

Regular Meeting  
Board of Education  
February 2, 2009

The Board convened in the Superintendent's Conference Room of the Administration Building at 4:30 p.m. Vice President Debbie Wolfmeyer called the meeting to order. The following members answered the roll call: Butler, Parker, Spangler, Stowell and Wolfmeyer. Board member Ross arrived at 4:50 p.m. Dr. Gorenz was absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** -- Moved by Parker seconded by Stowell to adjourn into executive session to: approve minutes of the last meeting January 20, 2009 Section 2(c) (21); Student Discipline Section 2(c) (9); Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, Board dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel Section 2(c) (1); Collective negotiating matters Section 2(c) (2); Litigation against, affecting or on behalf of the School District Section 2(c) (11); Purchase or lease of real property, setting of price for sale or lease of property Section 2 (c) (5)&(6). Motion carried. No action was taken in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Mrs. Wolfmeyer adjourned the executive session at 6:00 p.m.

The Board convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Diagnostic Learning Center. The following members answered the roll call: Butler, Gorenz, Parker, Ross, Spangler, Stowell and Wolfmeyer.

**MINUTES** – There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of the regular meeting January 20, 2009 or special meeting January 26, 2009.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mr. Stowell announced that the Children's Hospital Advisory Committee is looking for nominees for the Community Advocacy Award and he asked that anyone knowing a deserving student nominate them. Mr. Stowell announced that Junior Achievement is looking for "economic educators" to go into classrooms to educate students on the dynamics of the economy. He also applauded the efforts of teachers at Harrison Primary School who are now offering "Terrific Tuesdays" where two children have lunch with them. Mr. Stowell next asked for "a lot of help" from the community - social service agencies, faith based groups, and service based organizations - to facilitate new ways for those students needing alternative ways to learn.

Mr. Wolfmeyer thanked Glen Oak Primary School for the opportunity to read at the school.

Dr. Gorenz made the following announcement: -The Board of Education has been talking a lot since the first of the year about the loss of revenue from the economic downturn; this developed rather rapidly and has caused an unforeseen financial deficit for this year. This required us to respond in an accelerated manner to reduce our expenditures. He noted that the Board has targeted \$3 million in reduced expenditures, some one time items, and some deferments. It does appear that the Economic Stimulus Package may provide the district with additional funds – probably for a two year time period. He emphasized that his initial concern regarding stimulus money was whether the money could be used for operations, and it now appears that some of the funding can be used for operations, particularly for Title 1 and Special Education. He continued noting that, "Although we had an urgency previously to balance the budget, because if we did not it would have a profound impact on students achievement, that urgency has been mitigated somewhat with the Economic Stimulus Bill. As we look at our next round of decisions, they will have a much greater impact on students and staff – we were talking about layoffs and the necessity of merging two high schools." He stressed that the additional revenue affords us time for extra planning before making decisions of such a great magnitude.

He next addressed the issue of realizing that financial planning and budgeting for the School District is a complicated and sometimes confusing process and unique to school districts. He stressed that in order for all to have a full understanding of the District's budget and financial planning alternatives and that they have confidence in the information that will lead to the decisions we have to make - there must be a process for the systematic consideration of alternatives and changes through the budgeting and planning process and a way of presenting the information that is understandable to all. To attain these goals President Gorenz is proposing to name a Special Board Committee on Budgeting and Planning. The decisions will still need to be made by the Board, but the Committee will help to obtain and organize the financial information of the

district necessary for all to be well informed and make informed decisions. This will be a temporary committee of people from outside the district as well as our controller/treasurer and auditor. The goal with this is to recommend financial and planning processes and to develop spread sheets and reports so that all can understand the effect of any expenditure reductions that we are going to make.

He summarized that the mission of the Committee is to: Assist the District in establishing a planning process for use by the Administration, Board and the public and to assist the District in establishing budget and planning documents including those for use by the Administration, Board. The committee will verify the projections and also look at highlighting the assumptions that go into the formation of any budget so that everyone is well aware of what those assumptions are. In addition the committee will help determine how any proposed changes will affect the budget both over the short term and the long term.

