

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Blythe Park Elementary School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-19 Board President Cheryl Berdelle called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. in the gymnasium at Blythe Park Elementary School and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Absent: None

Also present were: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; Ames School principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe Park School principal Bob Chleboun; Central School principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood School principal Vicki DeVylder; Hauser principal Leslie Berman; District technology director Vern Bettis; special education director Dr. Mary Polk; administrative intern Mindy Keller; and approximately 50 staff members, parents and interested citizens of the community.

President led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

This is the last official business meeting for the current members of the School Board following the Consolidated election held on April 7, 2009. There will be a special Board meeting held on May 5, 2009 to seat the re-elected and newly elected members for a four year term. Supt. Lamberson took a moment to express his thanks and appreciation to outgoing members Mrs. Linda Bade, Ms. Cheryl Berdelle, Mr. Richard Volpe and Board secretary Judy Novak who will be retiring on June 30, 2009, for their service and dedication to ensure the children of District 96 the best possible educational experiences in a learning environment that promotes academic excellence. Both Mrs. Bade and Mr. Volpe served two four-year terms and Ms. Berdelle is completing her twelfth year, the last six as Board President.

The Board meeting took a short recess at 7:55 p.m. for a reception for the outgoing Board members.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m. and on roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Absent: None

Also present were: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; Ames School principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe Park School principal Bob Chleboun; Central School principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood School principal Vicki DeVylder; Hauser principal Leslie Berman; District technology director Vern Bettis; special education director Dr. Mary Polk; administrative intern Mindy Keller; and approximately 50 staff members, parents and interested citizens of the community.

B.1. Information and Proposals.

Audience members Nancy Hopkins and Christopher Robling commented on the district's proposed hardscape and landscape design for improvement at Hauser Junior High School. Mr. Art Perry also commented on the new "1 to 1 Laptop Initiative" for 2009-10 fifth grade students.

09-20 A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Bade, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda (Enclosures B.3.a. - B.3.i.)* as follows:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 17, 2009.
- b. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Business Meeting of March 17, 2009.
- c. Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting of March 30, 2009.
- d. Acceptance of the Financial Statement as of March 31, 2009.
- e. Payment of General Invoices as listed on Schedule A-686.
- f. Accepted the resignation of Hauser Junior High special education paraprofessional, Jeanette Zaura, effective at the close of the 2008-09 school year.
- g. Approved the submission of an amended school calendar for the 2008-09 school year to eliminate four of the five scheduled emergency days making June 5, 2009 the last day of school. One emergency day was used on September 15, 2008 when the Village of Riverside Public Works Department asked that the schools be closed for student safety due to flooding and other issues related to unusual heavy rain in the area.
- h. Adopted a Resolution declaring the week of May 3 through May 8 as "Staff Appreciation Week" celebrating the continued dedication and effort of everyone on the staff on behalf of the students of District 96.

- i. Approved the personnel report regarding a leave of absence request from Ames paraprofessional Danae Calvo to complete her student teaching requirement in pursuit of a Master's degree in education.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Old Business

- 09-21 As discussed and recommended by the Finance Committee at a meeting held prior to the regular Board meeting, a motion was made by Mrs. Jensen, supported by Mr. Volpe that the student fees for books, etc. for 2009-10 remain the same as in 2008-09 as follows:

Kindergarten	\$70.00
Grade 1	\$80.00
Grades 2 and 3	\$85.00
Grades 4 and 5	\$95.00
Grades 6, 7, and 8	\$115.00

Athletic participation fee for grades 7 and 8 will remain at \$30.00 per sport.

Supt. Lamberson noted that several conversations have taken place with the district PTA/Os and the administrative staff regarding the possibility of switching some of the "basic" items (paper towels, hand wipes, tissue, etc) from the individual school supply lists to the school fee supply list. He felt that this change would not have a significant impact on the budget because these items could be purchased in bulk at a reduced price and would be an acceptable move at this time.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

09-22 One of the District's goals for 2008-09 is to support the initiative to design a plan to provide a laptop computer designated for each fifth student beginning with the 2009-10 school year as an available resource for teachers to enhance instruction and learning. A committee comprised of administrators and district technology staff has been working on the project design and philosophy statement for the program since the beginning of the school year. The group also conducted site visits to several other school districts that have already instituted the program in their school and talked with the administrators and staff regarding the benefits/drawbacks, etc. The "1 to 1 Laptop Initiative" has been discussed at several Education Committee meetings and regularly provided with updates. Supt. Lamberson noted that the students will have exclusive use of the laptop only during school hours and will not be allowed to take them home. The Board will make the final determination if and when a class will be given permission to take the laptops home following recommendation from the administration. They will be turned in at the end of the school year for cleaning and updating and returned to the students in the fall. There will be no extra cost to the parents. The laptops will be funded through the redistribution of the technology fund capital budget of approximately \$179,000. Apple Computer also provides a 1 year warranty on the new hardware.

