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Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 2015

Time: 9:34 a.m.

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

APPROVED: January 15, 2016

IO 1.0 CALL TO ORDER by Tresa Dunbar Garrett, presiding in the absence of President Jones

1.1 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Heather Dalmage, Tresa Dunbar Garrett, Patrick Griffin, Candice Smith, Jennifer Vidis, David Green

Absent: President Candice Jones

Others present: Superintendent Gloria Davis, Chief Legal Counsel Beth Compton Rachel Brady of Equip for Equality; and John Sonnenberg of Pearson.

AI 2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion was adopted to approve the Agenda by Member Green and seconded by Member Smith.

Voice Vote:

Aye; Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

The Agenda was approved by all board members with no changes.

2.2 Approval of Minutes for September 18, 2015

Motion was adopted to approve the Minutes for September 18, 2015 by Member Smith and seconded by Member Vidis.

Voice Vote:

Aye; Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

Minutes were approved with no changes.

IO 3.0 Board of Education Ethics Training

Beth Compton reminded all board members as a follow up that all members must complete the Ethics Training for Board Appointees and return the signed certification copy to Mr. McAllister. In addition, members are required to complete the online Open Meetings Act Training and return proof of completion links via email. Chief Compton specially noted issues around procurement and communication reporting given their position on the board and if there are any questions about conversations related to potential vendors or procurement to contact her at (312)814-4403.

Ms. Rachel Brady of Equip for Equality was present at the meeting and advised the Board that Equip for Equality is providing assistance to the Department of Juvenile Justice – School District to assist in obtaining information from community schools.

4.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Nothing to report.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Davis introduced Mr. John Sonnenberg of Pearson as a guest. Mr. Sonnenberg described his work with the Department of Juvenile Justice under their contract to provide training regarding use of GradPoint and GradPoint 2.0 which would be coming out next year. He highlighted licenses used by the schools and he is seeing efficacy of the program. Superintendent Davis is looking to see an increase in number of youth using the licenses. Mr. Sonnenberg is proposing a 3 year contract agreement for 2016 with a 2 year cost for 3 years. During this contract Advance Placement (AP) courses are added that some youth need; additional Professional Development; days for Teachers; GradPoint training for both new and veteran Teachers for a cost of \$248,690.00. Again, this cost covers year 1 and year 2 and the 3rd year at no cost.

Member Dalmage expressed concerns about meeting particular requirements for Special Education youth at IYC-Kewanee via GradPoint, since the curriculum would not work for some youth with disabilities.

The Board further discussed concerns about meeting needs of the Special Education students. Superintendent Davis noted significant issues in the number of Special Education teachers and anticipates change by the end of 2015. She explained that some Special Education youth are pushed in the regular classrooms, others go to Special Education teachers based on IEP.

Superintendent Davis empathized that GradPoint is not the sole source of curriculum for Special Education youth. Some Special Education youth do not utilize GradPoint and Superintendent Davis mentioned that the School District needs to make a presentation to the Board about the full scope of Special Education in IDJJ with existing and needed resources. Mr. Sonneberg explained that GradPoint begins at 6th grade reading level and for the youth that have not achieved that level they are focused on reading as first priority. Staffing and direct instruction supplement are the primary mode of education for some students.

Member Griffin raised an issue on staffing. Superintendent Davis reported on staffing and will provide additional information at our next meeting. The goal is to have all positions ready for posting at the end of the calendar year for hiring during educational hiring season in the spring.

Member Smith requested additional information be provided with any amendments to the Pearson VUE contract. Superintendent Davis agreed to make original contract available to the Board.

Motion was raised by Member Smith to accept the amended contract with provision of data reports as requested and Member Griffin second.

Voice Vote:

Aye; Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

Pearson VUE amended contract with provision of data reports were approved.

Board Recessed at: 10:42 a.m.

Board Returned at: 10:51 a.m.

5.1 Board Policy Workgroup Update

Superintendent Davis described IDJJ policies and advance directives are currently managed in our Springfield Office and this board needs School Board specific policies that work with the IDJJ policies and Advance Directives. The Illinois School Board Association offers full service policy development for \$7,000 and the lower cost option is for subscription and consulting arrangement at \$2,000 which provides access to template policies and the subscription to the press services for legal updates. Member Smith and Member Dalmage agreed to the lower cost option and this should be explored. The goal per Superintendent Davis is to work on policies over the course of 2016. This item would be further discussed during our meeting on January 15, 2016.

5.2 Pearson GradPoint Virtual Learning Executive Overview.

This item was discussed earlier in Section 5.0.

5.3 September Special Education Reports.

Superintendent Davis reviewed reports for the board from September Special Education Report. Ms. Azalea McEwen, Director of Special Education will return to all future meetings to address questions on the Special Education Report.

5.4 September Monthly Data Report

Superintendent Davis reviewed the report of 8th grade and high school diplomas that have been awarded during this school year.

Member Dalmage inquired about disrupted school days. Superintendent Davis explained in some circumstances youth can still work on GradPoint toward credits; some teachers are flexing schedule and working on second shift. The priority is given to youth that are close to graduation or near completion of credits.

5.5 September Principal Data Report

Report was received but without discussion.

6.0 Board Discussion Item

Member Griffin requested that the board discuss court monitor Dr. Leone's report at the next meeting January 15, 2016.

7.0 Important Dates

Community Dialogue for IYC Pere Marquette 10:00 am - November 18, 2015 and IYC Warrenville 10:00 am – November 19, 2015. Invited community and civic leaders will be in attendance. All Board of Education members are always welcome.

The next Board of Education meeting is January 15, 2016

Meeting was motioned to adjourn at 11:47 am by Member Vidis and seconded by Member Dalmage.

Voice Vote:

Aye; Unanimous

Nay: None

Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.