

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Hollywood Elementary School
Cook County, Brookfield, Illinois

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-14 President Ms. Cheryl M. Berdelle called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. in the gymnasium at Hollywood Elementary School and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

Mrs. Bade
Ms. Berdelle
Mrs. Jensen
Mr. Schraidt
Mrs. Wakely
Absent: Mr. McCarthy
Mr. Volpe

Also present were: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; Ames principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe Park principal Robert Chleboun; Central principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood principal Vicki DeVylder; Technology Director Vern Bettis; administrative intern Mindy Keller; staff members Lauren Allen and Brian Trimmer; website designer Chris Hajer; and approximately 35 parents and interested citizens of the community.

President Berdelle led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B.1. Information and Proposals.

There were no comments from the public at this time.

09-15 A motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mrs. Jensen, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* (Enclosures B.3.a. through B.3.j.) as follows:

- a. Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting of February 17, 2009.
- b. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of February 17, 2009.
- c. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Business Meeting of February 17, 2009.
- d. Financial Statement as of February 28, 2009.
- e. Payment of General Invoices as listed on Schedule A-685.
- f. Authorized notification of Reduction in Force resolutions to be issued to 1st and 2nd year probationary special education paraprofessionals effective at the close of the 2008-09 school year, pending final determination of service needs for 2009-10.

- g. Designated 14 paid holiday dates for all 52-week employees (District Office and maintenance/custodial staff) for the 2009-10 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009.
- h. Approved an administrative recommendation to double promote a Hauser Junior High School student at the close of the 2008-09 school year following review of assessment results and the potential for a successful transition in consultation with the parents, the student, and RBHS staff.
- i. Approved the submission of Building Permit Applications to the Illinois State Board of Education for tuckpointing, general building, and sprinkler system work for 2009 summer and life safety projects.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Old Business

Central School principal Dr. Janice Limperis reported that after meeting with the members of the Before and After School Program Study Group and hearing presentations from several service providers, the group unanimously agreed to contract with the PAV YMCA in Berwyn, IL to provide both before and after school programs for District 96 students beginning in the fall of 2009. Included in the contract agreement is a provision to guarantee that a program will be available at Hollywood School (eliminating the need to transport students across First Avenue) and potentially each of the other elementary schools, depending on enrollment. The YMCA will be using District 96 facilities but will provide the programming and staff. In addition to the school year program, the YMCA will also be able to offer activities and programs on school holidays, spring and winter breaks, as well as during the summer. More information will be sent to parents prior to the end of the school year about the new program.

Board members Nancy Jensen and Hareena Wakely, along with Supt. Jon Lamberson, have completed a page-by-page review of all district policies with the assistance of a representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards. Mrs. Jensen noted that an estimated 90-95% of the policies are the result of state legislation and Illinois School Code regulations. A *draft* copy of the updated manual is now available on the district's website for parent and community review and comment. Mrs. Jensen noted that there will be information and a link for submitting any comments which all Board members will be able to view. The sender will also receive an acknowledgement by email to confirm receipt of the communication. Adoption of the final document is expected no later than June 2009.

Central School kindergarten teacher and administrative intern Mindy Keller reported on the progress of the newly implemented kindergarten transition program known as K.I.T.E. (Kindergarteners Improving Toward Excellence). Overall, the program has proven to be very successful for the 30+ students enrolled in the program as evidenced by scores on assessments administered at the start of the program and at the end of the first and second trimesters.

Depending on student progress and ability to achieve the required skills, they are exited from the program and new students may be added if necessary. There are plans to continue the program for the 2009-10 school year.

