

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING AND
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009
A.F. Ames Elementary School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

2009-10 BUDGET HEARING

The 2009-10 Budget Hearing of the Board of Education, District 96, Riverside, Illinois, Cook County, was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Ames Elementary School, 86 Southcote Road, Riverside, Illinois.

09-80 President Mrs. Nancy Jensen called the budget hearing to order at 7:35 p.m. and on roll call the following members were recorded as being 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. Jonathan Lamberson, Superintendent; Ames School Principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe School Principal Bob Chleboun; Central School Principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood School Interim Principal Mindy Keller; Hauser Principal Leslie Berman; Hauser Assistant Principal Stacy Westin; Special Education Director Dr. Mary Polk; approximately 25 staff, parents and interested citizens of the community; and one reporter from the LANDMARK newspaper.

The 2009-10 Tentative Budget has been available for public review on the District 96 website and was placed on display in the Board of Education Offices, as required by Illinois School code, since August 3rd, 2009.

B. Mrs. Jensen opened the Budget Hearing and provided an opportunity for public comment.

District 96 parent, Olga Pribyl, asked Supt. Lamberson if he intended to give back the raise included in a contract renewal approved by the Board in June 2009. President Jensen commented that this was an inappropriate question to ask an employee of the District, and reiterated that the Board stands behind the contract offered to the Superintendent. Likewise she noted that it would be inappropriate to ask teachers or any other employee to give up their contractual raises.

Ames parent, Pearl Gaskins, commented that her daughter experienced a difficult start to the school year, and questioned why a teacher's aide is not being utilized in her child's classroom of 23 students while the teacher is on maternity leave. Supt. Lamberson commented that current policy doesn't provide non-special education teacher aides in the classroom. Mrs. Jensen further noted that every effort is made by the Administration to find experienced long-term substitute teachers to fill these vacancies. She acknowledged that occasionally these placements do not work out and that a change is necessary. Mrs. Lieggi acknowledged that a personnel change was needed and that a suitable replacement has been hired.

Riverside resident Don Spatny commented that, based on what he'd heard at the Finance Committee meeting, District 96 is in "good hands" financially. He is hopeful that a tax referendum will not be needed in the future.

A member of the audience commented on abuses that have taken place over the years in the teachers' pension system and inquired whether the District 96 Board of Education intends to go to Springfield to address this issue. Mrs. Jensen commented that, at this time, the Board is not planning a trip to Springfield regarding this matter and instead will focus on local issues.

Mrs. Jensen reminded the audience that comments made at this time should be limited to those related to the 2009-10 Budget.

09-81 There being no further comments from the public regarding the budget, a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mr. Schraidt, that the 2009-10 Budget Hearing be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

The time was 7:48 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-82 The Regular Business Meeting was immediately called to order at 7:49 p.m. by President Nancy Jensen and on roll call the following members were recorded as being 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. Jonathan Lamberson, Superintendent; Ames School Principal Colleen Lieggi; Blythe School Principal Bob Chleboun; Central School Principal Dr. Janice Limperis; Hollywood School Interim Principal Mindy Keller; Hauser Principal

Leslie Berman; Hauser Assistant Principal Stacy Westin; Special Education Director Dr. Mary Polk; approximately 25 staff, parents and interested citizens of the community; and one reporter from the LANDMARK newspaper.

B.1. Public Comment/Statement

Ames parent, Kate Nolan, expressed interest in receiving email “blasts” from District 96 when new announcements are posted on the District 96 website and when new fliers are posted in the Wednesday E-Backpack.

District 96 parent, Beth Zuschlag, addressed the Board regarding student performance on the 2008 ISAT. She urged the Board to focus on strategies that will help any students in demographic subgroups that didn’t meet state standards. She further expressed an interest in seeing the 2009 ISAT results.

Mrs. Jensen noted that District 96 Administrators have the 2009 ISAT results and that initial discussions by the Board regarding student performance on the ISAT will take place at an upcoming meeting.

