

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Joint Powers Board
Northwest Suburban Integration School District #6078

November 17, 2010

Call to Order

Chair Lindblad called the regular meeting of the Joint Powers Board to order at 6:15 PM on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at the Northwest Suburban Integration School District Office. Members present: Kris Abrahamson, Marcia Lindblad, Patti Pokorney, Lin Myszkowski, John Solomon, Jon Tynjala, Scott Wenzel and ex-officio Mark Robertson. Kate Maguire (Osseo Area Schools) attended as the representative for the Superintendent Advisory Group and Tammie Epley attended as representative for the Community Collaborative Council. Absent: Janelle Henry

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Pokorney, seconded by Myszkowski, to accept the agenda as presented for November 17, 2010. Upon vote being taken, all voted in favor, none voted against. Motion carried.

Executive Director and Staff Reports

1. **Welcome and Introductions**: John Solomon was welcomed and introduced as the new board member from Brooklyn Center.
2. **Legislative/Lobbyist Update**: Robertson presented the monthly lobbyist report.
3. **Financial Report**: Robertson presented the monthly financial report.
4. **Community Collaboration Meeting Report**: Robertson reviewed notes from the meeting held on Thursday, October 21, 2010.
5. **Program Updates**: Robertson presented the monthly program updates as received from Elia Bruggeman, Director of Educational Services and Eileen Abrahamson, Director of Magnet Programs.
6. **Audit Update**: Robertson reported the audit was performed on November 1-3, 2010. NWS had a successful audit and many items were cleaned up. NWS has a higher fund balance than anticipated and this item will be brought forward at tonight's meeting for further discussion. Kate Maguire (Osseo) expressed that the Superintendents are appreciative of the work that has been done under Robertson's direction.
7. **TransACT Subscription Update**: NWS encourages its member districts to utilize the translation services. Training Summary/Attendee List was presented for two webinars

Discussion Items

1. **NWSISD Professional Development/MN Humanities Center (Absent Narratives)**: Robertson presented the Absent Narratives program to the board for discussion. The proposed cost would be approximately \$31,000 and the model will develop hands-on training for teachers, which includes resources and creating training modules. Robertson reported the superintendents are in favor of the concept and that it would fit well in the districts. They felt it could have an impact and could change the classrooms and would encourage teachers to have a different perspective, work alongside the students, give them a sense of belonging, engage in conversation and share their perspectives. The initial intent is to train 100 teachers at a time and superintendents will help determine who will participate from each district. Additional training will be provided on an as-needed basis and can be guided by each district. It is anticipated that school leaders would be the first to participate in the workshop and board members would also be invited. The Absent Narratives materials would also be available in the MRC and could be checked out. Robertson noted that the cost of the program would be a good utilization of a portion of the fund balance.

2. **Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)**: Robertson presented information on PIQE, which was started in California in 1987 as a way to address conditions that prevented their children from succeeding in school and has proven results of success. The nine-week program, delivered in the parent's primary language, helps them become supporters of their students and advocates of education and is offered free of charge. Brooklyn Center started the program this year (Parents of Power) and is being met with high marks. The program focuses on how to be a good parent and how to navigate the school system. Robertson met with staff from PIQE and is currently negotiating pricing for NWS. There is a one-time cost to purchase the program. This would be a "Train the Trainer" model and NWS' role would be similar to AVID and JAG for facilitation and support. The superintendents are in favor of this program and board members were in consensus that the program sounds great. Robertson noted that the business model costs are high and needs to change as presently the cost would be \$55,000 per district. Robertson would propose for a one-time cost of \$55,000 to NWS and then an additional figure could be determined for each member district as they are added. Robertson is requesting that the board approve a portion of the excess fund balance for purchase of the PIQE program.
3. **Magnet Schools Program – Lottery Update**: Robertson reported that NWS has received 450 online applications to date. Robertson also brought forward discussion and a request for consideration that a portion of the excess fund balance be used for new magnets at Brooklyn Center, Rockford and Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose. Robertson explained that Mounds View District also needs to be added into the magnet program. Robertson proposed allocation of \$100,000 each for the three new magnets for a total of \$300,000 from general funds for 2010-11 and again for 2011-12 for this initiative. The superintendents will review magnet development and next phases and this item will be brought forward for further discussion at the December 2010 board meeting.
4. **ELITE Academy/Future Educators Club**: Robertson presented participation data from FEC and noted that 55% of kids in FEC were students of color. Robertson will bring back sponsorship of ELITE Academy for further discussion to a future meeting.
5. **Audit/Budget Report**: Robertson reviewed the audit report and noted that NWS has an excess fund balance of \$920,000. NWS would retain \$200,000 as rollover funds and as previously discussed, Robertson requested that the remaining \$700,000 be used for three programs: PIQE; Absent Narratives; and Magnet Schools. He also noted that member district superintendents support the concept of using the excess funds for these three initiatives. Robertson stated that the funds could also be rebated back to the districts and it would be the board's choice to determine where the excess funds are used. Mounds View commented the programs proposed are solid and he would recommend for NWS use the excess funds accordingly to help close the achievement gap.

Business Action Agenda Items

1. **Approval of Fund Balance Limit**: Motion by Pokorney, seconded by Abrahamson to approve the year-end NWSISD 2009-10 fund balance limit, not to exceed \$200,000, as presented. Upon vote being taken, all voted in favor, none voted against. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Excess Fund Balance Utilization**: Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Myszkowski, to approve and utilize the excess fund balance above \$200,000 for the following programs:
 - a) Utilize approximately \$31,000 to partner with the Minnesota Humanities Center to develop and implement the "Absent Narratives" initiative (the cost will change as needed);
 - b) Utilize a portion to purchase and implement the PIQE (parent involvement) curriculum and program in order for all NWS districts to have access to the program (the amount is currently being negotiated); and
 - c) Utilize the remainder of the excess funding to support the development of three new magnet programs in Rockford, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose, and Brooklyn Center districts.

Upon vote being taken, all voted in favor, none voted against. Motion carried.

3. **Acceptance of Financial Audit for FY 2009-10:** Motion by Pokorney, seconded by Tynjala, to accept the financial audit in draft form as presented. Bound copies of the final audit will be presented at the December 2010 board meeting. Upon vote being taken, all voted in favor, none voted against. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda Action Items

Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Myszkowski, to approve the Consent Agenda of routine action items including: check register for October 2 - 29, 2010; and minutes from the regular Joint Powers Board Meeting held on October 20, 2010. Upon vote being taken, all voted in favor, none voted against. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Solomon, seconded by Abrahamson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM. Upon vote being taken, all voted in favor, none voted against. Motion carried.

Patti Pokorney
Board Clerk