olson stated that encouraging students to practice abstinence has had positive results and protects young people from the physical, emotional and social consequences of early sexual involvement.
11. Joel Liveris of Park Ridge, voiced opposition to eliminating meiosis reproduction from the biology curriculum. Mr. Liveris presented the Board of Education with extensive research related to abstinence and the teaching of birth control methods.
12. Laura Liveris of Park Ridge and a teacher on the North Shore, voiced opposition to changing the freshman biology curriculum, stating that it meets Illinois State

Standards and Best Practice.

13. Matthew Petersen of Park Ridge a graduate of Maine South has a sophomore daughter who took this biology class as a freshman. When asked if she felt that she was encouraged to have sex by this class, she replied "No." Mr. Petersen also asked if abstinence was taught as a method of birth control and she answered "Yes." Mr. Petersen read the following remarks to the Board of Education:

"Because I never liked quadratic equations, please remove their teaching from algebra class.

Because the holocaust makes me personally uncomfortable, please do not teach it in history class.

Because Shakespeare sometimes makes sexual innuendo in his plays, let's never mention his works in English class.

Because my student will never hear anything BUT accurate information about sex and sexual function in the locker room, on the Internet, on television, on the radio, or in movies, and because I don't wish to discuss this topic with my 'baby' at home, please remove it from biology class--not just for my child, but for all students in the entire school."

14. Patrick O'Brien of Park Ridge stated that parents have the right to have their children opt out of this unit of instruction in biology, but parents do not have the right to change the curriculum for his child. Mr. O'Brien declared that ignorance is not bliss and asked the Board of Education to retain the current curriculum.
15. Michelle Stein of Des Plaines supports curriculum that encourages abstinence to avoid the consequences of sex before marriage.
16. Ken Fink of Park Ridge voiced his objection to the biology curriculum in its current form. He asked the Board of Education, "Why are you forcing morality on my child?" As a parent, he wants to be the person to teach his children about morality.
17. Sean O'Leary of Park Ridge voiced his concern that the demands made on the School Board come not only from concerned parents, but from the Illinois Family Institute, a Christian right activist organization with a much greater agenda.

After a short break, President Braam called upon Paul Carlson who requested to address the Board of Education on a different topic.

18. Mr. Paul Carlson, retired teacher from Maine East High School and resident of Park Ridge requested that the Board of Education very carefully consider the consequences of moving the high school graduation ceremonies to an off-site location. Mr. Carlson stated his concern with students being denied the fine memories of graduation on campus and destroying a 104-year old tradition. Mr. Carlson requested information regarding the cost of moving graduation ceremonies to an off-site location.

Mr. Carlson's second concern was with preserving the historical architectural details of Maine East, such as the Principal's office and teacher mailboxes.

President Braam thanked everyone for communicating their concerns to the Board of Education, and that their comments would be carefully considered.

MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES

Ms. Pamela Schau, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the financial statements presented are as of November 30, 2007 and prior to property tax bills being due. While revenues are behind, expenses are on track. Member Bustos asked how much the District lost in interest due to property tax revenues coming in late. Ms. Schau will forward that amount to the Board.

MAINE SOUTH PHYSICAL EDUCATION AWARD

Ms. Holly Gansz from the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance explained the year-long process and review undertaken prior to awarding Maine South with the Blue Ribbon Program Award for their outstanding physical education programs. Ms. Gansz informed the Board of Education that District 207 is the first school district in the State to achieve district-wide recognition. Principal Dave Claypool congratulated Mr. Don Lee, Chair of the Physical Education and Health Department at Maine South for this achievement. Mr. Claypool recognized all three physical education chairs as being in front with data analysis, cooperation, collaboration, and excellent leadership.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Advanced Placement Program

Dr. Ken Wallace reviewed the Advanced Placement Program Report and informed the Board of Education that trend lines are holding. Adding more students and maintaining the performance level is unbelievable. The State of Illinois average is 68 and we are performing 15 points above that. District 207 has a world class AP program. Member Bustos asked about the one recommendation in the report. Dr. Wallace expressed the need to make sure enrollment in AP classes becomes more representative of student distribution, to go after students and encourage participation by those that are under-represented.

