

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
Of the Board of Education  
Riverside School District No. 96  
Held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009  
Hauser Junior High School  
Cook County, Riverside Illinois

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-70 Board President Nancy Jensen called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center at Hauser Jr. High School and on roll call, the following members were recorded as present:

Mrs. Nancy Jensen  
Mrs. Jennifer Leimberer  
Mr. Giles McCarthy  
Mrs. Mary Ellen Meindl  
Mr. James Schraidt  
Mrs. Mary Stimming  
Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Absent: None

Also present were: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; Ames School Principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe Park Principal Bob Chleboun; Central School Principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood School Interim Principal Mindy Keller; Hauser Jr. High School Principal Leslie Berman; District Technology Director Vern Bettis; District Special Education Director Dr. Mary Polk; approximately 50 staff members, parents and interested citizens of the community; and 2 reporters from the SUBURBAN LIFE and the LANDMARK newspapers.

B.1. Public Comment/Statement.

A member of the audience spoke regarding an open letter that was written to the Board and Dr. Lamberson concerning Supt. Lamberson's compensation plan approved by the Board in June 2009, and about the need for improved communication between the community and the Board.

Members of the Board commented that Superintendent Lamberson's contract would not be reopened for renegotiation. They further acknowledged that communication with the Board is challenging at times due to the restrictions imposed by the Open Meetings Act. The Board asked for the community's continued patience as they strive to improve communication.

A District 96 parent expressed to the Board concerns about the 1 to 1 Laptop Initiative, as well as deficiencies she finds with the elementary curriculum in the areas of music and world language.

Superintendent Lamberson discussed the Freedom of Information Act requests recently received by the District.

Riverside Education Council President Patricia Gill introduced the 2009-10 R.E.C. Officers and Building Representatives to the Board:

- President            Patricia Gill
- Vice-President    Helen Bryan
- Treasurer           Renee Blondin
- Secretary           Candy Ekstrom

Building Representatives:

- Ames School            Mary Orłowski
- Blythe Park School    Judy Sayre
- Central School        Barbara Johnson
- Hauser Jr. High        Joy Brabec
- Hollywood School    Janice Johnson

The R.E.C. is a member of the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571. Mrs. Gill serves on the 571 Executive Board and District 96 teachers Penny Loulousis and Grace Ateca serve as 571 Delegates.

09-71 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Leimberer, that the Board move the appointment of Non-Union Confidential/Supervisory Staff for the 2009-10 school year from the *Consent Agenda* to the end of the meeting after Closed Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

09-72 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Leimberer, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda (Enclosures B.3.a. through B.3.n.)* as follows:

- a. Minutes of the IASB Policy Governance Workshop of June 5, 2009.
- b. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of June 16, 2009.
- c. Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of June 16, 2009.
- d. Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting of July 22, 2009.
- e. Acceptance of the Financial Statements as of June 30, 2009 and July 31, 2009.
- f. Payment of General Invoices – Schedule A-689.
- g. Accepted the resignations of Central School Kindergarten teacher Barbara Lesko and Hollywood School Kindergarten teacher Linda Schirmer, effective at the close of the 2008-09 school year.
- h. Accepted the resignations of Ames School Special Ed. Paraprofessional Patricia Caravetta and Central School Special Ed. Paraprofessional Ernestina Bobe, effective at the close of the 2008-09 school year.

- i. Approved the appointment of the following Certified staff members for the 2009-10 school year:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>
Mirko Dimitrijevic	PE, Health, Encore	Hauser
Nicole Kinkin	AM K.I.T.E.	Ames
Laura Mendralla	Language Arts & Reading	Hauser
Leslie Redmond	Reading Specialist	Central
Cindy Strom	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Blythe
Paula Tousignant	Technology Specialist	Hauser
Meredith Wydra	Special Education	Hauser

- j. Approved the appointment of the following Non-Certified staff members for the 2009-10 school year:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>
Susan Battersby	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Ames
Michelle Cappel	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Hauser
Elizabeth Maskill	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Hauser
Kristen Taber	ECE Paraprofessional	Blythe
Nicole Kinkin	PM Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Ames
Monica O'Callaghan	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Blythe
Linda Roberto	Special Ed. Secretary Extended Year	Central
Barbara Vicenik	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Central

