

MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009
in the Blythe Park Elementary School Gymnasium
Riverside, Illinois

Education Committee Chair Nancy Jensen called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Linda Bade, Mrs. Nancy Jensen, Mr. Richard Volpe,
Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; principals Colleen Lieggi, Bob Chleboun, Janice Limperis, Vicki DeVlyder; special education director, Mary Polk; technology director, Vern Bettis; assistant principal Stacy Westin; administrative intern Mindy Keller, and approximately 25 parents and staff.

There were no reports or comments from delegations or individuals.

- a. Supt. Lamberson reported to the Committee the results of a meeting with principal Bob Chleboun, and Committee members Nancy Jensen and Hareena Wakely and National Investigations, Inc. regarding electronic residency validation for District 96 students. National Investigations provides residency validation services for numerous school districts including Riverside Brookfield High School District 208. Although families new to District 96 will still be expected to submit the five required proofs of residency, Supt. Lamberson recommended that electronic residency validation be conducted simultaneously.

Following Dr. Lamberson's presentation, Committee Chair Nancy Jensen commented that the district could sign a one year contract with National Investigations, Inc. allowing the Board the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the program at the end of the 2009-10 school year. Mrs. Wakely further noted that the district can request a National Investigations representative be present at walk-in registration if desired. Following this discussion, the Committee agreed by consensus to recommend to the Board that a one year contract with National Investigations, Inc. be signed.

- b. Dr. Lamberson reported to the Board on the progress that has been made on the 1-to-1 Laptop Initiative. Development of this program was one of the district's goals approved by the Board of Education at its regular business meeting in October 2008.

A project manager job description was developed and interviews for the position were conducted. Ames School principal Colleen Lieggi stated that the task force was pleased to recommend Hauser technology teacher Elizabeth Whaley to the Committee for this position.

Dr. Lamberson commented that a draft Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document regarding the initiative has been created and will be posted on the district's website under Resources. He reviewed for the Committee many of the questions posed in this draft document. Copies of the draft FAQ were distributed to those in attendance at this meeting.

After considering information learned during site visits and listening to feedback received from parents, Supt. Lamberson recommended to the Committee that laptops be issued to 5th grade students in 2009-10 for in-school use only, until the Board deems otherwise.

Dr. Lamberson remarked that the effectiveness of the program would be evaluated based on its contribution toward the accomplishment of the district's mission. He further noted that the 1-to-1 Laptop Initiative is a teaching and learning initiative as well as a technology initiative. As such, Supt. Lamberson stated that Ames School principal Colleen Lieggi will be the administrator responsible for the program.

Mrs. Whaley expressed to the Committee her excitement about the Laptop Initiative and the enormous potential it will provide for students. In her experience, students become engaged in their work in a technology environment to the point that they would rather continue working than be dismissed at the end of class. Mrs. Whaley commented that computers are no longer a novelty in the classroom, but rather they have become important tools of learning for today's students. She stated that providing students with dedicated laptops will give them greater opportunity for extended learning.

Committee Chair Nancy Jensen stated that the Board is looking forward to receiving a mid-year report describing the process for a successful transition of 5th grade students into 6th grade.

At the end of this discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the Board the reassignment of Mrs. Whaley to the project manager position for the 1-to-1 Laptop Initiative, thereby approving this program.

- c. Dr. Lamberson provided the Committee with an update on the registration process for the 2009-10 school year. He noted that registration packets will not be mailed home during the summer. Rather, registration forms will be available on the District 96 website for parents to complete, print, and return to their child's school. Supt. Lamberson commented that this change in process will save the district a significant amount of money in postage and personnel expense.

- d. Special education director Mary Polk reported that a Special Education brochure had been developed with the help of administrative intern Mindy Keller. The brochure outlines the special education process in District 96. Dr. Polk commented that the brochure was recently sent to all special education families in the district and that initial feedback has been very positive.
- e. Supt. Lamberson recommended to the Committee no change in school fees for the 2009-10 school year.
- f. Central School principal Janice Limperis reported that a staff development schedule for the 2009-10 school year had been established through her work with Hollywood School principal Vicki DeVyllder and the Language Arts Committee.
- g. Dr. Limperis reported to the Committee that Hauser 6th through 8th grade teachers will proceed with the research phase of the science curriculum review during the 2009-10 school year. Elementary teachers will not join the science curriculum review until 2010-11 giving them the opportunity to continue focusing on the new Writing Essentials initiative being implemented this year.
- h. Dr. Limperis reported to the Committee that staff work on the District 96 Curriculum Guide is nearing completion. She commented that through the Guide curriculum information for all content areas will be articulated in one place. The final version of the Guide will be available for fall Open Houses. Dr. Limperis stated that any questions pertaining to the Curriculum Guide can be directed to her.

Dr. Lamberson remarked that the Curriculum Guide will set curriculum standards for all grade levels across the district providing each child with the same educational experience. The Guide will provide direction for teachers and will contain helpful information for parents. He further noted that, when completed, the Curriculum Guide will be available on the district's website.

- i. Dr. Limperis updated the Committee on the progress that has been made reformatting report cards. She noted that the guided reading program is not on the current report card and that the report card should reflect curriculum changes. Report cards for Kindergarten through 2nd grade have been reformatted and will be used starting in the fall 2009. Reformatting of report cards for 3rd grade through 5th grade is in progress and may be complete by the fall 2009.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Jensen, supported by Mr. Volpe, and unanimously approved by the Committee. The time was 6:50 p.m.

Susan Moorhead, Recorder

Nancy Jensen, Committee Chair