BOARD OF EDUCATION PRAIRIE-HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL CENTER

3015 WEST 163RD STREET MARKHAM, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

# Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Mrs. Sharron Davis called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was completed in the earlier session.

1. **Roll Call**

The following members were present: Juanita R. Jordan, Dr. Gregory Jackson, Joyce Dickerson, Kathy Taylor, Elaine Walker, Barbara Nettles and Sharron Davis. Absent: None.

Also present were: Superintendent, Dr. Kimako Patterson, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Julia A. Veazey, Chief School Business Official & Human Resources, Dr. Alicia Evans.

1. **Presentation**

Mr. Kenneth Scott presented a video from his visit to West Africa. He stated that he visited a village that is in the middle of a lake on stilts. Mr. Scott stated that on a previous visit to the school; he and the schools Headmaster decided to partner. The students from Mae Jemison have been communicating with the students from West Africa through pen and paper, Mr. Scott thought it would be a great idea if the students were able to communicate in real time. The students from Mae Jemison School did a fundraiser where they raised $2000.00 to donate to the school in West Africa to build a computer lab. He stated that the school now has a computer lab with 5 computers and they are connected to the web. The students are now able to communicate in real time and the lab is available to the villagers after students are dismissed from school.

Mr. Scott also presented his Back to School video which focused on parental

involvement.

There was a brief discussion regarding the donation made to the school and publicizing the work that Mr. Scott and the students of Mae Jemison School are doing in West Africa.

1. **Superintendent Update**

Dr. Patterson presented to the Board: Leadership Council Meeting Dates, Director Meeting Dates, Teachers Union Meeting Dates and Spa Meeting Dates. She informed them that she was starting a new process, whereby they would each receive a binder. She would provide them with documentation monthly to support her goals. She stated that this process should assist the Board Members with her evaluation.

# Application for Recognition of Schools

Dr. Patterson informed the Board that the Recognition of Schools Application must be approved annually. She stated that the District will recall more Para Professionals and the Application for Recognition of Schools will be updated after the Para Professionals are recalled.

There was a discussion regarding students that were previously registered in our district that belonged in 152.5. Those students have since returned to district 152.5.

1. **School Fundraisers**

Dr. Evans informed the Board that she has attached the school fundraisers for the Boards review. She stated that there may be additional fundraisers at the schools request. If there are any additional requests, Dr. Evans will present them to the board at that time.

1. **Engage Oppenheimer as the Senior Managing Underwriter**

Dr. Evans discussed with the Board the need to get additional bonds for the Capital Improvement Projects that were previously discussed. Ray Cohen from Oppenheimer discussed the process of the bond issuance, conflicts of interest and tax compliance risk. He stated that any money received would need to be used for the specific use it was intended for.

Dr. Evans informed the Board that the Districts current credit rating is BAA1.

1. **Preferred Meals Donation**

Dr. Evans stated that all Back-to-School donations were approved last month with the exception of preferred meals who donated food items. She informed the Board that they will need approval at the next Board Meeting.

1. **2015/2016 Budget**

Dr. Evans informed the Board that the Budget has been posted in the newspaper and that the final approval will be at the September 21, 2015 regular Board Meeting.

1. **Request for Proposal (RFP) for Architects**

Dr. Evans informed the board that she has attached a draft of the qualification process necessary to seek a new Architect firm. She stated that December is the final month to accept proposals. Dr. Evans also informed the Board that in December the Board will have a chance to interview all of the firms who have applied.

Dr. Evans stated that we need an architect that will work in the best interest of the district.

Dr. Patterson explained the State of the Construction Grant monies with the Illinois State Board of Education. The District is due $27 million dollars. However, we applied in 2009 ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) just paid all school districts on the 2004 list. As such, the District will eventually receive the monies to pay down the bonds, but we don’t know when the monies will arrive.

There was also a discussion regarding repairs that are needed in the buildings.

1. **Illinois Interactive Report Card for Schools**

Mrs. Veazy informed the Board that the Interactive Report Card is used to house our MAP data. She stated that the program will cost $3500.00. If the District doesn’t purchase this program our scores will not be uploaded to the Illinois School Report Card which allows the District to have transparency as it relates to student achievement.

1. **Mentoring Contract and Parent/Student Workshops**

Ms. Veazey informed the Board that Mrs. Carolyn Palmer will provide mentoring for the Assistant Principals at the Junior High and Mae Jemison. Ms. Palmer will also provide Student and Parent Workshops for the District.

Dr. Patterson informed the Board that she would like to have a mentor for the Assistant Principals. She stated that she would like to create a 2 year Principal Mentoring program for the District.

1. **New Business**

Dr. Patterson stated that she would like to upload the Updated Strategic Plan. She stated that she will also provide the plan to administrators, teachers and staff members.

Dr. Patterson discussed the Board hosting a dinner with the municipalities to build relationships. She asked if the board would like to invite two municipalities at a time. The consensus was to invite two Mayors along with their Trustees one group at a time. . They will start with Markham and Country Club Hills at the October 5, 2015 Work Session. The Oak Forest and Hazel Crest mayors will be invited to the November 2, 2015 Work Session.

Dr. Patterson also discussed with the Board creating a video for district wide display. She also highlighted the podium that Mr. Bryant built for audience members to use.

Dr. Patterson informed the Board that a Board Member has requested two books. She inquired if any other Board Members would like the books.

1. **Executive Session**

None.

1. **Adjournment**

Juanita R. Jordan moved and it was seconded by Kathy Taylor to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote all members present voted aye. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**Motion Carried 9:07 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sharron Davis, President

Kathy Taylor, Secretary