Ames parent, Jim Raffensperger, volunteered to serve on the Special Board Committee appointed to investigate the District’s Flexible Boundary Policy (Item B.5.a. on tonight’s Agenda). He also urged the Board not renew the Demographer Contract (Item B.3.h. on tonight’s *Consent Agenda*.)

Dr. Lamberson discussed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests recently received by the District.

B.2. There were no comments from the R.E.C.

B.3. Mrs. Stimming asked that the following items be removed from the *Consent Agenda* for further discussion by the Board; President Jensen responded favorably to the request.

- a. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 18, 2009.
- h. Renewal of the Demographer Contract.

09-83 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* (Items B.3.b. through B.3.g. and Item B.3.i.) as follows:

- b. Minutes of the Closed Session of August 18, 2009.
- c. Acceptance of the Financial Statement as of August 31, 2009.
- d. Payment of General Invoices, Schedule A-690.
- e. Accepted the resignation of Hauser Jr. High School Special Ed. Paraprofessional Elizabeth Maskill.
- f. Approved the appointment of the following Non-Certified Staff members for the 2009-10 school year:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Debra Kwilas	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Hollywood
Victoria Potempa	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Hauser
Patricia Prodanich	Library Aide	Blythe & Hollywood
Hayley Waddle	Special Ed. Paraprofessional	Central

- g. Approved 12-week Maternity Leave request from Ames 4th Grade teacher Nicole Temple beginning on November 16, 2009 under the provisions of FMLA.
- i. Approved the 2009-10 Application for Recognition of Schools.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Seven
 Nays: None
 Absent: None

Mrs. Stimming proposed revisions to the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 18, 2009 that would include:

- The names of the individuals who addressed the Board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.
- A copy of the Open Letter sent to the Board by Mr. Tom Jacobs in August 2009 to be included as an appendix to the Minutes.
- The names of those Board members who responded at the August meeting to Tom Jacobs' Open Letter and copies of their written statements be included as appendices to the Minutes.
- Details of the Freedom of Information Act requests recently received by the District.

Following discussion Board members agreed that names of individuals addressing the Board could be added to future meeting minutes, however Mrs. Wakely objected to the remainder of Mrs. Stimming's proposed changes. Mrs. Wakely noted that current Board policy states that meeting minutes should contain "A general summary of the discussion on all matters presented, proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken" and that the August 19th Minutes fulfill these requirements as written.

09-84 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. McCarthy that the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 18, 2009 be approved as presented. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. McCarthy
 Mrs. Meindl
 Mr. Schraidt
 Mrs. Wakely
 Mrs. Wakely
 Mrs. Leimberer
 Nays: Mrs. Stimming
 Absent: None

Discussion began regarding the Demographer's Contract renewal. In 2006, District 96 hired professional demographer, Dr. Charles Kofron, to study geodemographic trends in the District. The study was comprised of three components:

1. Analysis of demographic trends – population and housing characteristics.
2. Five-year projections of student enrollment using available birth data.
3. Interview results of conversations with real estate agents who have worked in the District for several years.

Mrs. Stimming inquired about the accuracy of the study's results compared to actual enrollment numbers. She also conveyed reluctance to renew Dr. Kofron's contract because "in-migration" data is minimized and birth rate data is maximized in his methodology.

Other Board members expressed interest in renewing Dr. Kofron's contract to build on the data already collected and to assist those who will be serving on the Special Board Committee appointed to investigate the Flexible Boundary Policy.

09-85 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that Dr. Kofron's contract be renewed as presented. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Meindl
Mr. Schraidt
Mrs. Wakely
Mr. McCarthy
Mrs. Jensen
Nays: Mrs. Stimming
Mrs. Leimberer
Absent: None

B.4. Old Business.

