

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
ELGIN, ILLINOIS

March 31, 2010

SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION

A meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. Board Members in attendance were Maria Bidelman, Karen Carney, Joyce Fountain, Amy Kerber, Donna Smith, Dale Spencer, and Ken Kaczynski. Also in attendance were administrators José Torres, and Patrick Broncato. Also in attendance was Barbara Toney, Illinois Association of School Boards.

1. Motion by Mrs. Kerber, with a second by Mrs. Smith, to enter into Closed Session to discuss information re the discipline, performance, appointment, employment or reclassification of an employee. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mrs. Bidelman, Mrs. Carney, Ms. Fountain, Mrs. Kerber, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Spencer, and Mr. Kaczynski. No Votes: 0. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

2. Information re the Discipline, Performance, Appointment, Employment or Reclassification of an Employee.

- B. Board Self-Evaluation. Mr. Kaczynski indicated that the Board's evaluation tool is the same as was used last year. Mr. Kaczynski added that he has talked with Barb Toney/IASB about the possibility of updating this tool.

Barbara Toney, IASB, was present to help the Board facilitate the evaluation process.

The following areas were evaluated and discussed:

Policy Making. The Board reviewed and discussed this area; scores were given. This is an area that is ongoing; the next review of the entire policy manual is due to begin this year.

Board Meetings. The Board discussed this area and the scores that were given. It was noted, that even with recent location changes there have been no concerns expressed by the public.

11. Discusses immediately matters that might alienate Board members or the Superintendent, preventing the situation from getting worse.

Mr. Kaczynski indicated that as Board President, he feels this is his responsibility to make sure that all Board members are fully informed. Discussion followed regarding the fact that this should be a collective process, keeping each other informed as needed. A suggestion was made to add an informal discussion portion to at each meeting to update all Board members on current issues.

12. Make sure that Board members receive agenda information in adequate time before meetings.

This area was further discussed regarding the implementation of BoardDocs. It was noted that there are savings in the form of paper and ink for printing. Currently the agenda is finished and available the Saturday prior to a Board meeting at 12:01 a.m. After discussion it was determined to change this day to the Friday prior to a board meeting.

14. Agendas are prepared and sent to news media, school buildings, and other interested citizens in advance of regular and special meetings.

Due to the implementation of BoardDocs this has improved with greater exposure of the Board agendas.

Ethical Standards. The Board discussed this area and the scores that were given.

1. All actions of Board members concern only the welfare of the total system.
2. All Board members avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety at all times.

These two areas were discussed further. It was pointed out that when a Board member makes a request of a staff member it is perceived as a priority, because of this, Board members need to be aware when making requests. Ms. Toney suggested all Board requests go through the Superintendent's office. Mr. Kaczynski stated that the current practice is to go through the Superintendent's office and that the response to the request is shared with all Board members. It was determined that Board members can discuss interests or recent requests under "Other Business" which is already built into the agenda.

Board Relationship.

2. Board members pay attention to the ideas and opinions of other Board members.

The Board discussed this item further and agreed that this has been a difficult year and everyone's concerns are kept in mind when making decisions.

Personal Qualities of Board. The Board discussed this area and the scores that were given. This area was further discussed regarding respect for other Board members and decisions that are made.

Finance. This area was discussed in terms of the scores given regarding the Board's individual concerns on the District's finances. Comments were made regarding the District's systems and upgrades that have been made are improving.

5. Takes the lead in securing community support for additional funding as necessary.

This area was discussed further. In addition, the Board addressed that possible need for a lobbyist to be employed to help secure District financing.

Personnel. The Board discussed ways to better communicate with staff members.

5. Makes staff members aware of the esteem in which they are held.

A comment was made here regarding the fact the Board could acknowledge staff more often. It was noted that the Board is very pleased with the efforts of the Superintendent's Staff.

Instruction. Discussion was had regarding this area.

5. Understands the process by which curriculum and instruction improvement and/or innovation occurs within the School District.

A concern was raised regarding the need for more information. It was suggested that it may be helpful to be provided with an executive summary/minutes from Instructional Council to be more informed in this area. It was noted that the minutes are currently posted on the intranet.

Relationship with the Community. The Board discussed this topic and scoring that was given. The Board works continually in the area.

Goal Setting-Planning. This area was reviewed and discussed.

1. Sets clear and definite short-term and long-range goals for the District.

Comments were made regarding the need to work on long-range goals.

7. Uses planning for site acquisition, school plant construction, and plant maintenance.

Concerns were raised regarding being more proactive in terms of site acquisitions. It is understood even during this financial crisis it is still important to keep site acquisitions in mind.

Relationship with Superintendent. The Board discussed this portion of the evaluation and discussed its relationship with the Superintendent.

Ms. Toney provided the Board with a packet of information from IASB regarding Board governance; resource materials; board self-evaluation; sample board agreements; and help for boards to govern more effectively.

Specifically, Ms. Toney reviewed the Board Governance Review Behavioral Indicators as a possible alternative evaluation tool or to be used in combination with the current evaluation tool being used.

In addition, Ms. Toney indicated the Board needs to reconsider her role at this meeting (Board Self-Evaluation Meeting) and should she continue as a moderator. Mr. Kaczynski suggested establishing a sub-committee to review the current evaluation tool for reconsideration.

Members Only Website. Ms. Toney also spoke about the member's only website which is accessible through www.iasb.com. The website helps board members track ongoing activities and upcoming events.

Ms. Toney and Mr. Broncato left the meeting.

III. Information re the Discipline, Performance, Appointment, Employment or Reclassification of an Employee. Dr. Torres addressed a matter regarding an employee with the Board.

IV. Motion by Mrs. Carney, with a second by Mrs. Kerber, to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Bidelman, Mrs. Carney, Ms. Fountain, Mrs. Kerber, Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Kaczynski. No votes: 0. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 3rd day of May, 2010

President

Secretary