

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
Of the Board of Education  
Riverside School District No. 96  
Held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009  
Blythe Park Elementary School  
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

09-109 The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 7:45 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 Jr. High School Principal, Leslie Berman; Professional Development and RtI Coordinator, Meg O'Brien; Special Education Director, Dr. Mary Polk; Technology Director, Vern Bettis; Hauser Jr. High School Art Teacher Harjit Singh; District 96 Orchestra Director, Patty Gill; District 96 Band Director, Jim Colombo; and approximately 25 staff, parents and interested citizens of the community; and one reporter from the LANDMARK newspaper.

Hauser Jr. High School Art Teacher, Harjit Singh, presented an overview of two community art projects his painting class students are participating in this year. Hauser students, in conjunction with students from Riverside Brookfield High School, had an opportunity to paint a number of panels that will be used to decorate the windows of the old Arcade Building in downtown Riverside. Mr. Singh thanked Supt. Lamberson and Riverside Brookfield High School for giving his students the opportunity to participate in a project that serves the needs of the public through art and community collaboration. Mr. Singh was also pleased to mention that Hauser students are painting several garbage drums in the "Ndebele House Painting" (South African) style that will be displayed throughout the District 96 community.

Hauser Jr. High School Principal, Leslie Berman, showed scenes from the 2008 spring musical performance of *Peter Pan* and extended an invitation to all those present to the 2009 fall musical performance of, *Music Man* taking place on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in the Hauser auditorium.

B.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

B.1.a. District 96 Orchestra Director, Patty Gill was pleased to report that in 2009-10, 97% of District 96 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are enrolled in instrumental music through band or orchestra. Mrs. Gill commented that this year's enrollment is the highest to date. She thanked the Riverside Elementary Education Foundation for their recent award of grant funds that are being used to help provide rental instruments at a reduced rate to students whose families are experiencing financial hardship. Mrs. Gill noted she is providing the remaining students (3% district-wide) the opportunity to play the piano as part of her orchestra program. Through these efforts, 100% of this year's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are receiving some form of instrumental music instruction. Mrs. Gill thanked Dr. Limperis, Mr. Chleboun, REEF and the Board for their continued support of the instrumental music program.

District 96 Band Director, Jim Colombo was pleased to report that 57% of Hauser students are enrolled in either band or orchestra in 2009-10 which is an 11% increase from last year.

Supt. Lamberson thanked Mrs. Gill and Mr. Colombo for their tremendous leadership and for encouraging student participation in instrumental music. He commented that the District Leadership Team and the Board believe student involvement in instrumental music is inordinately beneficial in helping students develop study and organizational skills and a sense of confidence as they accomplish something challenging.

B.1.b. Student performance on the 2009 ISAT was recently published on the Interactive Illinois Report Card website: <http://iirc.niu.edu>. The state of Illinois began administering the ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) in 1997. Prior to 1997 (from 1985 - 1997) Illinois used the IGAP (Illinois Goals Assessment Test) to measure student learning. Dr. Lamberson noted that the primary difference between the ISAT and the IGAP is that the ISAT is a "norm-referenced" test that compares student performance to that of other students; whereas the IGAP was a "criterion referenced" test that compared student performance to specified learning goals. Research data from the twelve-year period that the IGAP was administered shows an overall improvement in student performance. Increasingly, the learning goals were being met. The introduction of the ISAT in 1997 was a significant change. As with any "norm-referenced" test only a few students can perform at the highest level of the curve. Dr. Lamberson remarked it is the philosophy of the District 96 Leadership Team that multiple assessments are needed to properly evaluate student learning.

Discussion took place regarding whether federal NCLB (No Child Left Behind) legislation requires that a "norm-referenced" test be administered to students. Dialogue also occurred regarding what type of "criterion-referenced" tests could be given to students. Supt. Lamberson explained that many of the companies that once offered "criterion-referenced" tests have gone out of business with the introduction of NCLB, and that the ISAT is administered because it is mandatory in the state of Illinois.

Blythe Park Principal Bob Chleboun provided an overview of the spring 2009 ISAT results for District 96. He noted that per NCLB (No Child Left Behind) legislation, several criteria must be met in order for a School and District to make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress):

- Schools must meet the 95% participation rate on state assessments, in the aggregate and for all subgroups.

- Schools must meet the target of 70% of students meeting or exceeding state standards in reading and mathematics only, in the aggregate and for all subgroups.
- Schools must meet the 90% attendance rate for elementary and middle schools and a 78% graduation rate for high schools.

The ISAT assesses student performance by the following subgroup categories:

- Gender.
- Ethnicity.
- Income Level: Low Income or Non-Low Income.
- Language Proficiency: LEP (Limited English Proficient) or Non-LEP.
- Students with Disabilities: IEP (Individual Education Plan) or Non-IEP.
- Migrant Status: Migrant or Non-Migrant.