B.4.a. Conversation took place regarding the following proposed 2009-10 District Goals:

1. Initiate a comprehensive strategic planning process
2. Implement new writing program (Regie Routman In Residence)
3. Implement "laptop initiative" in 5th Grade and prepare for 2010-11
4. Complete review of science curriculum for Grades 6-8
5. Complete negotiations with the REC by June 30, 2010
6. Evaluate progress of the following District 96 initiatives:
 - District 96 Cadre – Curriculum Mapping
 - District 96 Cadre – Inquiry (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 parental portal, extending to some elementary grades
 - Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences in Grades 3-8
 - Establishing "best practice" standards of civility and courtesy
7. Evaluate progress of implementing middle school in 2007-08
8. Evaluate Special Education Program and Administrative structure since 2006-07

9. Evaluate Technology (instructional and administrative) Program and Administrative structure since 2006-07

A question arose whether the Board could successfully accomplish all nine goals in one school year. Mrs. Jensen identified goal #1: *Initiating a Strategic Planning Process* and goal #5: *Complete negotiations with the REC by June 30, 2010* as Board goals, and noted that the remainder were Administrative goals. She recommended the development of a "timetable" for accomplishment of District goals.

Mrs. Leimberer commented that the word "Evaluate" stated in goals #7, #8, & #9 suggests that an "evaluation instrument" exists for assessment. She acknowledged that in August she requested these goals be added to the list, however she qualified that what she meant by "Evaluate" was simply to ask the questions: "What were the initial goals in these areas and how are we doing in accomplishing them?"

09-86 Following this discussion a motion was made by Mrs. Meindl, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the 2009-10 District Goals be adopted as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

Conversation took place regarding the 2009-10 Board Agenda Calendar. Mrs. Stimming commented that she would like to discuss 2009 ISAT data and 2010-11 draft goals earlier than currently scheduled on the agenda calendar. Mrs. Jensen noted that these items could be discussed earlier than scheduled.

09-87 There being no further discussion regarding the agenda calendar, a motion was made by Mrs. Meindl, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the 2009-10 Board Agenda be adopted as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

B.5. New Business.

B.5.a. Dialogue took place regarding the formation of a Special Board Committee appointed for the purpose of investigating the District's Flexible Boundary Policy. Mrs. Jensen noted that this Committee would operate under the parameters of the Open Meetings Act and asked if any Board member would be interested in serving on the Committee. Mrs. Leimberer, Mrs. Wakely, Mrs. Stimming and Mrs. Meindl volunteered their service. Mrs. Jensen commented that Board members could submit names of community members that might be interested in serving on this Committee. Mrs. Leimberer stated she hoped the Committee would represent a cross-section of the District 96 community.

B.5.b. Dr. Lamberson presented an "overview" of District 96 as a premier learning community that demonstrates strong fiscal stewardship. District 96 received the SchoolSearch 2009 Bright Red Apple Award, given to only 81 elementary school districts out of 868 total

public school districts in Illinois. The award is based on performance criteria in the following five categories:

1. Academic Performance
2. Pupil/Teacher Ratio
3. Expenditure Per Pupil
4. Educational Level of Teachers
5. Average Teacher Salary

When compared to the 81 top tier districts on the list, District 96 experienced the greatest change in the area of student enrollment; increasing from 1130 students in 2000-01 to 1487 students in 2008-09 (a 24% increase). District 96 maintains an Operating Expense Per Pupil level well below the average of the other top tier districts. Supt. Lamberson noted that the following cost saving measures contributed to the lower than average OEPP:

- Temporary increase in class size cap in Grades K-3 until enrollment declines (additional teaching staff not added)
- No increase in Health Insurance premiums in 2008-09
- Minimal 3% increase in cost of employee Health Insurance in 2009-10
- Small District Office staff when compared to districts with similar enrollment

Supt. Lamberson noted that the 2009-10 budget is comprised of the following:

- 74% in salaries and benefits
- 6% in additional special education costs
- 11% to repair and maintain facilities, including life safety work
- 9% for textbooks; teacher supplies; leases; office supplies; attorneys' fees; workers' compensation, liability, E&O, and property and casualty insurance; computers; cafeteria; athletics; library books and materials; assessment materials; staff training; new/repair musical instruments; fine arts programs; software upgrades; etc.

