

*Special Meeting of the Board
of Education of School Dist. 190
Henry and Rock Island Counties, IL*

*January 23, 2010
Colona, IL*

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Jim Legare, Judy Smith, Scott McDanel, Armando Veloz, Josh Kyser, Jennifer Webster

Absent: Ray Kutzman

Also Present: Kyle Ganson, Dan Jecks, Roxanne Kubatzke, Amanda Teichman, Shelley Atkinson, Lorie Gibson, Sarah Lewison, Melanie Hergert, Tiffani Smith, Ami Murray, Jodi Verbeck, Susan Koska

Supt. Ganson gave a presentation of District Trends for Student Enrollments, Average Daily Attendance, Revenue Sources, and Expenditures. He noted that the District would not get any ARRA money next year.

Board Members broke into three groups with two Board Members per group and everyone one split into groups with the Board Members. There were three activities for each group; 1) small group stakeholder survey questions, 2) small group discussions/district vision, and 3) large group discussion/summaries.

Activity #1 Results:

Question: How well does Colona School District achieve the ideas represented in the Mission Statement?

-Groups varied between Needs Improvement, Fair, and Good

Question: How well would you rate the following for Colona School District?

#1 - Academic and Curriculum Content

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Fair – improvement in coordinating our curriculum, having teachers within the same grade get together, kids do not feel safe, bullying, students with PBIS and positive reactions, staff behavior & collaboration opportunities, create opportunities for teachers to work on curriculum, unstructured areas, align with other teachers mostly within High School, packet learning needs to be re-evaluated, and there are huge gaps in tests between grades.

#2 – Student Behavior

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Good – consistency of carrying out policies and giving out referrals, sticking to consequences, more severe consequences, communication with parents, post and enforce a better chain of command (front of handbook), community night, backpack night, etc.

#3 – Extracurricular Activities

Groups ranged from Good to Fair – After school tutoring program would help, would be nice to offer more cost is the issue, advertising events more (meetings and sports), athletic code: expectations for coaches, athletic director enforcing, responsible coaches/leaders with expectations that are enforced.

#4 – Building Appearance / Cleanliness

Groups ranged from Good to Excellent – Major improvements have been made, much better than before, great job on Rita’s part, entrance foyer, trophy case more visible in the gym, label outside above doors for main office, gymnasium, etc.

#5 – Communication with Parents and Community

All groups said Needs Improvement – Parents feel disconnected with the school, more communication with the City, more on the website, calling system, newsletters, monthly activities, open forum (informational nights), and parents on committees.

#6 – Student Academic Performance

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Good – Motivation problem in Jr. High, have a high school counselor talk to Jr. High kids (the importance of good grades, life after high school, scholarships), most of the issues in #2 as well.

#7 – Student Preparation for High School Success

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Fair – Better communication with parents about why school is important at this level, “culture shock” for students who come from smaller schools, socially unprepared (nurtured too much), make kids more independent, 8th grade textbooks are directly aligned to UTHS.

#8 – Positive and Supportive Interactions Between Staff and Students

Groups ranged from Good to Excellent – PBIS has helped this, very supportive, very positive, community monthly events, team activities.

#9 – Student Achievement Compared to Other Students of the Same Age and Grade

Groups ranged from Fair to Good – Some exploratories that other schools have, observe what works at other schools, AIMS web for Reading & Math, assessment for basic skills, and vocabulary work.

#10 – Positive and Supportive Interactions Between Parents and Staff

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Good – More supportive, teachers get reprimanded by parents, always room for improvement, community involvement, nights where parents come in to see the students work, etc. (Various types of activities: volleyball, math night, science fair, mid-evil fair, trivia, etc.)

#11 – A Safe and Positive Learning Environment

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Fair – Bullying is a problem, weapons are being brought to school, the building is a safe place to be (security cameras and new locks), a few students are a danger to others, 98% safe and positive, some students don’t feel safe, unstructured areas, privacy acts and specific events – work on notification to appropriate parties.

#12 – Opportunities for Academic Enrichment

Groups ranged from Needs Improvement to Good – Technology classes, provide opportunities for gifted programs, RTI has helped, and differentiate instruction more.

#13 – Other strengths and/or weaknesses that should be addresses or improved

Moral is lower than ever, PBIS framework, new technology (computer labs are wonderful).

Activity #2 Results

Discuss and identify actions, behaviors, and resources that you feel Colona School District 190 community should develop and consider to make Colona School an excellent educational experience for all students that fulfills the District Mission Statement.

- Wednesday early outs 1:30 (parent side or Friday...)
 - Every other week grade level meetings, opposite weeks teacher improvement activities
 - Planned, organized; with expectations and a final product to show
 - Ideas and examples from other schools that are doing the same, shadow or collaborate with other schools
- Curriculum Mapping
 - Software – collaborate with UT’s projects, can we see theirs, is it on-line
 - Compensate teachers/staff if in-service time not available
 - Review yearly with ongoing changes
- Community Involvement/Participation
 - Include families & students of ALL students
 - Monthly activities – movie, carnival, ice cream social, etc.
 - Staff involvement
- Teacher access to the building
- Job descriptions for teachers, office staff, liaison officer
- Foreign language, extracurricular, co-op with other schools
- Dean of Students – doesn’t have to be administrator level (free time to compensate other places) (Plan for absences/PBIS Coach)
- Every child getting what they need to succeed not just a packaged set or instruction that addresses a group as a whole with no differentiation
- Bullying & dealing with it, putting a policy in place and following through on it (accountability)
- Help for staff to use time more effectively, parents helping teachers, more time for training

Reactions to the Board Retreat were:

- This was very informative, really didn’t hear much that we haven’t heard before
- Not enough time allotted for the “meat” of the discussion, we didn’t get enough goals set or prioritize the goals
- Much more productive than prior retreats, my hope is everyone walks away realizing that we are all wanting the same changes, now we need to work as a team to get these things done
- Liked the group discussions, lots of good ideas
- Liked the small group discussions
- Great communication, great ideas, follow through w/ future communication, excellent group to work with, happy that my voice was heard
- The session was good, it allowed for everyone to voice concerns they have, afraid that it stops here, interested in seeing action from this meeting
- Longer time, open invitation was nice, start prep & invitations earlier, parent involvement – maybe invite them at 3-5 when we give answers to our questions, meet during the regular School Board Meeting time.

Motion was made by Judy Smith, seconded by Scott McDanel, to go into closed session for the Board Members and Administration to Discuss Contract Negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: Webster – aye; Kyser – aye; Veloz – aye; McDanel – aye; Smith – aye; Legare – aye; Motion carried, 6 ayes; No Nays; One Absentee.

The Board went into closed session at 1:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Armando Veloz, seconded by Judy Smith, to return to open session.
Roll Call Vote: Webster – aye; Kyser – aye; Veloz – aye; McDanel – aye; Smith – aye; Legare – aye;
Motion carried, 6 ayes; No Nays; 1 Absentee.

The Board went into open session at 3:09 p.m.

Having noted that all agenda items had been discussed, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

DATE