

League of Women Voters of Downers Grove-Woodridge-Lisle

Observer's Report

Governmental Body: High School District 99

Date: May 6, 2013

Please check answers:

Type of meeting: Regular Workshop Public Hearing
Other _____

Facilities: Clean Proper Size Could See Could Hear
 Handicap accessible

Media Coverage: Yes No If yes, who was present: Patch (Amanda)

Public Present: Yes No Public Comment: Yes No

PROCEEDINGS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Meeting start on time?	X		
All members present?	X		
Sufficient staff present?	X		
Presiding officer control meeting?	X		
Members prepared and attentive?	X		
Members respectful and courteous to all present?	X		
Adequate discussion of issues?	X		
Information re issues available to public?	X		
Sufficient opportunity for public input?	X		

Additional observations or concerns:

Following the closed session, President White reconvened the meeting in open session. The Board acted on a number of student discipline matters. Then Mr. White explained that this was his last meeting and, after adjournment, the present Board would dissolve, and the new Board, with newly elected members, would assume authority. Mr. White closed with remarks about his time on the Board and what he saw as the future of the District. He described the previous four years as "tumultuous", a term which he said fit the Board of Education, not the District. He then praised the Superintendent and staff for doing an exceptional job educating students and doing so in an economical manner. He said the Superintendent had guided the District well even though he had had "a Board too often distracted by their own petty

grievances and lingering prejudices.” Mr. White then stated that his vision for the District was that it should “be one community.” He noted the geographic diversity of the District, and the political differences of the Board members, particularly the local political differences. He emphasized over and over again, that despite these differences, “we are still one community.” He stressed that everyone should be accepted and heard, no one should be shunned or shut out. Mr. White then complimented Member Boyle for exemplifying these values over the last four years, even though he and Ms. Boyle did not always agree.

The meeting was then adjourned sine die (without any future meeting date).

Senior Board Member Matune administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Board members Julia Beckman, Deb Boyle, Terry Pavesich and Rick Pavinato. Mr. Matune then convened a meeting of the new Board.

The first order of business was the election of new officers. Member Beckman nominated Member Kupka for President. Member Davenport nominated Member Boyle for President. Discussion then ensued between the candidates and their supporters. Ms. Beckman stated that Ms. Kupka would bring the consensus building the Board needs. Mr. Davenport spoke strongly in favor of Ms. Boyle, at one point wishing that Ms. Kupka would step back and vote for Ms. Boyle. Ms. Boyle expressed disappointment and surprise at Ms. Kupka’s decision to run. She stated that, for weeks the only contest had been between herself and Ms. Beckman; Ms. Kupka had not previously expressed interest in the Presidency. Mr. Matune supported Ms. Boyle. He expressed surprise that Ms. Kupka was running, saying that he had only learned of it within the preceding ten minutes. She had not previously called or e-mailed him to talk about it. He also asked Ms. Kupka to step back so the Board could be unanimous in moving forward. Ms. Kupka said that she did not seek the Presidency, but she agreed to run because there was not a good working relationship among the members of the Board. She said she stepped forward because it was time to move forward, and other people had not moved forward in a meaningful way.

Members Pavesich, Pavinato, Kupka, and Beckman voted for Ms. Kupka. Members Matune, Davenport and Boyle voted against her. Having been elected, Ms. Kupka assumed the President’s chair and continued the meeting.

The next business was the election of a Vice-president. Member Pavesich nominated Member Pavinato, and Member Davenport nominated himself. In explaining his reasons for running for Vice-president, Mr. Pavinato said that when he was campaigning before the election, he heard over and over from citizens that the Board needed fresh perspective and needed to work together as a group, not as individuals. He thought a new set of eyes were needed on the Board. Both Member Pavesich and Member Beckman agreed that fresh eyes were needed. Mr. Davenport stated that he had worked hard for the last two years to put the divisive issues behind the Board and asserted that he was more qualified than newly elected Member Pavinato. He added that the officer election in progress spoke to the divisiveness on the Board and expressed great disappointment with such divisiveness. Member Matune supported Mr. Davenport and echoed his comments. Both Mr. Matune and Ms. Boyle said they had sent e-mails to Mr. Pavinato shortly after the election, but Mr. Pavinato had not responded. Mr. Pavinato told Mr. Matune that he had not received anything from him. Member Kupka stated that she would vote for Mr. Pavinato because was new to the Board and did not bring with him the old relationships the Board was trying to mitigate.

Members Pavesich, Pavinato, Kupka, and Beckman voted for Mr. Pavinato. Members Matune, Davenport and Boyle voted against him. Member Pavinato was declared Vice-president of the Board.

The current Secretary of the Board, Joann Power, was re-elected, the current District 99 policies and regulations were adopted by the new Board, the 2013-14 calendar was adopted, and appointments to committees and liaison positions were discussed.

The Board received the following recommendations regarding athletic programs:

- do not add boys bowling at this time.
- add both girls and boys lacrosse as co-op teams as a non-funded sport.

During the Reception of Visitors, David Olson, newly elected D.G. Village Councilman, told the Board that he would be the Village liaison to the Board of Education. Downers Grove resident Chad Walz also spoke, wishing well to Bill White and welcoming Ms. Kupka. He also hoped that the Board members would come together to work for the good of the students and teachers and taxpayers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

For more information, see: District 99 website: www.csd99.org

Observer: Peggy Healy

Date submitted: July 8, 2013