He noted that revenues will continue to exceed expenditures.

09-88 Following Supt. Lamberson's presentation a motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mr. McCarthy that the Board adopt the following resolution: That the fiscal year of the Riverside School District 96, Cook County, Illinois, shall begin on July 1, 2009 and end on June 30, 2010; and further that the budget as presented on Enclosure B.5.b. containing an estimate of amounts available in each Fund, and of expenditures from each, be adopted as the official budget of Riverside District 96 for fiscal year 2009-10. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schraidt
Mrs. Wakely
Mr. McCarthy
Mrs. Meindl
Mrs. Jensen
Nays: None
Abstain: Mrs. Stimming
Mrs. Leimberer

Absent: None

C.1.a. Colleen Lieggi noted there are 330 students enrolled at Ames School this year, almost double the enrollment of 170 students 9 years ago. She complimented Ames staff for the outstanding job they are doing in accommodating this incredible growth. In 2009-10, Ames students are participating in the revamped character building program "P.U.M.P.E.D." (Polite-Unique-Motivated-Positive-Enthusiastic-Determined) where students are recognized during daily announcements for their acts of kindness to others.

Dr. Limperis commented that enrollment at Central is also high this year at 390 students. Central School students are excited to participate in the "C.A.K.E." (Courteous And Kind to Everyone) program, in its second year at Central, where students are nominated by staff for their good deeds done to others. She is also very excited about the introduction of the Regie Routman In Residence writing curriculum to all District 96 teachers this year.

Bob Chleboun noted that Blythe's enrollment has increased to 191 students in 2009-10 from 171 in June 2009. Blythe Park students and staff are excited to expand the school's "Green Initiative" recycling program that began in 2008-09. Already this year the school is using the new Wednesday E-Backpack to post electronic copies of fliers and other information for parents instead of sending these items home in paper form.

Mindy Keller noted Hollywood's enrollment at 120 students this year. "Hollywood Stars" is the school's theme for 2009-10. On the first day of class students walked into school "as stars on the red carpet". To reinforce positive behavior, a "Superstar of the Day" will be recognized by Ms. Keller for his or her acts of kindness towards others.

All elementary principals and Project Manager Elizabeth Whaley expressed excitement about the 1 to 1 Laptop Initiative and the opportunities for learning it will provide to 5th Grade students. Students have received instruction on the "Do's and Don'ts" of laptop use and Internet Safety. Within the first several weeks of school, elementary principals and Mrs. Whaley have observed improved student engagement and performance in the areas of math differentiation and writing.

Administrative Coordinator Meg O'Brien highlighted many of the professional development programs that will be offered to staff in 2009-10 including:

- Difficult Report Card Conversations
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
- Balanced Literacy
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Regie Routman In Residence
- E-Z IEP
- Anti Bullying in Grades 4, 7 and 8
- Paraprofessional training in Guided Reading

As the District's K.I.T.E. (Kindergarteners Improving Toward Excellence) Coordinator, Mrs. O'Brien noted that the 2009-10 program is off to a good start following parent orientation that took place on Friday, 9/11/09.

Special Education Director Dr. Polk was pleased to note that the *Guide to Special Education Services for 2009-10* is complete; it is posted on the District's website. She also reported that following several meetings with parents over the summer, there is significant interest in year-round special education programs offered to District 96 residents by SEASPAR, Special Parks and Recreation. Dr. Polk hopes to mobilize the support of parents and other community stakeholders to approach Riverside Township to become a SEASPAR member.