- k. Approved 12-week Maternity Leave requests from Ames First Grade teacher Jennifer Ohlman beginning on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and from Hauser Communication teacher Karina Koncius beginning on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 under the provisions of FMLA .
- l. Approved 12-week Maternity Leave request beginning on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and Parental Leave of Absence request for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year from Ames Special Education teacher Wendy Howell under the provisions of the R.E.C. contract.
- m. Approved request for Sabbatical Leave of Absence from Hollywood School Principal Vicki DeVylder for the 2009-10 school year.
- n. Approved instructional staff assignment changes for the 2009-10 school year as presented:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Transfer To</b>	<b>From</b>
Renee LeBegue	Reading Specialist/Blythe	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade/Blythe
Sarah Pollock	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade/Blythe	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade/Blythe
Alexandra Whitelaw	Kindergarten/Central	AM K.I.T.E./ PM Paraprofessional/Ames

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Leimberer  
Mr. McCarthy  
Mrs. Meindl  
Mr. Schraidt

Mrs. Stimming  
Mrs. Wakely  
Mrs. Jensen  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

Following approval of the items listed under the *Consent Agenda*, District Administrators highlighted for the Board many of the exceptional qualifications of the new teachers being hired in 2009-10.

B.4. Old Business

There were no items to be addressed.

B.5. New Business

Supt. Lamberson reviewed with the Board the preliminary list of District Goals for the 2009-10 school year:

1. Initiate a comprehensive strategic planning process.
2. Implement new writing program.
3. Implement “Laptop Initiative” in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and prepare for 2010-11.
4. Complete review of science curriculum for Grades 6-8.
5. Complete negotiations with the R.E.C. by June 30, 2010.
6. Evaluate progress of the following District 96 initiatives:
  - District 96 Cadre – Curriculum Mapping
  - District 96 Cadre – Inquire (PD on demand)
  - District 96 Cadre – Technology
  - District 96 Cadre – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
  - Phase 1 and 2 of RtI (Response to Intervention)
  - PowerSchool with parent portal, extending to some elementary grades
  - Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences in Grades 3-8
  - Establishing “best practice” standards of civility and courtesy

As a result of the Board’s participation in the Illinois Association of School Board’s Policy Governance Workshop in June 2009 a strategic planning process is being considered to set long-term District goals.

The Regie Routman In Residence writing program introduced to the Language Arts Committee in 2008-09 will be presented to all District 96 teachers in 2009-10.

Implementation of the Laptop Initiative whereby all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be issued a dedicated laptop for in-school use will take place in 2009-10. Vern Bettis and Laptop Initiative Project Manager Elizabeth Whaley will work with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade faculty to foster success of the program this year, and to ensure a smooth transition for these students into 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2010-11.

Review of the science curriculum in Grades 6-8 will be completed in 2009-10.

The current contract between the Riverside Education Council (R.E.C.) and the District 96 Board of Education expires on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Supt. Lamberson recommended the use of an interest-based bargaining model based on the successful outcome of this approach used in 2007. Through interest-based bargaining sessions, involving District 96 Administrators; certified and non-certified staff; and Board members, previous negotiations were completed before students returned to school in the fall. Dr. Lamberson expressed hope that a mutually beneficial agreement can be reached between the R.E.C. and the Board before the close of the 2009-10 school year.

Supt. Lamberson noted that he would continue to provide the Board with regular updates on the progress of several ongoing District initiatives. Staff cadres were formed to conduct in depth study in the areas of Curriculum Mapping; Inquiry (PD on demand); Technology and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP).

Introduced in District 96 last year, RtI (Response to Intervention) will continue to provide support for students in 2009-10 as soon as deficiencies are found in order for them to sustain proper academic progress.

The PowerSchool parent portal will be extended into 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2009-10.

