

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009
A. F. Ames Elementary School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-07 President Mrs. Cheryl Berdelle called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., and on roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Absent: Mrs. Linda Bade

Also present were: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent of Schools; Blythe Park School principal, Robert Chleboun; Hollywood School principal, Vicki DeVyllder; Central School principal, Dr. Janice Limperis; Hauser Junior High principal, Leslie Berman; Special Education Director, Dr. Mary Polk; Technology Director, Vern Bettis; administrative intern, Mindy Keller; approximately 20 staff members, parents, and interested citizens of the community; and a reporter for THE LANDMARK newspaper.

President Berdelle led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B.1. Information and Proposals.

President Berdelle asked for comments from anyone in the audience who wanted to address the Board. A Hollywood School parent addressed the Board regarding his displeasure with the current class size policy and the implementation of the flexible boundary plan asking that they reconsider the plan in light of current enrollment issues.

09-08 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mr. Schraidt, that the Board approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda (Enclosures B.3.a. through B.3.g.) as follows:

- a. Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of January 20, 2009.
- b. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of January 20, 2009.

- c. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Business Meeting of January 20, 2009.
- d. The financial statement as of January 31, 2009.
- e. General invoices, Schedule A-684.
- f. Maternity leave request from Central School first grade teacher, Erin Feldman, beginning April 20, 2009 under the provisions of FMLA.
- g. Did not approve a support staff member leave of absence request.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

09-09 Following discussion and input by the Board and administration in December 2008 and January 2009, a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mr. Volpe that the Board adopt the official 2009-10 school calendar as presented on Enclosure B.4.a. The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, August 25, 2009; winter break will begin on Monday, December 21, and end on Friday, January 1, 2010. Students will return to class on Monday, January 4, 2010. Spring break is scheduled for the last week in March - March 29 through April 2. The last day of school for students (excluding the use of any snow/emergency days) will be Wednesday, June 2, 2010. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Education Committee has been reviewing the District's current residency validation policy to determine if modifications need to be made in the process to ensure that only valid District 96 residents are enrolled in the schools. Blythe Park principal Robert Chleboun gave an overview of the process used in all of the schools when registering a new student. Students new to District 96 are required to provide five original documents with the family name and address to validate residency. This includes a lease or mortgage, home ownership title or deed, real estate tax bill, driver's license, utility bills, bank statement or other appropriate documentation. Illinois School Code states that once a child has been accepted and is enrolled in a school, he/she has the right to remain in that school through the end of the year even if it is later determined that the information provided was fictitious. That is why the residency validation process is so critical given the trend of annual increasing enrollment.

Supt. Lamberson has been in contact with other districts in the area to gather comparative information regarding residency validation. He noted that he is planning to meet with a representative from a company that provides electronic residency validation services and will report his findings to the Board in the near future.

- 09-10 The Building Committee has been working to determine the scope of life safety and general maintenance projects to include for completion during the summer of 2009. The district prepared and submitted a 10-year life safety plan to the State Board of Education. The plan was approved by the ISBE in 2007. The largest project scheduled for the summer of 2009 is tuckpointing Hauser Junior High School and additional interior life safety work. In order to move forward with the plans a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mr. Volpe to authorize the administration to seek sealed bids for the work noted above according to specifications prepared by Mark Miller of CONCEPT 3 Architects. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

C.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

As of January 31, 2009, a total of 1,456 students were enrolled in grades K-8.

Supt. Lamberson reported that enrollment in 2009-10 could reach the 1,500 mark in pre-K through 8. Kindergarten registration is scheduled for early March and will provide a better picture of 2009-10. Dr. Lamberson stated that he does not anticipate any change in staffing levels for the next school year.

Hauser Jr. High principal Leslie Berman reported on a new initiative co-sponsored by the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) and Northwestern University for eligible 7th and 8th graders. Five students from each of the 14 districts that make up WSCAE will have an opportunity to participate in a “Civic Project” over a weekend in Chicago. This is the first time this has been offered for middle school students.

Technology director Vern Bettis, principals Vicki DeVylder and Dr. Janice Limperis gave a brief report on the “leadership” component of an administrative professional development project facilitated by Dr. Lamberson. The focus of the project came from the study of the book entitled “School Leadership that Works” which details 21 specific characteristics that are evident in highly effective schools. Research shows that leadership has a direct effect on student achievement and validates the importance of ongoing professional development to advance strong leadership skills to promote academic excellence. Among the

characteristics identified as being evident in highly effective schools were situational awareness, intellectual stimulation, being a change agent in day to day situations and new innovations, accepting input, and environmental culture. Additional follow-up reports will be shared at future Board meetings.

Supt. Lamberson reported that he, along with Board members Nancy Jensen and Hareena Wakely, have completed the initial review of the district's policies with a consultant from the Illinois Association of School Boards, bringing all policies up to date with current legislation and the School Code of Illinois. Approximately 95% of the proposed policies are regulated by legislation, the *School Code of Illinois* and the Illinois State Board of Education. A draft of the new and updated policies will be available at the March 17, 2009 regular meeting and posted on the district's website for review and comment. The Board anticipates conducting first and second readings in April and May with adoption no later than June 16, 2009.

Administrative intern Mindy Keller and Central School principal Dr. Janice Limperis reported on the results of the two planning surveys that were distributed last month to parents regarding enrollment for 2009-10. Ten area preschools were given the surveys as well as the elementary school parents and asked for information regarding their plans for kindergarten for 2009-10 and whether or not they knew of any neighbors who might have a kindergarten age student. The second survey asked parents of students already enrolled in District 96 schools if they are planning to return in the fall. The results of the kindergarten survey show that 130 children are expected to register for kindergarten for the fall of 2009. A total of 597 (62%) responses were received from the elementary school survey. Only 2 surveys indicated that they will not be returning to District 96 in the fall.

Dr. Limperis reported on the first meeting of the before and after school program study group. They are in the process of contacting several before and after school care providers to try to expand the availability of a program at each of the elementary schools for 2009-10. The committee will hear presentations and bring a recommendation to the administration for consideration and possible implementation in the fall.

Supt. Lamberson gave an update on the progress/status of the 2008-09 District Goals that were adopted by the Board on October 21, 2008. He noted that progress is being made in all areas including the 1 to 1 5th grade laptop initiative. The position of project manager for the 1 to 1 laptop initiative has been posted along with a job description. Interviews will be conducted in March, 2009.

- 09-11 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Wakely, to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of considering appointment, employment or dismissal of employees and/or negotiations. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The time was 9:09 p.m.

09-12 A motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the closed session be adjourned and that the Board return to open session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The time was 10:21 p.m.

09-13 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mr. McCarthy to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The time was 10:22 p.m.

Recorded: February 17, 2009

Approved: March 17, 2009

Judith Novak, Board Secretary

Cheryl Berdelle, Board President