

Enclosure
B.3.b.
2/17/09

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Hauser Junior High School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-01 Board President Cheryl Berdelle called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and on roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

Mrs. Linda Bade
Ms. Cheryl Berdelle
Mrs. Nancy Jensen
Mr. James Schraidt
Mr. Richard Volpe
Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Absent: Mr. Giles McCarthy

Also present were: Dr. Jonathan Lamberson, Superintendent of Schools; Bob Chleboun, Blythe Park School principal; Vicki DeVylder, Hollywood School principal; Janice Limperis, Central School principal; Colleen Lieggi, Ames School principal; Leslie Berman, Hauser Junior High School principal; and Vern Bettis, technology director; REC President and orchestra director Patty Gill and band director Jim Colombo; and approximately 40 teachers, parents and interested citizens of the community.

President Berdelle led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The regular meeting was held in the Learning Resource Center at Hauser Junior High School.

Information and Proposals from Delegations and/or Individuals:

Orchestra director Patty Gill and band director Jim Colombo reported to the Board on the student participation in the instrumental music programs for 2008-09. It was reported that 120 (92%) 5th grade students are enrolled in either the band or orchestra programs this year. Student participation at the junior high

continues at a high level despite the extra offerings available at Hauser. Overall, the district has 216 band members and 152 students in the orchestra program. Supt. Lamberson and Board president Cheryl Berdelle thanked Patty and Jim for their continued efforts in promoting the benefits and appreciation of the arts.

Parents from the Hollywood School attendance area addressed the Board about their concerns over the implementation of the district's flexible boundary policy and class size policy and the impact it has had on several families with regard to placement of their children outside the home school attendance area. It was suggested that both policies be re-visited by the Board to prevent siblings from being separated into different elementary schools.

09-02 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda (Enclosures B.3.a. through B.3.e.) as follows:

- Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of December 16, 2008.
- Minutes of the Truth in Taxation Hearing and Regular Business Meeting of December 16, 2008.
- The Financial Statement as of December 31, 2008.
- Payment of General Invoices, Schedule A-683.
- Personnel Report - Approved the appointment of Donna McLachlan to the position of administrative assistant in the District Administrative Office effective January 26, 2009.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Hauser Junior High students Rheema Almaui and Tony Esposito shared with the Board their technology projects including digital photography and architectural design.

Supt. Lamberson discussed with the Board a second draft of the proposed calendar for the 2009-10 school year. The focus is on certain considerations to facilitate optimal student learning times in relation to scheduling institute days, parent teacher conferences, and holidays, etc. Supt. Lamberson noted that he consulted with the other Township superintendents to coordinate major holidays and break times. The only change in the second draft is the timing of spring break. It is recommended that it be moved to the last week in March which includes the usual non-attendance day on Good Friday. This would then make the last day of school (without the use of emergency days) Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Board action on adoption of the calendar is anticipated to take place at the February 17, 2009 meeting.

- 09-03 A motion was made by Mrs. Bade, supported by Mr. Volpe, that in order to prevent the loss of potential tax revenue, the Board adopt a resolution to Elect that Certain Assessment Relief Provided by the Revenue Act of 1939 for Historic Buildings, as amended, Not Apply to Taxes that are Levied by the Board of Education of School District No. 96, Cook County, Illinois. Further, that a certified copy of the signed, adopted resolution be filed by the Board secretary with both the Cook County Assessor's Office and the Tax Extension Department of the Cook County Clerk in accordance with the Revenue Act of 1939, as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Six
Nays:	None
Absent:	One (McCarthy)

C.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

Supt. Lamberson reported that as of December 19, 2008, a total of 1,454 students were enrolled in grades K-8.

Each of the principals presented a self-designed pod-cast about their school featuring projects and activities that are taking place and a report on MAP test results and how they are interpreted. These will soon be available on each of the schools' web sites and is planned as a regular feature on the district's newly designed web site.

Supt. Lamberson reported that effective January 1, 2009 the district is in compliance with the new IRS regulations regarding 403(b) plans available to staff.

C.2. From School Board Committees.

Supt. Lamberson gave an overview of the topics discussed at the Education Committee meeting held prior to the regular business meeting at 5:00 p.m.

