

February 1, 2016

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in special session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2016 at the Administrative Service Center.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following members answered present: Nancy Kupka, President and Members Deb Boyle, Michael Davenport, Rick Pavinato and Don Renner. Terry Pavesich, Vice President, arrived at 7:01 p.m. Member Julia Beckman was absent.

Also present were Mark McDonald, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Pete Theis, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Mark Staehlin, Controller; Jim Kolodziej, Director of Physical Plant and Operations; Jill Browning, Communications Director; Scott Kasik, North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were three visitors.

(A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.)

### **1. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES**

South High students Uriel Ugalde, Gabriel Henderson and Beatrice Beirne spoke about the new course, *Multicultural Studies in American Society*, which was approved by the Board last year. The students shared what the class taught them about race and racism.

The Board thanked the students for sharing their experiences in the class.

### **2. RECEPTION OF VISITORS**

Mr. Barry Ketchmark and Ms. Nihal Isaac addressed the Board advocating for a calendar where final exams are given before winter break.

The Board thanked Mr. Ketchmark and Ms. Isaac for their input.

### **3. 2016-2017 PROPOSED CALENDAR**

Dr. McDonald reviewed the advantages and the drawbacks of an early start calendar where finals occur, and the semester ends, before winter break, and a list of those schools in the area that have an early start calendar. He then reviewed the input received on the early start calendar including DGEA feedback and the District 99 survey, noting that while both provided information, neither could be considered scientific or a true representative sample of those surveyed. Dr. McDonald shared the recommendations of the Calendar Committee, which was formed to explore the feasibility of an early start calendar. Their recommendations were as follows: 1) adopt a traditional calendar for 2016-2017 and commit to study the early start calendar for possible implementation in 2017-2018; 2) create a standing calendar committee; 3) continue to discuss new ideas raised during the calendar discussion; and 4) air condition all learning spaces as soon as possible. He then reviewed six drafts of early start calendars and noted that in none of the drafts did the winter break coincide with the winter break that is recommended by the ROE and normally followed by the District's feeder schools. Dr. McDonald stated the Board had four options at this time: 1) adopt the traditional calendar for 2016-2017; 2) adopt an early start calendar for

2016-2017; 3) adopt the traditional calendar for 2016-2017 and commit to implementing an early start calendar for 2017-2018; and 4) adopt the traditional calendar for 2016-2017 and commit to studying the possibility of implementing an early start calendar for 2017-2018.

Board members shared their views on the adoption and implementation of the early start calendar. A majority of the Board Members supported adopting the traditional calendar for 2016-2017 and making a commitment to implement a calendar with finals before winter break for 2017-2018. The Board asked administration to survey the parents of the District's feeder schools for their input. The Board also directed administration to make a commitment by May 1 whether or not it will be recommending implementation of a calendar where first semester ends and finals occur before winter break for 2017-2018.

#### **4. 2015 SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT**

Summer School Director Tim Tilton reported on the number of students served and the courses offered during the 2015 Summer School. Gina Ziccardi explained that Title I funding was used differently than in the past but was still used to support Summer School.

Ms. Ziccardi then reviewed administration's 2016 Summer School recommendations which included continuing the tuition free Summer Bridge program funded by Title I; continuing use of Title I funds to support transportation and partially fund salaries; increasing the Director's salary by \$1,000; and the proposed calendar. Dr. McDonald stated the recommendations will be voted on at the February Board Business meeting.

#### **5. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION FORMAT**

Jill Browning reviewed the new format for Student and Staff Recognitions that will be used on March 21 and May 9. She shared that the new format incorporates both a formal program and an opportunity for those recognized to have their photo taken and meet with Board members and District staff. Ms. Browning shared that Dr. Thiele, District 99's incoming superintendent, will also be in attendance at both events. Ms. Browning said that after these two events she will solicit feedback from those in attendance to inform planning for 2017-2018 recognition events.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 CALENDAR**

Member Davenport moved and Member Pavesich seconded that the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 calendar as recommended by administration.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Davenport, Pavesich, Pavinato, Boyle, Renner and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

#### **7. RECEPTION OF VISITORS**

Ms. Nihal Isaac asked the Board to consider changing the timing of first semester final exams on the approved 2016-2017 calendar so that they would occur before the Martin Luther King holiday.

Ms. Hilary Denk offered suggestions for the survey of District 58 parents regarding a future early start calendar. She also stated she felt the ending of fees for students to attend activities was a great idea.

Mr. Barry Ketchmark expressed that deferring the decision on the 2017-2018 calendar until May may not be in the best interest of everyone involved.

The Board thanked each speaker for their comments and suggestions.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the six members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Nancy Kupka, President

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Juli Gniadek, Secretary