He stated that it is nice that we have this extra time for planning and verification, but we all still need to realize that it is very important that the District have a balanced budget. He agreed that everyone talks about student achievement, and the worst thing for student achievement is if we have to deficit spend – we are now spending \$200,000 on interest, and if we do not balance our budget, we will lose our ability to even borrow. Dr. Gorenz stressed that he realizes this will buy us time, but it does not eliminate the long term problem of needing to reduce expenditures, it does not eliminate the problem that we all need to face – that we have over capacity - for the number of students we have too many buildings, but it does give us time to plan on how to better utilize the buildings. Dr. Gorenz stated that he has heard from a number of people on changing a high school to grades 7-12 – and he thinks that is a valid suggestion that needs to be studied at all four high schools– we did not have the luxury of time to study that, but we do now, but unfortunately, we still have over capacity to deal with. He emphasized that the Stimulus Package allows us to plan together to determine how to decrease expenditures that have the least effect on student achievement.” He stated that this does not eliminate the difficult decisions the Board must make or the difficult decisions the community must be faced with, but it does allow for more time to plan, more time to discuss and more time to make an informed decision.

Dr. Gorenz next stated, “What that means over the short term is that we will be delaying public forums and we do not have plans in the upcoming school year to close a high school and no plans for this year to do lay offs - we think that with the stimulus money coming we will have enough to tide us through that short time and allow for further planning.”

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION** – Dr. Mary O'Brian recognized School Nurse Laura Miller for completing the School Nurse Leadership Program. Nurse Miller has developed activities that will help students in her schools with the environmental issues and in promoting health and wellness in the schools.

**PRESENTATION BY AUDIENCE ON ACTION ITEMS** – Bernie Goitein, 1625 W. Columbia Terrace, spoke to the School Improvement Plans presented for primary schools. He reminded everyone to keep in mind how important the size of the kindergarten classroom is for minority students.

**PRESENTATION BY AUDIENCE** – Jeff Adkins Dutro, 2610 W. Barker Ave. Discussed the budget concerns of the District. He stated that the amount of the Edison Learning contract would have covered 20 to 25 teacher jobs. He asked that all monies in the budget be accounted for and that the majority stakeholders in the District be involved in any new plans.

Beth McDaniel 827 W. Rebecca Place, stated that Board members need to support all four high schools. She stated her concern that if high schools are combined there will be gang issues and the educational welfare of students could be at stake. She asked that the Board consider that families could leave the District if the schools are consolidated. She asked that students be kept first in everyone's mind.

Dr. Gorenz stated that he realized that this is an emotional issue, but asked that speakers to not say that people do not care about students and that others views are not about what is best for students. He asked for a discussion on the issues.

Mary Fran Wessler, 1204 N. Maplewood, stated that she would e-mail her list to the Board. She stated that there are a lot of community members that do not trust the numbers the district is presenting – and the community needs to believe that what they are told is the truth.

Terry Knapp, 922 W. Wilshire Dr. Stated that the percentage of African American students at Washington Gifted School needs to be addressed. Mr. Knapp stated his concern over sending students from Woodruff High School to Richwoods High School when the District said the school was full and would not accept any more students from Manual High School. He asked for research on the combining of White and Lincoln. He stated that the District has closed Blaine Sumner school and now uses it as offices while the DLC building sits empty and space was remodeled at Peoria High School for those departments. He stated that Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Center has taken funds from the District.

Lee Ann Blair, 1947 NE Glendale, thanked the Board of Education for their responses to her e-mails and phone calls. She asked that an action committee be formed to look at curriculum and the direction we are moving and where we want to be in four to five years and to come up with a positive structure for the District in the future.

Dr. Gorenz stated that Ms. Blair's comments were constructive and he appreciated that. He stated that he did not know why people stood up and were rude and insulted people and made personal attacks. He stated Board members serve because they care and audience members are here because they care, and personal attacks on people do not accomplish anything.

Avery McDaniel, 827 W. Rebecca Place, spoke to the bomb threats at Richwoods High School and Peoria High School and the discrepancy in the handling of the two events.

Dr. Gorenz commented that the safety plan is universal across the District. The decisions made on each incident are based on professional opinion of the proposed threat. It had nothing to do with what part of town it was in.

Lynette Lee, President of the Transportation Union, spoke regarding the bus drivers and monitors and her appreciation that they were not being laid off. She stated that she appreciated the support shown at the special meeting. She encouraged the Board to find alternative ways to get through the budget crisis.

Savino Sierra, 1708 S. Stanley, stated that positions should be cut starting at the top, then go on down the line. He feels that the District needs more teachers and more security in each building. He stated that combining schools will mean more problems.

