



Bruce Rauner
Governor

Candice Jones
Director

707 North 15th Street, Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: (217) 557-1030 / TDD: (800) 526-0844

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Aftercare Building 100 N. Western, Chicago, IL

- IO 1.0 CALL TO ORDER by Acting Director Jones
 - 1.1 Roll Call
 - 1.2 Present: Gunnell, Ellis, Green, Smoot, Dunbar, Jones
 - 1.3 Absent: Grady
 - 1.4 Others present: Beth Compton, Superintendent Davis, Sarah Myerscough
- Member Jones respectfully requested that Member Gunnell take notes in the absence of a recording secretary. Member Gunnell accepted.
- AI 2.0 CONSENT AGENDA
 - 2.1 Approval of Agenda
 - 2.2 Approval of Minutes
- IO 3.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - 3.1 University of Chicago Crime Lab Online Educational Enhancement Program
- Discussion was held regarding the preliminary findings of the research by UIC. Ms. Jones reviewed the report and Board members reacted to the report acknowledging that the research is ongoing. The research will include 2 year longitudinal study of how youth are doing 2 years post release. Member Smoot asked a question about the demographics of control group. Ms. Jones provided an explanation.
- IO 4.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
 - 4.1 Education Information Webinar
- Board members were referred to the resource that was included in the packet (<http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=10b10aa0562ed09660f97b9a0&id=8808ab0453>).
- Superintendent Davis emphasized the document would be helpful and informative for Board members.
- 4.2 Data Report (December)
- Superintendent Davis reviewed the report. She emphasized that the Principals need to be more involved with the data. Member Green asked about the staffing at Kewanee and St Charles. Board members asked about the number of vacancies that are budgeted for each facility. Member Smoot asked what we can do as board members to help fill the vacancies. Ms. Jones commented that the new Governor's office staff is aware of the consent decree. Superintendent Davis added that now that they do not have followed the CMS procedures, we should be

able to fill vacancies quicker than in the past, provided there are qualified applicants. A Board member asked about the number of youth enrolled online vs the total number of students enrolled. Superintendent Davis explained the discrepancies.

4.3 Profile Report (December)

Superintendent Davis reviewed the monthly youth profile dated 12/31/2014. Board members appreciated the data included in the report. A board discussion followed and centered on the number of DJJ youth enrolled in school compared to the total number of youth in DJJ.

4.4 Special Education Report (December)

Superintendent Davis highlighted the compliance concerns with special education timelines and the importance of Principals reviewing this data and working with the director of special education, Azalea McEwen. Member Ellis stated that attention should be paid to special education staff due to the consent decree mandates. Superintendent Davis said the consent decree will address most of the shortages. Member Ellis added that the DJJ Board should be on record that we need to fulfill the shortages identified in the consent decree as soon as possible.

It was moved by Member Ellis, seconded by Member Dunbar that the special education compliance and staffing patterns be given the highest priority.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

AI 5.0 ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Adopt FY15 Budget

Superintendent Davis presented the FY15 Budget. Member Smoot asked to see the career and tech end grant applications, along with the IDEA grant applications. There was a brief discussion of the travel line items.

It was moved by Member Gunnell, seconded by Member Green that the Board approves the FY15 Budget as presented

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Green, Gunnell, Dunbar

Nays: Smoot

Abstain: Ellis

Motion Carries

DI 6.0 BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Member Smoot asked Beth Compton, Chief Counsel, if the school board is operating in accordance with the statutes? Member Smoot further stated that we should get an opinion from the Attorney General about the duties of the board. Member Smoot asked, are we to follow exactly what the statutes state? Or do we continue to conduct the meetings as we have in the past which in my opinion we are not doing what we need to be to doing. Counsel Compton offered guidance on how we should go about making such request. She stated that we should start with the Governor's Office.

Member Green stated that the statutes are designed to allow the district to function separately from IDOC/IDJJ to some degree. The school board is

responsible for hiring of upper level administration, curriculum, and budget line items.

Ms. Jones responded to Member Smooth's questions stating that she met with ISBE staff, Superintendent Chris Koch, Assistant Superintendent Susie Morrison, and Assistant Superintendent Beth Hanselman to discuss the grants, hiring of the DJJSD428 Superintendent and the changes to the ISBE Board. Ms. Jones further stated that if you are frustrated on this board you need to get past this frustration in order to move this organization forward. Ms. Jones said her patience is getting short revisiting this topic board meeting after board meeting.

Member Dunbar stated that she believes we have been moving forward even though our hands are tied by the tension in the statutes. She suggested that we follow the agenda and work on the statute compliance issues outside of the Board setting. She suggests that we list our concerns and find out who can provide the answers for the problems.

Member Ellis asked what are the expectations for board members. Are we an advisory board? We need to answers to these ongoing issues related to following the statutes.

Member Smoot said he basically had one question: How do the statutes apply to the operation of this Board?

Superintendent Davis stated that she believes the new governor's administration will undoubtedly tell us what we need to be doing as a board. We have many educational tasks to attend to.

Board members agreed that this would be a prudent course of action.

Member Smoot stated that he has never missed a meeting nor has he ever left a meeting early.

He stated that he wants to do what he was asked to do when he was appointed to the Board.

Member Gunnell volunteered to draft a set of questions pertaining to the operations of the school board and the mandated statutes. Member Gunnell will send the questions to board members with a reminder that board members need to respond to him as an individual, rather than a reply to all.

Member Jones and Sarah Myerscough exited at 11:03

It was moved by Member Ellis, seconded by Member Smooth that the Board takes a 10 minute recess.

Voice Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

The meeting was called back to order by Member Gunnell at 11:15 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Gunnell, Ellis, Green, Smoot, Dunbar

Absent: Davis, Grady

Others present: Counsel Compton and Superintendent Davis

Member Gunnell was appointed President Pro-Tem. He stated for the record, he was serving as President Pro-Tem, Secretary Pro-Tem and Recording Secretary.

IO 7.0 IMPORTANT DATES
February 20, 2015

AI 8.0 ADJOURMENT

Motion made by Smoot and Ellis at 12:08 p.m.