The ISAT requires a minimum of 45 students in a particular demographic subgroup in order for that subgroup to be recognized; and there must be at least 10 students per subgroup per grade level in order for test result data to be published.

ISAT testing is conducted in the following subjects areas and grade levels:

- Reading and Math: Grades 3 through 8.
- Science: Grades 4 and 7.
- Writing: Grades 3, 5, 6, 8.

Mr. Chleboun commented that Hollywood School and Hauser were selected by the state of Illinois to take part in a Writing Assessment “pilot “in Grades 4 and 7 in spring 2010.

In 2009, 92% of District 96 students met or exceeded state standards in all subject areas tested compared to 80% of students tested statewide.

Mr. Chleboun highlighted performance data for District 96 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students in the areas of Reading, Math, and Writing noted in the tables below:

**Number of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students tested: 164**

	Meets or Exceeds Standards	
Subject	D96	State
Reading	88.4%	72.2%

He noted that until recently, students in the LEP subgroup took a different test that accommodated for their Limited English Proficiency. That test has been eliminated and students in the LEP subgroup are now required to take the same test as Non-LEP students. In 2009, 90.8% of District 96 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Non-LEP students met or exceeded state standards in Reading compared to 54.5% of District 96 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade LEP students.

**Number of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students tested: 164**

	Meets or Exceeds Standards	
Subject	D96	State
Math	98.2%	85.2%

The first 30 questions on the Reading and Math assessments represent an abbreviated form of the *Stanford 10* – a nationally “norm-referenced” test. The table below shows the percentage of District 96 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students who performed in the highest quartile on the *Stanford 10* section of the Reading and Math tests compared to students in the state and nation:

**Number of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students tested: 164**

Subject	National Comparison		
	D96	State	Nation
Reading	57.9%	41.3%	25.0%
Math	64.0%	44.1%	25.0%

All District 96 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade demographic subgroups performed at a very high level on the Writing assessment ranging from 88.2% of IEP students to 98.6% of female students meeting or exceeding standards.

**Number of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students tested: 155**

Subject	Meets or Exceeds Standards	
	D96	State
Writing	95.5%	62.0%

Mr. Chleboun noted the District Leadership Team believes ISAT performance is one “snapshot” of a child’s learning profile. In addition to ISAT test results, Administrators consider all of the information gathered through local assessments, MAP assessments, Kindergarten assessments, report cards, and student portfolios to obtain an accurate picture of student learning.

A question arose regarding why only 59.7% of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students met or exceeded Writing standards in 2009. The Administration noted that 5<sup>th</sup> Grade performance in this area was relatively weak. Given that teachers do not have access to the writing assignments submitted by their students on the ISAT, identifying the specific areas of weakness on this test is unlikely. The *Regie Routman In Residence* writing program was introduced to improve student writing.

A Board member commented on the value of “content area literacy” instruction to support stronger student performance in the area of Science in the upper grades. Discussion took place regarding the importance of teaching students how to read “academic text” to help them better understand its content.

**B.3. Public Comment/Statement.**

District 96 parent Art Perry addressed the Board regarding the Village of Riverside’s decision to eliminate crossing guards from their budget beginning in 2010-11. He expressed disappointment in this decision by the Village and noted that crossing guards provide an essential service for the safety of District 96 children.

Mrs. Jensen thanked Mr. Perry for his remarks and commented that the Board would be discussing this decision by the Village in more detail later in the meeting.

B.1.c. Supt. Lamberson reported total District enrollment as of October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1,525 students:

- Ames: 334
- Blythe: 197
- Central: 391
- Hollywood: 119
- Hauser: 463
- Off-Campus Special Education – including ECE: 21

A question arose regarding what type of services are being provided to students in the “LADSE Phono” program noted at the bottom of the Enrollment Report. Special Education Director Dr. Polk remarked that this program provides 2.5 hours of speech services, two times per week, to students with profound speech deficiencies. On previous enrollment reports students attending the “Phono” program were counted in the Off-Campus ECE category. For clarity, a “LADSE Phono” program category has been added to the report to more accurately represent these students. Dr. Polk also noted that one District 96 student attends an Off Campus 2-Day per week ECE program (ECE Lite) offered by LADSE.

As of October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Supt. Lamberson reported 46 students attending school outside of their designated attendance area due to the District’s Maximum Class Size Policy and Flexible Boundary Plan.

B.1.d. As required by the Office of the Secretary of State, Supt. Lamberson reported that District 96 was awarded \$1,061.42 via the FY2010 Library Per Capita Grant. Per the grant application these funds will be used to update the biography sections of all District 96 school libraries and to purchase a *NovelList* subscription for each school.

