

MINUTES: Meeting of the Monona Grove School District, Personnel & Policy Committee, held on Tuesday, June 26, 2007, in the Nichols School, District Office Board Room, Starting at 6:05 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike DuPlayee, Phil McDade, Susan Manning

COMMUNITY MEMBER PRESENT: Jill List, Larry Miller

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Gary Schumacher, Bill Breisch, John Faust, Ed O'Connor

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Bultman, John Kitslaar, Peter Sobol, John Weinberger

I. Opening of Meeting – Mike DuPlayee

II. Declaration of Public Notice – Acknowledged

III. Review of Meeting Format – Mike DuPlayee

Mike DuPlayee stated the format for the meeting would be a presentation from the administration (Dr. Schumacher, Bill Breisch, John Faust, Ed O'Connor) on information regarding how staffing and class sizes are determined according to Board Policy 343.2 and Board Rule 343.2. The public will be able to ask questions after each speaker has completed their presentation. Public input will occur after the presentations and each speaker will be allowed three minutes. After public input only the Committee will engage in discussion of the information presented as it relates to class size policy and staffing decisions.

IV. Presentation of Class Size Determination

A. Overview – Gary Schumacher, Superintendent

Dr. Schumacher stated tonight's presentation on staffing determination was scheduled to address the decision he made to reduce three 2nd grade classrooms from Maywood to two 3rd grade classrooms at Nichols. He stated his decisions regarding staffing and class size guidelines are driven by Board Policy and Board Rule 343.2. According to Board Policy the third grade classroom range is 18-25 and enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year is presently at 45.

B. Student Performance Data – Ed O'Connor, Director of Continuous Improvement & Assessment

Dr. O'Connor reviewed student performance data placing a special emphasis on the upcoming third grade class at Nichols. He stated after his review of data he did not find any compelling reasons to believe this class would warrant a smaller class size ratio.

C. Special Education Staffing – John Faust

D. Crisis Support and Training – John Faust

Mr. Faust reviewed the student-factoring table that he uses to determine special education staffing. He reviewed the Crisis Support staffing numbers available at each building and how this support is used. It was his determination as he looked at this third grade class that special education staff needs will be met with the staffing he has allocated for that building.

E. Other Support Services – Bill Breisch

Bill Breisch, Director of Instruction, reviewed services provided by the English Language Learners (ELL) staff and Title I staffing and funding. He stated with other support services and Title I funding that will be available at Nichols it was his determination that this class would not need a lower class size below the 18-25 ratio.

F. Conclusion – Gary Schumacher

Dr. Schumacher ended the presentation stating after all areas were reviewed it was the determination of the administration that the third grade classes at Nichols are staffed correctly in accordance to Board Policy and Rule 343.2.

V. Public Input

The following individuals addressed the Committee regarding staffing determinations:

- Christine Whelley, 1018 Birch Haven Circle, Monona (statement read)
- Tim Handell, 4409 Gordon Avenue, Monona
- Matthew Breen, 6405 West Gate Road, Monona
- Kristin Yates, 4663 Tonyawatha Trail, Monona
- Nella Citino, 1406 Mathys Road, Monona
- Renee Tennant, 800 West Dean Avenue, Monona

VI. Committee Discussion – Possible Motion to Recommend a Change to Class Size Determination

Committee members reviewed the presentation and public input regarding class size determination.

Susan Manning moved that the Committee recommend a change to specifically include in class size determination a specific allowance for composition of class size under contingencies to assure that this analysis does in fact occur. Larry Miller seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Susan Manning withdrew her motion and Larry Miller withdrew his second.

Susan Manning moved to recommend that the Superintendent draft language for Personnel & Policy Committee consideration to include clarification to current policy to address composition and elements of class size. Larry Miller seconded. Motion carried with Mike DuPlayee abstaining from the vote.

VII. Adjournment

Phil McDade moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jill List seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.