Supt. Lamberson discussed the success of Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences introduced in Grades 3-8 last school year, and recommended continuation in 2009-10.

District 96 staff will continue to establish and model “best practice” standards of civility and courtesy in 2009-10.

Following this presentation, discussion took place regarding the draft goals as presented. A question arose whether the International Baccalaureate Program for the middle grades was still a District goal. Supt. Lamberson noted that he and Dr. Limperis will meet with the International Baccalaureate Study Group throughout the 2009-10 school year and will provide updates of its findings to the Education Committee. Board members asked to be notified of the study group meeting dates.

Dr. Limperis commented that a committee would be forming to discuss world language. Board members asked to be notified of these meeting dates.

A question arose regarding the Science Curriculum review “process.” Dr. Limperis commented that typically curriculum review takes three (3) years to complete. A seven (7) step program to evaluate the curriculum is conducted before a particular curriculum is chosen as a pilot program. Implementation of the pilot program is followed by evaluation and recommendation. Bob Chleboun is chair of the Science Curriculum Review Committee. The committee has already met and has developed a mission statement.

Discussion took place regarding whether Parent/Teacher Conferences are optional at Hauser. Leslie Berman noted that conferences on Parent/Teacher Conference days are optional at Hauser because enrollment has grown to over 400 students. There isn’t enough time to conference with all parents and students on those days. She did note however that a conference invitation is extended to parents of those students considered

to be “struggling.” She further remarked that teachers can conference at any time throughout the school year.

By consensus, the Board agreed to add three additional goals to the 2009-10 draft list:

- 1.) Evaluate progress of implementing the middle school in 2007-08.
- 2.) Evaluate Special Education Program and Administrative structure since 2006-07.
- 3.) Evaluate Technology (instructional and Administrative) Program and Administrative structure since 2006-07.

09-73 Supt. Lamberson noted that anticipated enrollment for 2009-10 is 1,497 students. He further commented that if the Board were to increase the class size cap from 20 to 23 students per classroom in second grade at all schools, there would be 10 new displaced students this year, compared to 35 displaced students in 2008-09. If this decision creates an opening, any 1<sup>st</sup> Grade student displaced in 2008-09 will be given an opportunity to return to his/her home school for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Dr. Lamberson noted that the goal would be to return to a 20 student cap per classroom in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade as soon as enrollment numbers allow.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported Leimberer, that the maximum class size cap be increased from 20 to 23 students in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade for the 2009-10 school year. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

B.5.c. The Board discussed a draft copy of the 2009-10 Agenda Calendar. Future amendment and adoption of certain Board policies will be added to the draft calendar. No action was taken on this item this evening.

B.5.d. By consensus the Board agreed to participate in a strategic planning workshop conducted by the Illinois Association of School Board later this year. The objective of the workshop will be for the Board to answer the following questions and to develop a strategic plan based on the answers:

- ◆ What is great about District 96?
- ◆ What is good about District 96?
- ◆ What areas need attention?
- ◆ Where does District 96 want to go in the future?

The Board will develop its strategic plan during 2009-10 and will seek community input regarding the plan in 2010-11.

09-74 A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board adopt a Resolution authorizing the law firm of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca, Chtd. to Intervene in Proceedings Before the State Property Tax Appeal Board. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None

Absent: None

09-75 The Summer 2009 Life Safety, Tuckpointing, and Site Improvement Projects at Hauser Jr. High and Ames Elementary School are complete. A motion was made by Mrs. Leimberer, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the Occupancy Permits be signed and sent to the Regional Superintendent certifying the completion of the work. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

B.5.g. The Board discussed the list of policies to be reviewed and possibly amended and adopted over the next few months:

Approval - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 9/15/09  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and possible Adoption: 10/20/09

*Policy 2:220: Board of Education Meeting Procedures*  
*Policy 2:220-E4: Exhibit – Open Meeting Minutes*  
*Policy 2:240: Board Policy Development*

Approval - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 10/20/09  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and possible Adoption: 11/17/09