B.2. From School Board Committees.

B.2.a. Building Committee Chair, Giles McCarthy reported that Committee members toured District 96 schools earlier this afternoon. The tours, conducted by Architects Mark Miller and Chris English from Concept 3 Architects and school principals, provided committee members the opportunity to become more familiar with the buildings and to assess their condition as the District prepares for upcoming Life Safety work and other needed maintenance projects for summer 2010.

Following school tours, Mark Miller presented revised plans for the summer 2010 Site Improvement/Landscaping projects at Hauser, Hollywood and Central schools. The Committee is hopeful these projects will be put out for bid shortly after the New Year for completion this summer.

Mr. McCarthy thanked Maintenance Director, Bill Radtke, and his staff for the outstanding job they do maintaining the District facilities.

B.2.b.-c. There were no updates from the Education or Finance Committees.

Flexible Boundary Committee Chair, Jennifer Leimberer provided the Board with a written summary report of the first Committee meeting held on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

Mrs. Leimberer and Mrs. Stimming will serve as members of the Committee; Mrs. Meindl will attend the meetings in a listening and learning capacity.

Thirteen people attended the first meeting including a parent representing each elementary school. The Committee hopes a parent(s) representing Hauser will join the discussion at future meetings. The Committee identified a "point person" at each school as follows:

- Ames School: Jim Raffensperger
- Blythe Park School: Karen Magee
- Central School: Greg Nessinger
- Hollywood School: To Be Determined

Mrs. Leimberer noted a fair amount of time was spent discussing "committee structure". She remarked that decisions will be made by consensus and anyone who has something to say is welcome to attend a meeting.

Mrs. Leimberer prepared a "Feedback Box" worksheet based on items stated as "priorities" in the Flexible Boundary Policy such as: Respond to changing trends in enrollment; Maintain equity; Maximize use of the existing facilities; Improve the quality of each school's programs. Committee members spent time discussing their impressions of how well the policy addresses its stated priorities. She noted that several discussion items were vetted as a result of using this worksheet.

Mrs. Leimberer remarked that the Committee is trying to ensure that the conversation about the effectiveness of the Flexible Boundary Policy is driven by data and not by people's perceptions of how the policy is working.

In preparation for the next meeting taking place on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. those in attendance were asked to read the following document posted on the District 96 website:

[A Preliminary Report from the Long Range Steering Committee on Recommendations to Achieve Desirable and Equitable Class Size Ratios and Facility Usage in District 96 Elementary Schools](#)

As PTA/O Liaison Mrs. Meindl reported that the District 96 Parent Leadership Team (PLT), comprised of PTA/O Presidents, meets monthly with Dr. Lamberson the day after the Board Meeting to discuss Board Meeting Business and things happening throughout the District. This monthly meeting also provides PLT the opportunity to put other items on the table for discussion. She remarked "it is a well-informed group that asks good questions" and it is her hope they are sharing the wealth of pertinent information discussed with the general public at their respective PTA/O meetings.

- B.3.a. No FOIA requests were received by the District since the last report given at the October meeting.
- B.4. There were no comments from the REC.
- C.1. Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of October 20, 2009.
- Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of October 20, 2009.

09-110 A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* (Items C.1.c. through C.1.e.) as follows:

- c. Acceptance of the Financial Statement as of October 30, 2009.
- d. Payment of General Invoices, Schedule A-692.
- e. Request for Medical Leave of Absence by Elementary Librarian Gail Bieschke.

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

09-111 A motion was made by Mrs. Stimming, supported by Mrs. Leimberer, that the following amendments be made to the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of October 20, 2009.

Currently the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> full paragraph on page 3 reads: "Dialogue occurred regarding whether the laptops could be "password protected" . . . ."

Mrs. Stimming proposed the 4<sup>th</sup> full paragraph on page 3 be amended as follows: "*Mrs. Wakely inquired* whether the laptops could be "password protected" . . . ."

Currently the 6<sup>th</sup> full paragraph on page 3 reads: "Discussion transpired regarding how parents can "opt out" without their children being adversely affected if the curriculum is being aligned for laptop use at home. Mrs. Whaley noted it will be the Administration's job to figure out how to help those students.

Mrs. Stimming proposed the 4<sup>th</sup> full paragraph on page 3 be amended as follows: "*Mrs. Stimming asked* how parents can "opt out" without their children being adversely affected if the curriculum is being aligned for laptop use at home. Mrs. Whaley noted it will be the Administration's job to figure out how to help those students. *Mrs. Stimming opined if the laptop program is designed to be integral to the curriculum, then by definition it is problematic to ask parents to "opt out."*

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. McCarthy  
Mrs. Meindl  
Mrs. Stimming

Nays: Mrs. Leimberer  
Mr. Schraidt  
Mrs. Wakely  
Mrs. Jensen  
Absent: None

Mrs. Wakely asked that it be reflected in the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of November 17, 2009 that she and Mrs. Meindl have decided not to serve as members of the Flexible Boundary Committee.

