



Racine Unified School District
3109 Mt. Pleasant Street, Racine, Wisconsin, 53404

Board of Education

RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORK SESSION

Dennis Wiser, President

Pamala Handrow, Clerk

Racine, Wisconsin

May 5, 2014

A Special Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Racine Unified School District of Racine County, Wisconsin was called to order at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2014, with the following members present: Christopher J. Eperjesy, Michael Frontier, Pamala Handrow, Melvin Hargrove (Arrived at 6:07 p.m.), Julie L. McKenna, Don J. Nielsen, Kim Plache (Left at 8:30 p.), Wally Rendón and Dennis Wiser.

Also present: Lolli Haws, Superintendent and Darlene Gallup, Executive Assistant.

The purpose of the meeting was a work session. No action was taken by the Board.

1. Mitchell School Reconstruction Design/Development Update

Preliminary plans and drawings were shared and reviewed. Representatives from Partners in Design and Absolute Construction presented their renovation and construction plans.

(Pastor Hargrove arrived during the Mitchell School Reconstruction Design/Development Update.)

2. Monitoring Section of the School Board's Coherent Governance Policy: Operational Expectations-10 (Part 2) – Instructional Program

Dr. Haws stated administration has listed the OE-10 (Part 2) Monitoring Report as being in compliance with exceptions in Sections 10.10, 10.13, 10.15, 10.17 and 10.18 as stated in the report's indicators.

Rosalie Daca, Chief Academic Officer, presented the agenda item. Mrs. Daca noted substantial changes were made to this report after it was reviewed by Aspen.

Board recommendations/requests:

- In the future, consider using a different term in place of “textbooks” since textbooks are used less and less
- Non-compliances need to be listed on the cover of the report when it is presented for board vote on May 19

3. School Discipline Code

Dr. Haws said the Federal government has set many guidelines on student discipline.

Eric Gallien, Chief of Schools; Natosha Harris, Director of School Climate and Student Support; and Kristen Latus, Climate Program Supervisor, presented the agenda item. Handouts and information included:

- Handout, “Student Discipline Code Process”
- Handout, “Proactive Approaches to creating a Positive Learning Environment at all grade levels”
 - Positive Behavior and Intervention Support K-12
 - Responsive Classrooms – Elementary School
 - Developmental Designs – Middle School
 - Restorative Justice – Peace Circles – High School
- A final draft of the Student Discipline Code will come to the board in June, 2014

Board recommendations/requests:

- Look into how athletic student implications fit into the codes and disciplines
- Send the Restorative Justice video and document to the board for review if it is possible
- Send the drafted student code book electronically in advance so it can be reviewed

4. Priority School Update

Dr. Gallien provided a brief update on the Priority Schools.

- Key areas have been identified for needed administrative support
- School climate training has been taking place (some will take place this summer)
- Budget will allow some additional capacity and decreasing of class size
- Family engagement training will focus on helping parents understand and support their child’s education (e.g., where they are academically, what can be done at home to help them, etc.)
- Instructional time at these two schools will increase by 80 minutes a day

5. Budget and Staffing Update

Dave Hazen, Chief Operations Officer; and Marc Duff, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the district’s Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget forecast assumptions.

- Budget adjustments will be presented to the board in two weeks
- Largest impact will be health care costs
- Transportation costs are down about \$0.5M
- Technology Refresh cost will be under budget
- Several strategies will be used to decrease the deficit (e.g., cash payment for technology refresh computers and paying off the copy machine lease)
- Pending – RCLA
 - opening will be based on enrollment numbers and cost of opening
 - State law states you cannot compel a student to attend a charter school. Families in that boundary have been notified of it as an option
- Staffing budget review
- May – budgets adjustment presentation; June – preliminary budget presentation

(Ms. Plache left at 8:03 p.m.)

6. Next Steps for Referendum

Mr. Wisner presented some preliminary referendum information to help the board determine the question(s) of the referendum. There is an August deadline for the referendum decision.

Mr. Wisner said he is hoping there does not need to be a separate referendum committee working on this effort.

Discussion points included:

- Timing
 - Has to be done in the November election
 - Referendum question(s) has to be set by mid-August
 - Surveys will need to be conducted to get full input
 - Timeline can be met if we move quickly
- Question to decide now is whether to do a large or small referendum – needs to be posed through a survey after the board agrees on what the scope should be.
- Board members were asked to review the referendum packet over the next week and think about what they are interested in supporting

Comments:

- Walden needs to have their own building
- Some of the things on the list are free standing and some tie into other items
- Step 1 – should be about retaining open enrollment students (O. Brown, Gifford, Knapp, Montessori School)
- The district would work with an outside source on surveys
- The surveys help to formulate the pulse of the community, then talk to community members and groups and then conduct a second survey to determine the general public consensus
- Consensus of the board was to have administration proceed with starting the referendum survey process
- The referendum will be on all board agendas until the elections

7. Discussion of Future Aspen Meetings

Structure of next Aspen retreat (4 meetings this year):

- Consider using less of the work day; prefer evenings
- Mr. Wisner will review board member input on availability and a date(s) will be selected

The session ended at 8:36 p.m.