"21st Century Learning" and "Global Awareness" are the school themes at Hauser in 2009-10. In keeping with these themes, Principal Berman commented that Hauser staff is excited to be "paperless" this year with the majority of staff forms and pertinent information being posted on the Hauser "Wiki" – an electronic repository for staff edited information. Teachers are looking forward to incorporating school themes into daily activities with students throughout the year. She was also pleased to report the success of this year's Bridge program designed to elevate success for those students transferring into the District.

Following the Opening of School Reports, the Board returned to the discussion of Board policies.

- 09-89 Following discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the Board approve the 1st Reading of Policy 2:220: Board of Education Meeting Procedure with the following amendments:

Currently, Item #3 under Minutes on Page 1 of 3 reads:

A general summary of the discussion on all matters presented, proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;

Item #3 under Minutes on Page 1 of 3 will be amended as follows:

A summary of the discussion on all matters presented, proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;

Currently, Item #8 under Minutes on Page 2 of 3 reads:

Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion; and

Item #8 under Minutes on Page 2 of 3 will be amended as follows:

Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion, *as well as his or her reasons*; and

Currently, paragraph 4 on Page 2 of 3 reads:

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 7 days after the Board's approval; they may be inspected in the District's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Superintendent or designee, or any Board member. Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public

inspection. The minutes shall not be removed from the Superintendent's office except by vote of the Board or by court order.

Paragraph 4 on Page 2 of 3 will be amended as follows:

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 7 days after the Board's approval; they may be inspected in the District's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Superintendent or designee, or any Board member. Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public inspection. The minutes shall not be removed from the Superintendent's office except by vote of the Board or by court order. *All documents submitted to the Board at a Board meeting will be filed at the District's main office.*

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

- 09-90 Following discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Stimming, supported by Mrs. Leimberer, that Item #7 on Page 1 of 3 of Board Policy 2:220-E4: Exhibit - Open Meeting Minutes be amended.

Currently, Item #7 reads as follows:

The minutes should be recorded in an objective but positive/constructive tone. Answers and explanations, rather than questions, are recorded. Writing style, including choice of words and sentence structure, is at the discretion of the individual recording the minutes.

The proposed amendment to Item #7 is as follows:

Writing style, including choice of words and sentence structure, is at the discretion of the individual recording the minutes.

The motion did not carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Leimberer
Mrs. Stimming
Nays: Mr. McCarthy
Mrs. Meindl
Mr. Schraidt
Mrs. Wakely
Mrs. Jensen
Absent: None

- 09-91 Following discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Meindl, supported by Mr. Schraidt, that the Board approve the 1st Reading of Policy 2:220-E4: Exhibit - Open Meeting Minutes with the following amendment:

Currently the Public Comments section on Page 3 of 3 reads:

Public Comments *(Reproduce this section for each individual making a comment.)*

The following individual appeared and commented on the topic noted below: *(Include the title of any documents presented to the Board.)*

Name: _____

Topic:

The Public Comments section on Page 3 of 3 will be amended as follows:

Public Comments *(Reproduce this section for each individual making a comment.)*

The following individual appeared and commented on the topic noted below: *(Include the title of any documents presented to the Board.)*

Name: _____

Topic:

Brief summary of comments:

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

09-92 Following discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board approve the 1st Reading of Policy 2:240: Board Policy Development as presented (without amendment). The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

C.1.c. Review of the Organizational Chart was deferred to the October meeting.

C.2. There was no update from the Building or Education Committees. Supt. Lamberson provided the Finance Committee update during the 2009-10 Budget presentation.

09-93 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, 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 vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

The time was 10:23 p.m.

09-94 A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the closed session be adjourned and that the Board return to open session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

The time was 11:15 p.m.

09-95 There being no further business or reports, a motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven
Nays: None
Absent: None

The time was 11:19 p.m.

Recorded: September 15, 2009

Approved: October 20, 2009

Board Secretary

Board President