Ames principal Colleen Lieggi reported on the proposed 1 to 1 Laptop Initiative for possible implementation in 2009-10. The program design and concept is to provide all 5th graders with a laptop computer for use 24/7 through 8th grade at Hauser Junior High. The committee has been working to develop a vision/philosophy statement for the program and has conducted site visits at three area middle schools where this type of program is currently established and running successfully. The next step in the process will be to hire a “project manager” who would be responsible for designing the curriculum, professional development, parent/teacher/student communication, and infrastructure maintenance components for the program. District 96 fifth grade teachers Lauren Allen and Brian Trimmer shared their thoughts about what it would mean to their teaching and learning strategies if every student in their class had access to their own personal laptop computer 24/7 for completing assignments and projects. Both teachers expressed enthusiasm about the proposal and felt that it would be a very beneficial enhancement to the classroom experience and viewed the program as a positive step to the future of education. Board members and members of the audience questioned safety issues with regard to the fifth graders carrying the laptop back and forth to school and the potential of damage, etc. off campus. Mr. Bettis and Mrs. Lieggi reported that other schools using this same program have not seen these issues to be very significant or cause for undue concern. Questions were raised regarding the rationale for selecting the 5th grade as a starting point for the program rather than at the junior high. Supt. Lamberson and Mr. Bettis noted that the district already has a strong focus on integrating technology into the curriculum and use of computers on a regular basis. By the time the students reach 5th grade, they are very tech savvy and this will help prepare them for the rigor of the middle school philosophy and transition to high school. The most difficult issue will probably be dealing with the other grade levels will not have the same opportunity yet. Questions were also raised regarding internet safety and prevention of accessing inappropriate websites. Mr. Bettis stated that there are ways to block unwanted sites and the staff will enforce the district’s *Technology Acceptable Use/Internet Safety Policy*. The 1 to 1 program initiative will continue to be discussed by the administration and the Board before a final decision is reached.

New Business

The Board discussed student fees for 2009-10. Supt. Lamberson noted that he is not recommending any increase in fees for next year. However, several PTA/Os have expressed an interest in shifting some of the “standard” items (Kleenex, hand wipes, plastic bags, etc.) on the school supply lists to the school fee list so that these items could be purchased in bulk by the district and made available to the classroom teachers as needed. If this change is implemented, it could mean a slight (\$3-\$7) increase. Formal action on the 2009-10 school fees is expected at the April 21st meeting.

Reports from the Superintendent and Staff:

- a. Enrollment as of February 28, 2009, was 1,456 students, ECE through 8th grade.
- b. The March kindergarten registration for fall 2009 enrolled 159 students. The current plan calls for two sections each (a.m. and p.m.) at Ames and Blythe Park, three sections at Central, and one at Hollywood. The existing class size policy limits sections to 20 students for a maximum enrollment of 160 in 8 sections. At the April meeting, the Board will give consideration to authorizing a policy override to 23 students per class increasing total capacity to 184 if necessary or adding a 9th section and keeping the cap at 20.

- c. The newly redesigned District 96 website was shared with those present and is on available online. Parent and community comments are welcome.
- d. Principals Colleen Lieggi and Bob Chleboun presented a highlight from the book entitled 6 Habits of Highly Effective Teams that was part of a professional development experience earlier in the year.
- e. Supt. Lamberson reported that District 96 received the 2009 “Bright Red Apple” award for academic excellence based on academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary.
- f. Supt. Lamberson and the Board extended congratulations to the students and staff at Blythe Park and Central Schools for having received the 2008 Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. This distinction is given to schools that sustain very high performance levels on state assessments - 90% of students must meet or exceed state standards in both reading and math - for at least three years. Supt. Lamberson noted that the other three schools should be in line to receive this award in 2009-10.

09-16 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Jensen, that the Board enter into Closed Session to consider personnel issues, information regarding appointment, employment or dismissal of an employee or administrator and/or negotiations. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

09-17 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. Schraidt that the Closed Session be adjourned and the Board return to open session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The time was 10:10 p.m.

09-18 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Jensen that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Five

Nays: None

Absent: Two (Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Volpe)

The time was 10:11 p.m.

Recorded: March 17, 2009

Approved: April 21, 2009

Board Secretary

Board President