

S.D. 161 Board Meeting – June 26, 2017

Observer: Sharon Cooper

School Board President Mrs. Michelle Hoereth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present: School District Superintendent Dr. Dana Smith, Mr. Stephan Paredes, Mrs. Merle Huckabee, Mr. John Simmons, Mrs. Misha Lynn Blackman, Dr. Carolyn Briggs. Mr. Cameron Nelson arrived after roll call.

Two Junior High Students Kenyon Haynes and Jane Bachus received the South Suburban Junior High School Association Award for citizenship and athletics.

School Superintendent Dr. Dana Smith reported on the following:

- Summer School and its goals of intervention and improvement for students;
- The school district is still hiring teachers;
- The search for a new assistant principal for the Junior High;
- He also gave a Legislative Update;

The board approved bills and personnel.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Parker Junior High: roof replacement on schedule;

Flossmoor Hills: exterior work completed;

Heather Hills School and at Western Avenue School: work is ongoing.

John Benish, President of Paige Bus gave a report re: bus routes, new GPS, two way radio, communication with parents, and driver training.

Dr. Dana Smith spoke re: Joint Annual Conference and National School Board Association membership. He included registration dates, types of workshops and presentations and costs. Questions from the board included, Should we continue to join? What is the value? Shall we attend? Dr. Smith said that we have time to decide. Dr. Smith and the board discussed dates for the board's retreat. August 28 @ 5:00 pm. was chosen.

Frances LaBella presented budget assumptions. However, she said that these assumptions could change, depending on action in Springfield re: property tax.

The principal from Serena Hills reported that a former student of the school wants to donate \$200,000 for a STEM lab at Serena School. The board discussed this gift at length. Dr. Smith stated that further discussion is needed at the next board meeting.

Testing for Lead in Schools: The custodial head described the procedure and the \$10,000 cost. There were questions and discussions from the board. The person who heads the Special Committee also spoke.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Board member Mrs. Huckabee, vice-president of the SPEED co-op, gave an update of the SPEED report. Mr. Paredes and Mrs. Huckabee were elected by the board as Primary and Secondary Board Representatives to SPEED Co-op.

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:00 pm.