Lonnie Whisker, 5302 N. Haymeadow Ln, #1A, stated that he attended Sterling Middle School and graduated from Peoria High School, his wife teaches in the District and his daughter attends a district school. He stated that he wanted to encourage the board to offer a stronger partnership and better communication with the community. He feels the community believes there is a lack of communication and encouraged the Board to enhance communication. He encouraged the community to share their concerns and complaints – then offer solutions. He asked that all come together and agree to disagree and not be disagreeable.

Arsenio Davis – WHS class of 2006. Stated that he is proud of the Board and said thank you. He stated that we are all family.

Jason Querciagrossa, 8321 Glasford, IL, shared his pride that the Woodruff High School wrestling team is the best in town and his relief that now he can now focus his team on the regionals.

Lavonne Young, 621 W. Hansler, asked that when the District thinks of alternative schooling they think of vocational training. She feels that students need something besides a book setting.

**CONSENT AGENDA –**

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR -- Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler adoption of the consent calendar.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

GIFTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT – Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler, that the following donations be accepted and letters of appreciation sent to the donors.

\$500.00 donated anonymously to support the therapy department at Thomas Jefferson Primary School

\$100.00 donated by Lynn Moses Plumbing to Von Steuben Middle School for boys' basketball equipment

\$260.00 donated to the Peoria High School Musical Department by Integrated Audio Systems, Inc.

\$50.00 donated by Jim Maloof Realty to Washington Gifted School in support of Destination Imagination

\$110.00 gift certificate donated by the Eureka High School Student Council, Eureka Athletic Boosters and Eureka Music Boosters to Thomas Jefferson Primary School teachers for supplies

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS -- Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler approval of the payment of the following bills.

FUND	DESCRIPTION	BAL.SHEET	REVENUE	EXPENSE	TOTAL
10	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$50,301.56		\$349,468.01	\$399,769.57
20	OPERATIONS, BLDG & MAINT			\$165,526.02	\$165,526.02
40	TRANSPORTATION			\$29,356.84	\$29,356.84
60	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT			\$84,008.91	\$84,008.91
90	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS			\$309,408.77	\$309,408.77
95	MID CENTRAL ASSOCIATION			\$0.00	\$0.00
99	PPS ADMIN OUTREACH PROG			<u>\$1,064.83</u>	<u>\$1,064.83</u>
				\$938,833.38	\$989,134.94

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCE REPORT -- Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler approval of the following amended human resource report.

#### Certified Personnel

##### Appointments

##### Principals – Interim

Thomas, Eric 01-26-09

##### Teachers – Full Time

Long, Carolyn 01-26-09

Rathbun, Jodi 01-26-09

Torres, Evynette 01-26-09

##### Tutors – Hourly

Swanson, Yvonne 01-13-09

##### Resignations

##### Tutors – Hourly

Liszewski, Elizabeth 01-27-09

RetirementsPrincipals

Wiggers, Cathy	06-30-09
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TerminationsTutors – Hourly

Love, Ron	01-14-09
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Rist, Richard	01-14-09
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**Non-Certified Personnel**AppointmentsCertified Occupational Therapist Assistant – Full Time

Marcus, Courtney	02-03-09
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Extended School Program – Part Time

Rhodes, Shirley	01-20-09
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Paraprofessionals – Full Time to Part Time

Robinson, Glorier	01-20-09-3-27-09
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Staff Technology Trainer

Buckley, Lauri	02-03-09
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Tutor - Hourly

Alhassan, Adamu	01-20-09
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Transportation – Part Time

Abner, Evelyn	01-08-09
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Barnett, KoJuan	01-22-09
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Bricker, Michael	01-21-09
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Bush, Katarra	01-09-09
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Grant, Joe	12-17-08
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McCreary, Ricky	01-16-09
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Parker, Loys, Jr.	01-12-09
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Randle, Lance	01-16-09
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Schwab, Bradley	01-22-09
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Scoville, Dennis	01-22-09
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Williams, Dawn	01-08-09
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Leave - FamilyCertified Occupational Therapist Assistant – Full Time

Kuhlman, Mindy	01-28-09
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ResignationsCafeteria – Part Time

Jackson, Angela	02-05-09
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Clerical- Full Time

Hinton, Elicia	01-22-09
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Extended School Program – Part Time

Jones, LaFelda	01-29-09
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Student Workers – Part Time

Mitchell, Greta	01-16-09
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Transportation – Part Time

Crooks, Glinda	01-26-09
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Dace, Diane	01-20-09
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Wright, Winona	01-21-09
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RetirementsClerical – Full Time

Melloy, Patricia	04-30-09
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TerminationsTransportation – Part Time

Nellum, Kendrick	12-18-08
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Tutors - Hourly

Brown, Teresa	01-29-09
Williams, Heather	01-29-09

**Substitutes**CertifiedAppointmentsSubstitute Teachers

Benedict, Ellen	01-22-09
Blanks, Damarius	01-29-09
Bradbury, Laura	01-29-09
Busenitz, Benjamin	01-21-09
Demetre, Christine	01-20-09
Edwards, Kristin	01-28-09
Elger, Joyce	01-22-09
Gebhards, Timothy	01-22-09
Gomez, Idaliza	01-22-09
Gordon, Marcella	01-22-09
Herman, Mallory	01-28-09
Ioerger, David	01-21-09
Jimerson, Lakeia	01-16-09
Liszewski, Elizabeth	01-27-09
Meister, Laurie	01-27-09
Miller, Adam	01-26-09
Miller, Christopher	01-21-09
Palkovic, Nathan	01-29-09
Raabe, Isaac	01-20-09
Russell, Maurice	01-22-09
Schoch, Stephen	01-26-09
Schoonover, Jacob	01-29-09
Wallick, Nathan	01-21-09
Watkins, Melinda	01-26-09
Wilkinson, Rachel	01-20-09
Williams, Carolina	01-22-09
Williams, Dedra	01-29-09
Williams, Sally	01-26-09
Wineland, Leann	01-27-09
Woolcutt, Jacob	01-27-09
Wright, Emily	01-27-09
Ziegler, Zachary	01-27-09

ResignationsSubstitute Teachers

Counce, Betty	01-16-09
Gordon, Marcella	01-16-09
Hayes, Ann	01-23-09
Miller, Christopher	01-28-09
Nordsiek, Janice	01-16-09
Swanson, Barbara	01-16-09
Walther, Molly	01-20-09

<u>Non-Certified Substitute</u>	
<u>Appointments</u>	
<u>Cafeteria</u>	
Contreras, Vickie	01-21-09
<u>Paraprofessional</u>	
Elger, Joyce	01-22-09
Hines, Christina	01-22-09
Martey, Terence	01-21-09
Smith, Vernon	01-29-09
<u>Special Ed Attendants/Behavioral Assistants</u>	
Easton, Angela	01-16-09
Graham, Michael	01-16-09
McCraney, Larry	01-22-09
Sparling, Ralph	01-22-09
<u>Resignations</u>	
<u>Paraprofessionals</u>	
Hasselbacher, Debra	01-16-09
<u>Special Ed Attendants/Behavioral Assistants</u>	
Atterberry, Jeraldine	01-16-09
Brown, Lakisha	01-16-09
Davin, Dustin	01-16-09
Hillyer, Heidi	01-16-09
Lewis, Demario	01-16-09
Lybarger, Charlotte	01-16-09
Proctor, Tracy	01-16-09
Robinson, Tavaras	01-16-09
Sullivan, Kristin	01-16-09
Smith, Natosha	01-16-09
Taliaferro, Lelia	01-16-09
Taylor, Maya	01-16-09
Wilson, Phoenix	01-16-09
Yarbrough, Juanita	01-16-09
<u>Termination</u>	
<u>Cafeteria</u>	
Albright, Lisa	01-20-09
Broomfield, Sharlet	01-20-09
Phipps, Juanita	01-20-09
Stetson, Kendrick	01-20-09
<u>Special Ed Attendants/Behavioral Assistants</u>	
Smith, Tynesha	01-22-09
<u>Tutors</u>	
Wright, Connie	01-28-09

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS - Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler approval of the travel requests as presented by the administration. (Copy is on file in the board secretary's office.)

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler approval of the Professional Development Provider Contract with Mindful Practices.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS - Moved by Stowell, seconded by Spangler that the School improvement Plans (SIP) submitted by Richwoods High School, Irving Primary, Kingman, Tyng Primary, Garfield Primary and Glen Oak Primary School by approved.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

#### DELIBERATION AGENDA -

Review of Suspensions - Moved by Parker seconded by Spangler that the Review of Suspensions listed on Report No. 10 dated February 2, 2009 be approved as presented.