Testing for English Language Learners

Dr. Ken Wallace updated the Board of Education on the Illinois State Board of Education's finalized list of accommodations for the ISAT and Prairie State Achievement Examinations for Limited English proficient students. Dr. Ken Wallace stated his concern that the students will not be prepared for the tests they are being required to take. President Braam asked Dr. Wallace to register the District's concern.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

It was moved by Member Bustos and seconded by Member Sullivan to amend the agenda to include policies 2511, 3505, 4203, 6510, and 6511 for a first reading along with policy 5330.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

• **2008 Commencement**

Dr. Joel Morris asked the Principals to update the Board of Education on their plans for 2008 Commencement.

Dave Claypool has had conversations with parents as well as students to share the thinking behind moving the Maine South commencement exercises to the Rosemont Theater this year. In eight to nine different settings, Mr. Claypool has not had one parent object, and in fact, are excited about the plans. Maine South plans to hold their 2008 Commencement at the Rosemont Theater on Sunday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Steven Isoye began discussions in late October to discuss plans to hold Maine East's Commencement at the Rosemont Theater on Tuesday evening, June 3. Mr. Isoye emailed all staff members at that time to gain feedback on the proposed change in location. Preliminary discussions with senior class student leaders indicated some hesitation. In November Mr. Isoye met with approximately 50 seniors in small groups, and responses were very favorable. In mid-November, Mr. Isoye spoke with Administrators, and emailed staff and all seniors asking for feedback which was favorable overall. Mr. Isoye held parent meetings after Thanksgiving resulting in some negative feedback, but overall favorable. Maine East plans to hold 2008 Commencement on Tuesday, June 3 at the Rosemont Theater.

Dr. Audrey Haugan informed Maine West parents in her September newsletter that due to the construction of the outdoor bleachers, a new location would need to be found for commencement. Allstate Arena, Willow Creek, Harper College, Rosemont Convention Center and Rosemont Theater were researched for compatibility. Rosemont Theater was the location that best fulfilled the needs of the school. Dr. Haugan introduced the idea to 60 students at one meeting, and then at a meeting with 17 actively involved parents. A few students voiced their objection to holding commencement on a Monday night. As of this date, seniors seem to have adjusted to the change. One idea that is being explored is to hold a breakfast at the school to allow for friends to gather and take pictures one last time on campus. Maine West plans to hold their commencement ceremony the evening of Monday, June 2.

Reaction by the Board of Education was mixed, but overall they were comfortable with the level of communication by Principals with parents and students. The Board very much liked Dr. Haugan's idea of holding a breakfast at the school. Discussion of whether this should be a Board or an administrative decision followed.

It was moved by Member Bergen and seconded by Member Bustos to amend Agenda Item #7 to include the following motion:

That the Board of Education act on the recommendation of the Principals for date and location of the 2008 commencement ceremonies.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Bustos, and Mueller

Nays: Leys, Pellar, Sullivan, and Braam

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion failed.

• **Community Communications**

The Board of Education briefly discussed the concerns brought to the Board during the Communications segment of the Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Member Bergen and seconded by Member Bustos to approve the following

MINUTES APPROVED

December 3, 2007- Regular Board Meeting

BOARD BILLS

Approve Board bills dated December 28, 2007 as follows:

VOUCHERS # 354101 THROUGH # 354169, INCLUSIVE	
VOUCHERS # 463759 THROUGH # 463764, INCLUSIVE	
VOUCHERS # 729606 THROUGH # 730223, INCLUSIVE	
<u>IN THE AMOUNT OF</u>	<u>\$2,311,489.58</u>

PAYROLLS - DECEMBER 2007

Approve December 2007 payrolls as presented:

DIRECT DEPOSIT VOUCHERS # 833934 THROUGH # 835957, AND VOUCHERS # 399559 THROUGH # 400022, INCLUSIVE	
<u>IN THE AMOUNT OF</u>	<u>\$5,582,062.82</u>
<u>IN THE AMOUNT OF</u>	<u>\$1,789,573.60</u>
<u>FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF</u>	<u>\$7,371,636.42</u>

STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES

Approve expenditures of the various Student Activities' organizations in District 207 for the month of November 2007.

SCHOOL GIFTS

Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and authorize Maine South to accept on behalf of District 207 the donation of \$216.36 to the Maine South Scholarship Fund from Target Stores as part of their *Take Charge of Education Program*.

Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and authorize Maine West to accept on behalf of District 207, the donation of \$500 from the *ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program*.

Accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and authorize Maine West to accept on behalf of District 207 the donation of \$500 to the Maine West Scholarship Reserve Fund from Ms. Marlen Garcia and Mr. James Murray of Des Plaines.

BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

Policy Committee

Accept the minutes from the December 3, 2007 Policy Committee meeting discussing the Student Attendance, Field Trips and Tours, and Use of District Technology policies.

STUDENT RECOGNITION AND COMMENDATION

Accept the recommendations from the building principals for students whom the Board of Education should recognize and commend for their outstanding accomplishments.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

It was moved by Member Pellar and seconded by Member Sullivan to approve the sponsorship request from Maine West for signage from Lee Manor through the Maine West Athletic Boosters in accordance with Board Policy # 2720.

Member Sullivan suggested that the year be omitted from the sign so that it can be used for succeeding years without reprinting, if desired.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

NEW CLUB PROPOSAL

Maine West Movie Club

It was moved by Member Leys and seconded by Member Pellar to approve the establishment of the Maine West Movie Club amended to remove inconsistencies between the Constitution and Bylaws, specifically regarding elections.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

CALENDAR

- February 4, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Board Room
Ralph J. Frost Admin. Center

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board of Education requested that an Education Committee meeting be called for February 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss curriculum matters.

OTHER ITEMS

Discussion by the Board included requesting that speakers addressing the Board identify their city and state.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Member Bustos and seconded by Member Pellar to adjourn to Closed Session to discuss Student Personnel; Review of Closed Session Minutes; Appointment, Employment, Or Dismissal Of Employee; Pending Litigation, and Collective Negotiations.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried at 10:10 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

It was moved by Member Sullivan and seconded by Member Pellar to reconvene in Open Session.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 11:05 p.m.

PERSONNEL ACTION

It was moved by Member Bustos and seconded by Member Sullivan to approve for official records the following personnel items:

PROFESSIONAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

• **Teacher Personnel**

.. MS. CAROLINE BENJAMIN - SPECIAL EDUCATION - MAINE EAST	
SALARY: COLUMN I, STEP 1 - B.A. DEGREE (1/2 TIME)	\$10,221.81
TRS CONTRIBUTION	<u>888.86</u>
(Assignment for the 2007-2008 school year) (replacement)	\$11,110.67
Beginning Date: January 22, 2008	

PROFESSIONAL STAFF RESIGNATIONS

• **Teacher Personnel**

- .. MS. ALISON STAUFFER-ECKART - SPECIAL EDUCATION - MAINE EAST (8/23/99)
Resignation effective December 1, 2007
- .. MS. GINA SANDORA - AAT/BUSINESS - MAINE SOUTH (8/17/06)
Resignation effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
- .. MS. HELEN APERGIS - SCIENCE - MAINE SOUTH (8/19/04)
Resignation effective January 18, 2008

• **Dean of Students**

- .. MS. SHANNON BYRNE - MAINE WEST (8/9/07)
Resignation effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year

• **Psychologist**

- .. MS. JENNIFER REESE - ARC (part-time) (8/17/06)
Resignation effective January 17, 2008

• **Teacher Assistants**

- .. MR. SEAN SCHOCHET - SPECIAL EDUCATION - MAINE EAST (1/1/06)
Resignation effective January 6, 2007
- .. MS. KRISTI WALLACE - SPECIAL EDUCATION - MAINE EAST (8/17/06)
Resignation from full-time position as 1:1 classroom teacher assistant to assume part-time position vacated by Sean Schochet effective January 7, 2008

SUPPORT STAFF RESIGNATIONS

• **Office Personnel**

- .. MS. DEBORAH TORRES - APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY - MAINE WEST (9/21/01)
Resignation effective December 19, 2007

SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENTS

• **Custodial Personnel**

- .. MS. DOLORES FIRLOTTE - MAINE SOUTH (1/14/92)
Retirement effective February 2, 2008

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan
Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

It was moved by Member Mueller and seconded by Member Sullivan to approve the Closed Session Minutes from December 3, 2007.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Members Bergen, Braam, Bustos, Leys, Mueller, Pellar and Sullivan

Nays: None

Whereupon President Braam declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Bergen and seconded by Member Bustos to adjourn the meeting.

President Braam submitted the motion to a vote and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote at 11:06 p.m.

Joann Braam, President


Cheryl Johansson, Secretary