The "initiative team" has determined that the next step in the process of implementing the program is the hiring of a project manager to oversee the entire plan for the district including, curriculum, laptop purchase, professional development for staff, maintenance, inventory, etc. The committee conducted the initial candidate interviews and brought their final recommendation to Supt. Lamberson for confirmation. The recommendation brought to the Board is that the current Hauser Junior High School technology teacher, Elizabeth Whaley, be reassigned to the position of "1 to 1 Laptop Initiative" project manager beginning at the start of the 2009-10 school year. Mrs. Whaley commented that this plan provides a smarter way to use technology and is definitely the next step for District 96. The children will be engaged in learning in a technological environment in pursuing their education. This initiative will provide the tools they need to access research and updated information. A motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board approve Supt. Lamberson's recommendation as stated above to appoint Elizabeth Whaley to the position of "1 to 1 Laptop Initiative" project manager. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Supt. Lamberson and Mrs. Jensen noted that the *draft* Board Policy Manual is still posted on the district's website. The suggestions are being monitored by Mrs. Jensen on a regular basis and forwarded to the Board members for their review. Formal adoption of the revised policies is anticipated at the June 16, 2009 business meeting.

- 09-23 At the March 17, 2009 regular Board meeting, Supt. Lamberson reported to the Board that kindergarten registration for the 2009-10 school year (as of that day) was 159 students. Based on the kindergarten planning survey results, the initial plan called 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 leaving space for only one more kindergartener or adding a 9th section to accommodate any new registrations between now and the start of the 2009-10 school year. At the March meeting Supt. Lamberson asked the Board if he should think about adding another section of kindergarten or whether the Board might consider increasing the class size limit beyond 20 students. After discussion and consensus by the members of the Board, President Berdelle stated that the Board would prefer to increase the class size limit rather than open a 9th section of kindergarten for 2009-10. Accordingly, consideration will be given to authorizing a policy override to 23 students per class increasing total capacity to 184 if necessary at the April meeting. Based on the information received at the March 17, 2009 meeting, a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mr. Volpe, that the Board amend the class size policy limit from 20 to 23 students for kindergarten for the 2009-10 school year. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven

Nays: None

Absent: None

- 09-24 The Building Committee has been meeting with CONCEPT 3 architects Mark Miller and Christopher English to develop district-wide hardscape and landscape plans for improvements at all of the schools for the past two years. The final design plans for Hauser Junior High School and A. F. Ames Elementary School were approved by the Building Committee in March and brought to the Riverside Landscape Advisory Committee and Historic Preservation Commission for approval. Both groups gave conditional approval with recommendations for changes in the proposed width of the sidewalk in front of Hauser. Mr. English presented the proposals to the Riverside Village Board at their regular meeting on April 20, 2009 and following discussion was advised that the plan proposed for Hauser Junior High School would not receive their approval. It was the opinion of the Board that some of the hardscape and landscape design elements were inconsistent with what would be considered appropriate for Frederick Law Olmsted's vision for Riverside. The Hauser plans also included work to repair the historic portico entryway which is deteriorating at the base of the pillars and a danger to students. The plans for A. F. Ames Elementary School were approved as presented. Based on the information received from the Village Board, a motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Bade to authorize the administration to advertise for bids to complete only the portico repair at Hauser Junior High and the Ames School hardscape and landscape work during the summer of 2009. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

09-25 The Education Committee and administrators have been discussing the issue of residency validation for current students and new enrollees in terms of specific requirements, timing, etc. to ensure that only valid District 96 residents have children enrolled in our schools. Supt. Lamberson and Education Committee members Nancy Jensen and Hareena Wakely met with Mr. Bill Beitler, president of National Investigations, Inc., a company that provides documentation and evidence for verification of residency using a proprietary database check system. This firm is used by several school districts in the area including Riverside Brookfield High School to validate residency information. The cost to the district for this service is \$2.00 per family and can be split with RBHS if there are siblings in both District 96 and 208. Should it become necessary to follow up by site visits or surveillance, the cost would be \$55.00 per hour. A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. Volpe, that the District enter into a one-year agreement with National Investigations, Inc. to conduct electronic residency checks for all current District 96 students as well as new enrollees and transfer students. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

New Business

09-26 At the recommendation of the Building Committee and the Board of Education, the administration advertised for bids for Tuckpointing work at Hauser Junior High. The bids were opened publicly on April 7, 2009 and after conducting reference checks on the apparent lowest bidder, it was recommended by CONCEPT 3 architect Mark Miller to accept the bid from Restore Masonry, LLC of Chicago, Illinois in the amount of \$88,000 to complete the work as detailed in the bid specifications. Based on this information and recommendation a motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board accept the bid for Tuckpointing work at Hauser Junior High School from Restore Masonry, LLC of Chicago, Illinois in the amount of \$88,000. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None
Absent: None

09-27 At the recommendation of the Building Committee and the Board of Education, the administration advertised for bids for life safety work at Hauser Junior High. The bids were opened publicly on April 7, 2009 and after conducting reference checks on the apparent lowest bidder, it was recommended by CONCEPT 3 architect Mark Miller to accept the bid from K. M. Holly Construction Company of Tinley Park, Illinois in the amount of \$308,333.00 to complete the work as detailed in the bid specifications including Option No. 1 to replace existing classroom door locksets with new security locksets. Based on this information and recommendation a motion was made by Mr. Volpe, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board accept the bid for life safety work at Hauser Junior High School from K. M. Holly Construction Company of Tinley Park, Illinois in the total amount of \$308,888.00 including Option No. 1 for lockset replacements. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

C.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

Supt. Lamberson reported that enrollment as of March 31, 2009 was 1,455 students.

09-28 There being no further business or reports, a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mr. Volpe, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

The time was 9:07 p.m.

Recorded: April 21, 2009

Approved: May 19, 2009

Board Secretary

Board President