On roll call, 6 ayes. Butler, Parker, Spangler, Stowell, Wolfmeyer, Ross  
1 abstention. Gorenz. Motion carried.

Expulsions – Moved by Parker, seconded by Spangler that the Expulsions listed on the report dated February 2, 2009 be approved as presented.

On roll call, 5 ayes. Butler, Parker, Spangler, Stowell, Wolfmeyer,  
1 nay Ross. 1 abstention Gorenz. Motion carried.

LEE WAREHOUSE BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Moved by Stowell, seconded by Parker that the Lee Warehouse building and property located at 1505 West Martin Street be declared no longer necessary or suitable for school purposes and that the administration be directed to offer the property for public sale by sealed bid, with a minimum sales price of \$15,000.

Mr. Stowell reported that the Building Committee has discussed and approved the sale.

On roll call, 7 ayes. Motion carried.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS – REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF –

1. GOAL 1 – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
2. Goal 2 – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FINANCE REPORTS – Mr. Cahill presented this report for the Board's information and review.

PURCHASE ORDERS OVER \$2,500 – Mr. Cahill presented this report for the Board's review. Questions were asked and answered regarding the report. Mr. Stowell stated his appreciation for the replacement computers at Lincoln Middle School.

3. GOAL 3 – QUALITY STAFF – Mr. Stowell asked about the "AHA Process" at Manual High School, and asked if it would be used at other schools. Mr. Hinton noted that the "AHA Process" is part of the Ruby Payne training and he would look into offering it at other schools.
4. GOAL 4 – SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENTS

## 5. GOAL 5 – CULTURE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

## Report of Requests under the Freedom of Information Act and Status of Such Requests

Date	Requestor	Disposition
01-26-09	Sharon Crews	Filled
01-26-09	Sharon Crews	Pending
01-26-09	Dave Haney	Pending
01-27-09	Bernard Goitein	Filled
01-27-09	Bernard Goitein	Filled
01-30-09	CJ Summers	Pending
01-30-09	CJ Summers	Pending

**REPORTS AND SUGGESTIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS** – Board member. Spangler stated her concern with the issue of gangs. She emphasized that this is a community problem and needs to be looked at as a community. She hopes that as a community we can address the issue.

Board member Butler stated that the information on the stimulus package is “just a pause” and the Board of Education will be back to the table and the budget issues will need to be addressed, and the Board and community need to be prepared.

Mrs. Spangler asked for an update from the grading committee and how grades will be applied during school suspensions. She asked about the possibility of busing waivers for students that live in dangerous areas. Dr. Hannah stated that there is currently a process to go through with transportation for a busing waiver for a dangerous area.

Mrs. Ross stated that even though she does not feel that all students belong in the classroom, she does not want them on the street. She noted that Greeley Alternative School is currently the only alternative schools and many students are expelled for such things as missing time from school, or they do not fit into a traditional setting. She is again asking that the parents, community, legislature and district rally around this issue – we need to work together on alternatives for students. Mr. Hinton replied that work has begun on an alternative program – job descriptions are being written. He stressed that the program will begin on a small scale because of the cost.

Mrs. Butler asked that Mr. Hinton share his vision on early childhood education. He stated that he believes that children that have a solid start from the beginning are successful – and that means starting at ages 3,4, 5 not 11, 12, 13. He noted that research from 1992 showed that a dollar invested in early childhood paid back to society as a \$7 savings – and now that figure has moved to a savings of \$10. He summarized that there are 25 – 40 years of research that proves that early education pays with a higher graduation rate, higher employment and lower divorce rate. He stated that new programs coming to the district will have birth through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These programs will not only educate the children, but also provide parents with needed information on how to nurture and interact with children and help them learn.

Mrs. Ross would like to hear back on the Boys of Color Grant. Dr. Gorenz asked for the report to be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.

Mrs. Butler asked about the plans for this year’s eighth grade graduation. Mr. Hinton reported that the recommendation is for the schools to have celebrations during the school day. If schools would like to have an after school event, they are to work with their students and parents.

Mrs. Parker reported on school uniforms. Black, navy blue and Khaki are the chosen colors for slacks, skirts and shorts. Navy is the district color for a shirt (must have a collar). Schools may also choose two additional colors for shirts.

ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Gorenz adjourned the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Julia A. Cramer,  
Board Secretary

ATTEST:

David L. Gorenz  
Board President