- a. The District's residency validation process as well as the validation process being used by Riverside Brookfield High School will be discussed at the next scheduled Education Committee meeting to determine if changes will be necessary for 2009-10.
- b. K -5 grade level Curriculum Guides are being developed and were shared with the members of the Education Committee in *Draft* form. Once they are finalized they will be available online.
- c. The after school Math Computation Clubs have begun in each of the elementary schools. There are currently 15 teachers involved with the program and class sizes are limited to 20 students. Students' MAP scores are referenced for program eligibility.
- d. The staff will be completing a science curriculum review survey to evaluate the current textbooks and curriculum, and opinions on whether or not they would support initiating a formal science curriculum review process in 2009-10 for a new science curriculum and materials.
- e. The Education Committee viewed a video presentation by Hauser social worker/counselor Kevin Wolf regarding a proposal for an 8th grade trip to Bradford Woods located at Indiana University in the future that would focus on team building/leadership training, self-esteem and character development.
- f. The Committee was updated on the progress of the "5 for 4" Program (individual laptop computer for every 5th grade student in 2009-10). Members of the "5 for 4" committee include Colleen Lieggi, Vern Bettis, Janice Limperis, Stacy Westin, Barbara Margolis and Liz Whaley. They have developed a vision statement based on the District's Mission and prepared a job description for a project manager who will oversee the implementation and management of the program. A great deal of research has gone into the project with more questions to be answered and details worked out. The "5 for 4" committee will be conducting sight visits to other schools in the area that already have this program in place. The project manager position is expected to be posted within the next several weeks. The laptops will be funded by outside sources, not from district revenues.
- g. Central School principal Dr. Janice Limperis and Hauser principal Leslie Berman are participating in a cooperative Grant project with North Riverside Komarek School District 94, the police departments from both Riverside and North Riverside, and the Illinois Council for Prevention of Violence focusing on bullying prevention and cyber bullying. This year teachers in grades 5 and 6 are receiving training along with the social workers, special service staff, and administrators. A presentation for parents has been scheduled for February 4, 2009 at Hauser Junior High from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- h. Twenty K-8 language arts teachers are participating in professional development opportunities for the new writing curriculum and have expressed positive feedback on the Regie Routman program.
- i. Planning surveys for 2009-10 enrollment were distributed to more than 10 area preschools asking for information on prospective kindergarteners for 2009-10 and beyond. Dr. Limperis noted that the data received will assist in planning for kindergarten classes before the end of the school year.
- j. This year's kindergarten students will be participating in a mid-year and end-of-year assessment to help determine placement and needs for first grade. These students do not take part in the MAP assessments.
- k. Feedback on the newly initiated Parent/Teacher/Student conferences was very positive at all schools. The administration will be looking into the feasibility of extending the amount of time for each conference now that the students are included in goal setting.
- l. It was reported that Hinsdale District 181 has begun a withdrawal study for pulling out of the LADSE special education cooperative of which District 96 is a member. If this were to take place, it could have an impact on District 96 administrative costs for LADSE services.
- m. The Education Committee reviewed the 5-year Curriculum Cycle plan and discussed the possibility of introducing world language for the elementary schools. Dr. Limperis was asked to look into researching other districts that have a program in place to help guide any decisions regarding which language would be offered and at what grade level.
- n. The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme was discussed with regard to the possibility of starting a program for our students. An extensive list of criteria must be met in order to be approved by the IBO for inclusion in the program but the members of the Education Committee felt it would be worth the time to investigate the program given the number of high achieving students who would be eligible. Dr. Lamberson was asked to make the initial contact and provide the committee with a more detailed report on a four-year study proposal.
- o. The Committee discussed the current flexible boundary policy, whether or not it is working to bring class size equity across the elementary schools or is there a need to revisit the policy in light of increased enrollment. Also discussed was the notion of using a class size "range" rather than a hard cap maximum number of students per class. Discussion will continue following kindergarten registration. However, it was the consensus of the committee that the policy is working to promote overall lower class sizes across the district.
- p. Education Committee chair, Nancy Jensen, reported that the Board is currently working with the Illinois Association of School Boards to update Board policies and make them available online. A new policy is being developed regarding communication with the members of the Board of Education, i.e., written communication, e-mail, etc. Completion of the project is expected by early April 2009.

09-04 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Wakely, to adjourn the meeting and enter into closed session for the purpose of considering information regarding appointment, employment or dismissal of an employee or officer. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The time was 8:56 p.m.

09-05 A motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mr. Volpe to adjourn the closed session and return to open session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The time was 9:49 p.m.

09-06 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Wakely to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Six
Nays:	None
Absent:	One (McCarthy)

The time was 9:50 p.m.

Recorded: January 20, 2009

Approved: February 17, 2009

Judith Novak, Board Secretary

Cheryl Berdelle, Board President