

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 62 was held in the Forest School Board Room, 1375 Fifth Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois, on October 6, 2008.

President Brenda Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members physically present: Adams, Duckmann, Imig, Lynch, Murphy, Poskozim, and Suriano. Also present: Superintendent Westerhold, Associate Superintendent Shepard, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Nguyen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Hertel, Director of Community Relations Ward, and Assistant to the Superintendent Goodchild

Absent: None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

3. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ROUNDTABLE

Murphy welcomed the principals and asked each to introduce themselves and the school they represent for the benefit of the board. The principals present included: John Swanson, Algonquin Middle School; Janice Rashid, Central Elementary School; Leah Kimmelman, Cumberland Elementary School; Julie Fogarty, Forest Elementary School; Rene Carranza, Plainfield Elementary School; and Nancy Bang, Terrace Elementary School. Each was asked to reflect on three questions provided by the board prior to the meeting. These questions were:

1. A great deal of time has been devoted to the Master Planning Process in our district. How do the recommendations from the Steering Committee align with your school improvement plans?
2. Our district has supported the professional learning communities' initiative for the past three years and has provided training for most of our teachers. How has the implementation of professional learning communities' best practices enhanced your school improvement efforts?
3. How has your team's participation in data retreats assisted you in developing your school improvement plans, and how effective did you find the use of MAP data in this process?

Each of the principals commented that the continuing support for professional development is crucial to achieving goals set by the school improvement plans. The ability to provide staff with new or alternative teaching methods is essential to student achievement. Development activities on the Danielson framework, PBIS, literacy, and technology infused curriculum have energized the staff with new ideas. Principals are also excited about updating the school environment and the availability of extracurricular activities. All the recommendations can be tied to achievement, but providing after school extracurricular options allow for nurturing the whole child.

They are also encouraged by the commitment to a central Early Childhood Center (ECC) since it will provide early detection of learning difficulties and delivery of appropriate services to underprivileged children who often arrive at school without the necessary skills. New early learning standards dovetail seamlessly with learning standards already being used in the elementary and middle schools and give students an early introduction to district curriculum. An ECC can also offer a vital link to parents about services, such as literacy support, that are available from the district and community.

With its focus on data-driven decisions, PLC promotes accountability and encourages collaboration among teams. This has helped to break down barriers and provide more depth and understanding to

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the discussion of instruction. Grade and building level teams can design interventions for specific students that need extra help, and provide opportunities for teachers to help other teachers. At the middle school level, PLC is used not only to explore curriculum content but also to address practical discipline issues.

Data retreats provide an opportunity for staff from different instructional areas to work together as a team to identify student's needs and craft a solution. Since the retreats use assessment data, there is no room for individual bias and provides an early warning on individual students.

Murphy thanked the principals for sharing their thoughts and helping the board understand their challenges. At 8:09 p.m. she called a short break, and the meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m.

The board discussed updating their goal for the 2008-2009 school year. The draft statement is: Community Consolidated School District 62 will analyze and begin implementing the recommendations developed during the Master Planning Process for continuous improvement in teaching and learning, while maintaining financial stability. The board will vote on its adoption at the October 20, 2008 regular business meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

President Murphy adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Brenda Murphy, Board President

Margaret Goodchild, Secretary to the Board