*Policy 6:15: School Accountability*  
*Policy 6:40: Curriculum Development*  
*Policy 6:60: Curriculum Content*  
*Policy 6:70: Teaching About Religions*  
*Policy 6:120: Education of Children with Disabilities*  
*Policy 6:130: Program for the Gifted*  
*Policy 6:160: English Language Learners*  
*Policy 6:230: Library Media Program*  
*Policy 6:235: Access to Electronic Networks*  
*Policy 6:260: Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs*  
*Policy 6:280: Grading and Promotion*

Approval – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 11/17/09  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and possible Adoption: 12/15/09

*Policy 7:10: Equal Educational Opportunities*  
*Policy 7:15: Student and Family Privacy Rights*  
*Policy 7:60: Residence*  
*Policy 7:70: Attendance and Truancy*  
*Policy 7:80: Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance*  
*Policy 7:100: Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations: Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students*  
*Policy 7:140: Search and Seizure*  
*Policy 7:150: Agency and Police Interviews*  
*Policy 7:160: Student Appearance*  
*Policy 7:180: Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*  
*Policy 7:200: Suspension Procedures*  
*Policy 7:210: Expulsion Procedures*

- Policy 7:220: Bus Conduct*
- Policy 7:310: Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Mail*
- Policy 7:325: Student Fund-Raising Activities*
- Policy 7:340: Student Records*

The timetable to review *Policies 7:30 and 7:30-E* regarding *Student Assignment; Intra-District Transfer* and the *Flexible Boundary Plan* will be discussed at the September meeting.

C.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

- a. Supt. Lamberson reviewed the enrollment report as of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It was noted that anticipated 2009-10 enrollment in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at Ames School is especially high at 70 students. Capacity for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at Ames is 69 students with 23 students in each of the three (3) sections.
- b. Dr. Lamberson provided an update regarding the residency validation process taking place this year. National Investigations Inc. conducted electronic residency validation on all new and returning District 96 students for the 2009-10 school year. Subsequently, thirty (30) home visits were conducted and twelve (12) students were found to have invalid residency. It has been determined that some of these students have moved out of the District 96 boundary, however valid residency has yet to be established for six (6) to eight (8) of these students.

Discussion took place regarding the need for District 96 to do its own due diligence to be certain National Investigations does not send letters notifying families of invalid residency to those that legitimately live within the District's boundaries.

- c. Discussion of the Tentative Budget was deferred to the September meeting.

C.2. From School Board Committees.

Mr. McCarthy provided the Board with a summary of the discussion that took place at the Building Committee meeting in July 2009. Ultimately, the Committee will consider that the Hauser Hardscape/Landscape project be divided into two (2) phases: a school property/landscape phase and a Village property/hardscape phase with a goal to complete the landscape phase during the summer of 2010. Concept 3 Architects will discuss possible changes to the existing landscape plan at an upcoming Building Committee meeting to take place following the start of the school year.

There were no updates from the Education or Finance Committees.

- 09-76 A motion was made by Mrs. Leimberer, supported by Mrs. Meindl, to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of considering appointment, employment, discipline or dismissal of employees and/or negotiations. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

- Ayes: Mr. McCarthy
- Mrs. Meindl
- Mr. Schraidt

Mrs. Stimming  
Mrs. Wakely  
Mrs. Leimberer  
Mrs. Jensen  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The time was 10:05 p.m.

09-77 A motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the closed session be adjourned and that the Board return to open session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Meindl  
Mr. Schraidt  
Mrs. Stimming  
Mrs. Wakely  
Mrs. Leimberer  
Mr. McCarthy  
Mrs. Jensen

Nays: None  
Absent: None

09-78 A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board approve the appointment of Non-Union Confidential/Supervisory Staff for the 2009-10 school year as presented in the personnel report. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Schraidt  
Mrs. Stimming  
Mrs. Wakely  
Mrs. Leimberer  
Mr. McCarthy  
Mrs. Meindl  
Mrs. Jensen

Nays: None  
Absent: None

09-79 There being no further business or reports, a motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The time was 1:00 a.m.

Recorded: August 18, 2009

Approved: September 15, 2009

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Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President