

MINUTES OF THE
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING, and
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008
L. J. Hauser Junior High School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

08-71 The Truth in Taxation hearing was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Ms. Cheryl Berdelle and on roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

Mrs. Linda Bade
Ms. Cheryl Berdelle
Mrs. Nancy Jensen
Mr. Giles McCarthy
Mr. James Schraidt
Mr. Richard Volpe

Absent: Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Also present were: Dr. Jonathan Lamberson, Superintendent and 3 parents and interested citizens of the community.

Ms. Berdelle led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Berdelle asked Supt. Lamberson to review the informational summary packet that included a copy of the proposed certificate of tax levy for 2008 and the published notice of the hearing. Dr. Lamberson noted that the levy request is consistent with past years following the March 2004 referendum and has been adjusted accordingly in order to capture any dollars that may be available after the tax cap for new construction in the township. The total amount of the proposed levy requested for 2008 is \$23,981,512 and represents an increase of 17.15%. However, the actual levy increase realized by the District will be capped at 4.2% as determined by the Property Tax Extension Law.

There were no comments or questions from the public regarding the 2008 levy recommendation.

08-72 A motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mrs. Bade, to adjourn the 2008 Truth in Taxation Hearing at 7:42 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: One (Mrs. Wakely)

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

08-73 The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by President Ms. Cheryl Berdelle and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

Mrs. Linda Bade
Ms. Cheryl Berdelle
Mrs. Nancy Jensen
Mr. Giles McCarthy
Mr. James Schraidt
Mr. Richard Volpe

Absent: Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Also present were: Dr. Jonathan Lamberson, Superintendent and three parents and interested citizens of the community.

B.1. Information and Proposals.

There were no comments from the REC or the public at large.

08-74 A motion was made by Mrs. Jensen, supported by Mr. Volpe, that the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* be approved as follows:

- Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting of November 18, 2008.
- Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of November 18, 2008.
- Approval of the Financial Statement as of November 30, 2008.
- Payment of General Invoices, Schedule A-682.
- Approval of maternity leave request from district reading specialist Janet Kucek beginning February 6, 2009.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Bade
Mrs. Jensen
Mr. McCarthy
Mr. Schraidt
Mr. Volpe
Ms. Berdelle
Nays: None
Absent: Mrs. Wakely

08-75 Following review and discussion at the Finance Committee meeting and Public Hearing held prior to this meeting, a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mr. Volpe, that the Board approve the Resolution to Adopt a Certificate of 2008 Tax Levy in the total amount of \$23,981,512 for all funds as follows:

Educational Purposes	\$16,811,512
Operations & Maintenance Purposes	3,400,000
Transportation Purposes	200,000
Working Cash Fund	310,000
Municipal Retirement Purposes	280,000
Social Security Purposes	280,000
Tort Immunity Purposes	300,000
Special Education Purposes	2,400,000

A levy amount for the Bond and Interest Fund resulting from the April 1, 1997 Building Bond Issue was not requested because the Bonds were paid in full in December 2007. A Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance was also adopted as a result of the public hearing held on December 16, 2008. The Certificate of Levy, Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance, and Chief Fiscal Officer's Certificate of Estimate of Revenues will be filed with the Cook County Clerk prior to the last Tuesday in December 2008 as required by law. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Jensen
Mr. McCarthy
Mr. Schraidt
Mr. Volpe
Mrs. Bade
Ms. Berdelle
Nays: None
Absent: Mrs. Wakely

Supt. Lamberson distributed copies of the first draft of the calendar for the 2009-10 school year which included the ISBE's designated holidays. He indicated that Riverside Brookfield High School is still working on their new calendar pending progress of building renovation projects. Dr. Lamberson also noted that the proposed 2009-10 calendar is consistent with the 2008-09 calendar, i.e., spreading the institute days throughout the year rather than all at the beginning, parent-teacher conference format and timing, trimester sections instead of quarters, etc. in an effort to reduce interrupted instructional time (shortened weeks, early release, etc.). No action was taken on the calendar at this time.

08-76 The members of the Board received information and a recommendation from attorney Allen Mullins from the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca regarding two property tax appeal claims from Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company and J. C. Penney dating back to 2002 disputing the assessment value of their property located in the North Riverside Mall. Both companies have filed appeals seeking a reduction in the fair market value to lower their property tax assessment.

The attorney has negotiated proposed assessed values for both Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company and J. C. Penney for 2002, 2003 and 2004 in an attempt to settle these appeals. Based on the negotiated settlement of reduced fair market value on the two properties, the District will lose a total of \$649,000 in tax revenue from tax years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Supt. Lamberson noted that based on past experience with PTAB appeals the Board has added a provision to include a \$200,000 contingency line item in the annual budget to cover future appeals so as not to put the district in fiscal jeopardy.

A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Jensen that the Board accept the proposed PTAB settlements with Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company and J. C. Penney as recommended and advise Attorney Mullins to move forward. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. McCarthy
Mr. Schraidt
Mr. Volpe
Mrs. Bade
Mrs. Jensen
Ms. Berdelle
Nays: None
Absent: Mrs. Wakely

08-77 The Board conducted its semi-annual review of Closed Session minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Jensen, supported by Mrs. Bade, to keep closed and confidential, the minutes of Board executive sessions for the time period of July through December 2008. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: One (Mrs. Wakely)

C.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

Supt. Lamberson reported that enrollment as of November 30, 2008 is 1,452 students in grades K-8. This is an increase of 81 students when compared to November 30, 2007.

Dr. Lamberson noted that based on current information, enrollment at Hauser Junior High will decrease in 2009-10 due to the fact that there will be 162 graduates and the incoming 6th grade class will have approximately 135 students.

Because of the weather conditions, the podcasts from the principals and student tech presentations will take place at the January meeting.

Supt. Lamberson reviewed with the Board a proposed Residency Validation process that would give parents two options for proving residency to principals on a yearly cycle - the traditional method of providing five original documents with name and address such as a lease, utility bill, tax bill, etc. or a community-based process of having a residency affidavit signed by an approved, bonded "residency authenticator" who has first hand knowledge of the family's residency. Discussion also took place regarding when and how often validating residency would be required. Action on this item is anticipated in spring '09.

A parent survey is being prepared for all current District 96 families regarding their intent to return in the fall and if they will have a child entering kindergarten next year. This will aid in planning for the 2009-10 school year prior to kindergarten registration in March 2009.

Board vice-president Nancy Jensen reported on the progress of the policy review and update in consultation with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Two more meetings will be held before the February Board meeting. The draft document will be posted on the district's website for review prior to Board adoption at the April Board meeting.

The redesigned District 96 website will be ready in early 2009.

The Board discussed the process of trademarking/copywriting school names and the Riverside District 96 name to more effectively manage communication. IASB has been asked to provide more information and sample policies on this topic.

08-78 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: One (Mrs. Wakely)

The time was 8:50 p.m.

Recorded: December 16, 2008

Approved: January 20, 2009

Judith Novak, Board Secretary

Cheryl M. Berdelle, Board President