

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DELAVAN-DARIEN  
APRIL 23, 2018**

President Jeffery Scherer called the special meeting of the Delavan-Darien School District Board of Education held at the School Administration Center to order at 7:00p.m.

**Board Members Present:** J. Scherer, J. Andreoni, S. Gonzalez, R. Deschner, G. Moses, M. Los, D. Grams

**Administrators Present:** Superintendent R. Crist, Business Administrator A. Klein, Director of Bilingual and School Coordinator R. Sandoval, Director of Instruction J. Sorbie, Director of Pupil Services S. Halberg, Principals K. Pickel, R. Schneider, J. Karedes, H. Schmelz, C. Fountain, Associate Principals A. Urmanski, B. Incitti, R. Zahn

The press was represented by Nate Jackson, *Janesville Gazette*.

**Citizens Comments:** No comments were made.

**Staff Resignation for the 2017-2018 School Year:** On a Gonzalez/Moses motion the board unanimously accepted the resignation of Nicole Ehlert effective April 13, 2018.

**Letter to Legislators:** Superintendent Crist stated that board member Ron Deschner had drafted a letter to the legislators regarding funding for the district. We thought that possibly everyone would like to sign this letter. It was discussed if we could put together a letter the community could personalize and send also to the legislators. Everyone was asked to review the letter and send your ideas to Mr. Deschner and then it would be revised for everyone to sign.

**Closing of Darien Elementary School:** Superintendent Crist reviewed with the board the district financial situation. He stated that our cash reserves have been depleted as we have had to account for a situation that has been carried on the books for approximately 6 years and the auditors have made the accounting hit the books. It's unfortunate, but also without the referendum passing we can only work out of this by more staff reductions and closing Darien Elementary School. The estimated savings for closing Darien Elementary would be approximately \$500,000 and some parents may look at the benefits of no more shuttles, as the 5<sup>th</sup> graders would ride the secondary buses directly to Phoenix and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders would ride the elementary buses and go directly to Turtle Creek. Dr. Crist stated that the district is renting 15 storage units and we would move those things to Darien Elementary to be stored and reclaim the money being spent on those storage units and hopefully, we would be able to sell some of the items and reclaim a monetary value. District Business Administrator A. Klein stated that as you consolidate you are able to gain more efficiencies and that does put more students in classrooms, but if you don't have the support of your community there is nothing you can do about it. With the deadlines for teacher preliminary non-renewals the district is in a time crunch and decisions have to be made. President Scherer stated that the district will need to go to referendum in November. Superintendent Crist stated that we would pass on the artificial turf and ask the community for the operational money as we have many students signed up for culinary arts and our conference schools have two to five teachers in FCE and we have similar numbers in tech ed. and auto shop and our students need exposure to those items. We have resurrected these courses as our students need the exposure and they can get jobs in these areas without going to college. It was discussed that our demographics on class sizes are not projected to increase in the next five years and we have room to move students to Turtle Creek and

Phoenix Middle School. If the open enrollment out would change and more students come back to the district and our student population increase, we could reopen Darien Elementary School and that would be the goal. No one ever wants to close a school in a neighborhood. A motion was made by J. Andreoni and seconded by S. Gonzalez to move forward with the closing of Darien Elementary School and reopen it if the enrollment and funds deem it necessary. The motion carried 6-0 with D. Grams abstaining.

A motion was made by J. Andreoni and seconded by R. Deschner to adjourn into executive session, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85 (1)(c) to discuss/take action on preliminary notices of nonrenewal of teacher contracts. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote of all ayes and the special meeting adjourned at 7:52p.m.

Discussion was held in closed session and on a Gonzalez/Andreoni motion the board went into open session at 9:47p.m.

A motion was made by G. Moses and seconded by M. Los to issue preliminary non-renewal notices to the 16 teachers on the list as discussed in closed session. The motion carried 4-0 with J. Andreoni, R. Deschner and D. Grams abstaining.

There being no further business, a motion was made by J. Andreoni and seconded by R. Deschner to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

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Karen Logterman, Secretary

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Jeffery Scherer, President