09-112 Following discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Leimberer, supported by Mrs. Stimming that the Board approve the Minutes of the Education Committee meeting of October 20, 2009 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

C.2. Old Business.

09-113 A motion was made by Mrs. Stimming, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the Board approve the 2<sup>nd</sup>/Final Reading of the following Board policies under review:

- a. Policy 2:260: Uniform Grievance Procedure Updates 1 & 2.
- b. Policy 5:220: Substitute Teachers.
- c. Policy 6:15: School Accountability.
- d. Policy 6:70: Teaching About Religions.
- e. Policy 6:235: Access to Electronic Networks.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

09-114 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board approve the 3-Year Teamster's Contract for District 96 custodial staff that includes a 3% hourly rate increase in each of the next 3 years; a 3.5% longevity bonus for employees who meet the eligibility criteria; and health insurance coverage provided by the Local 714 Teamster's Union. 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

C.3. New Business.

09-115 Supt. Lamberson remarked that, in keeping with past practice, District 96 will request the maximum tax revenue possible via the December levy; \$23,558,499 for tax year 2009. This request represents a 9.8% increase over the tax revenue extended to the District last year, however the levy is capped at .1% CPI. If the levy is submitted for an amount less than the maximum available, the District would not be able to amend its request upward at a later date. The Board can amend the levy request downward following the public hearing in December, but Dr. Lamberson stressed the purpose of tonight's vote is to pass a resolution that ensures the District will have the opportunity to request all dollars available.

A motion was made by Mrs. Leimberer, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Board approve the resolution establishing the date, time, and place of the 2009 Truth in Taxation Levy Hearing and publication of the Hearing Notice as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Seven  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

C.3.b. The Board will participate in a Board Development Workshop, facilitated by the IASB on Saturday, December 5, 2009. The Board's Strategic Planning Session will be rescheduled in the spring of 2010.

C.3.c. Several polices from **Section 7: Students** of the Board Policy manual were on tonight's agenda for discussion and possible amendment. By consensus, the Board agreed that the form naming the District 96 Non-Discrimination Coordinator should be added to **Policy 7:10 - Equal Educational Opportunities**.

Mrs. Stimming remarked she would like to withdraw her proposed revisions to the following policies:

- Policy 7:15: Student and Family Privacy Rights.
- Policy 7:100: Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students.
- Policy 7:200: Suspension Procedures.
- Policy 7:325: Student Fund Raising Activities.

By consensus, the Board agreed that the second sentence of the first paragraph on page 1 of **Policy 7:60 - Residence** contains a "typo" as prepared by the Illinois Association of School Boards. The word "person" in this sentence should be changed to "*person(s)*."

A question about this policy arose regarding whether a student can continue to attend school if their resident status is in question. Supt. Lamberson noted that if a student's resident status is in question, a letter is sent home to the parent or guardian via certified mail notifying them of the situation and requesting valid residency documentation. The parent or guardian must provide valid documentation or the student will be dropped from the school rolls. The parent or guardian can challenge the decision to drop a student via a hearing. If a hearing is requested the student can remain enrolled until the hearing occurs. The hearing will take place as soon as possible once the District receives the hearing

request. The hearing is conducted before a Hearing Officer. The Board renders the final decision based on the Hearing Officer's report. Per current policy the Board will seek tuition if residency is found to be invalid.

Mrs. Jensen remarked that **Policy 7:60 - Residence** in its current form is a standard policy supplied by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Following this discussion, Mrs. Stimming withdrew her request to amend **Policy 7:60**.

By consensus, the Board agreed that the last sentence in paragraph 1 of **Policy 7:70 - Attendance and Truancy** contains a "typo" as prepared by the Illinois Association of School Boards. There should be a space between "and(5) . . ." so it reads as follows:

*"and (5) . . ."*

Mrs. Stimming expressed interest in re-writing **Policy 7:180 - Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment**. After discussion, Mrs. Stimming withdrew her request to amend this policy at this time.

Mrs. Stimming proposed the following sentence be added to the **Students** section of **Policy 7:140 - Search and Seizure**:

*"Unless an emergency, the student's parents or guardian shall be contacted and their presence requested during the search. The search shall be conducted as follows . . ."*

Following discussion, President Jensen recommended the Board seek advice from legal counsel regarding whether this language should be added to the policy. Supt. Lamberson will contact Anthony Scariano of Scariano, