

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
of the Board of Education  
Riverside School District No. 96  
held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008  
Blythe Park Elementary School  
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

08-65 President Ms. Cheryl Berdelle called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the gymnasium at Blythe Park Elementary School. On roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

Ms. Cheryl Berdelle  
Mrs. Nancy Jensen  
Mr. Giles McCarthy  
Mr. Richard Volpe  
Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Absent: Mrs. Linda Bade  
Mr. James Schraidt

Also present were: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; principals Leslie Berman, Bob Chleboun, Vicki DeVyllder, Colleen Lieggi, and Dr. Janice Limperis; technology director Vern Bettis; special education director Dr. Mary Polk; staff members Maryann Roberts, Barbara Margolis, Judy Sayre, and Janice Johnson; a reporter from the Landmark newspaper and approximately 25 parents/ interested citizens of the community.

President Berdelle led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B.1. Information and Proposals.

District 96 parents Mrs. Mary Stimming and Mrs. Jennifer Leimberer addressed the Board on behalf of a group known as "Network 96." They provided a written report with suggestions for solutions for the Board to consider regarding website design and communication.

08-66 A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Jensen, that the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* be approved as follows:

- Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of October 21, 2008.
- Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of October 21, 2008.
- Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Business Meeting of October 21, 2008.
- Approval of the Financial Statement as of October 31, 2008.

- Payment of General Invoices, Schedule A-681.
- Accepted the resignation of Blythe Park paraprofessional Artemis Daglas effective October 28, 2008.
- Approval of maternity leave request from Katherine Kayastha, Hauser Junior High reading and math teacher, beginning in early February 2009.
- Approved the addition of an extra-duty stipend for the new position of *Nurse Team Leader* currently assigned to Geana Chapp, R.N.
- Approved the contract terms and conditions for the new District 96 Web Site design as provided by Christopher Hejar (a.k.a. Mr. Consistent) for completion early 2009.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

08-67 Following several presentations by special education director Dr. Mary Polk and discussions by both the Education Committee and the Board of Education, a motion was made by Mrs. Jensen, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board approve the adoption of the Response to Intervention (RtI) plan for Riverside District 96 in accordance with the State Board of Education mandate. The RtI plan allows for early intervention strategies to be used to support student needs as soon as they are observed by the classroom teacher to lessen or prevent the likelihood of having to initiate more intense special education services later as the child progresses in school. Dr. Polk noted that there have been 28 referrals for the RtI this year. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Five
Nays:	None
Absent:	Two (Mrs. Bade and Mr. Schraidt)

08-68 Supt. Lamberson reviewed with the Board the Truth in Taxation Hearing information regarding the 2008 Tax Levy. Included were a proposed Certificate of Levy and a notice of the Levy Hearing for publication in the Suburban Life Newspaper.

Dr. Lamberson noted that the district relies on state, Federal and local taxes for its source of revenue to educate the children, pay teacher salaries, and maintain the buildings, the majority of which comes from local sources (taxpayers). Following the passage of a tax increase referendum, the taxing body has five years to roll up its levy request to come close to or reach the tax rate approved by the referendum. Last year was the final year of the roll up provision.

Legislation requires that a Truth in Taxation Hearing be held for all levy increase requests regardless of the amount requested. The total recommended preliminary tax levy amount is \$23,981,512 which represents a proposed increase of 17.5% to capture all funds available, i.e., new construction, etc. The property tax extension limiting law (PTELL) cap is estimated at 3.5% this year. Because of that cap, actual revenue received will be less than requested.

A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board adopt a resolution authorizing the tentative tax levy for the 2008 tax year in the amount of \$23,981,512; that the required Truth in Taxation Hearing be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hauser Junior High School Learning Resource Center; and, as required by law, that notice of said hearing be published in a local newspaper in the weekend edition of December 6, 2008. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

08-69 A motion was made by Mrs. Jensen, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board accept the annual audit report for the 2007-08 fiscal year as prepared by the firm of Evans, Marshall and Pease of Rolling Meadows, Illinois. The report will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at the December 16, 2008 meeting. Supt. Lamberson reported that of the \$15,500,000 in expenditures for the 2007-08 school year, 77% went for salaries and benefits. General State Aid revenue received from the state only covers one and one-half days' expenses. The remainder comes from local and federal sources. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Five  
Nays: None  
Absent: Two (Mrs. Bade and Mr. Schraidt)

C.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

Supt. Lamberson reported that enrollment as of October 31, 2008 is 1,455 students in grades K-8. Of the 943 students enrolled in grades K-5, fifty-one or 5% are attending school outside of their neighborhood school attendance area due to enrollment and implementation of the flexible boundary plan. Dr. Janice Limperis and the elementary principals are preparing a survey for parents regarding potential 2009-10 kindergarten students as a source of current information when planning for the next school year and beyond. The survey will be distributed right after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and prior to the March 5 kindergarten registration meetings.

Supt. Lamberson reported that the 2008 State School Library Per Capita Grant letter of intent to submit an application for books and supplemental materials for Hauser's library has been filed. The grant has a value of about \$950.

Supt. Lamberson prepared an update on District Goals - the Planning Process going back to the long-range planning sessions in 1995 and again in 2005. District 96 has an established process for continually evaluating the academic curriculum and school environment to offer and maintain the highest level of teaching and learning experiences for the students. He noted that both of these district-wide planning experiences included administrators, staff members, parents and community members who were given the task to brainstorm all aspects of District 96 schools, i.e., "needs," "wants," academic programming, building repairs and life safety issues, modifications, additions, etc. and create a list of recommendations to be considered by the Board both immediately and long-range (3-5 years). The 1995 Committee came up with 190 recommendations and 10 years later another strategic planning committee listed 26 strategic initiatives to be pursued. Change has always been an ongoing expectation and requirement to remain current and focus on meeting the needs of all children in District while addressing the increasing enrollment district-wide.

The last three years the District goals centered on the District's Mission Statement, the definition of each imperative (*academic excellence, creativity, critical thinking, respect for self, community, and the environment, and good fiscal stewardship*), and the imperative deliverables (*as evidenced by . . . statements*).

In 2008-09, the Board approved three district-wide goals that are aligned with the mission statement: 1.) Evidence of "best practice" standards of civility and courtesy; 2.) Support District 96 initiatives - writing curriculum (review), curriculum mapping cadre, inquiry (PD on demand) cadre, technology cadre, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) cadre, phase I of Response to Intervention, collaborative teams, PowerSchool parent portal, District 96 web site redesign, and program design for new "5 for 4" program for providing every 5<sup>th</sup> grade student with a laptop computer for use through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in District 96; and 3.) Piloting Parent/Teacher/Student conferences.

As a 2008-09 goal progress report, Supt. Lamberson noted that the administrators and staff have already written a draft statement of civility and courtesy standards with a goal to have the final version approved by spring 2009. The District 96 web site is being redesigned by Mr. Chris Hejar with input from Dr. Lamberson, the administrative staff, board members, and parents. It is anticipated that it will be online in early 2009. The November 24, 2008 full-day conferences offered the first opportunity to pilot the parent/teacher/student conference option. An after conference survey will help determine the effectiveness of the new procedure.

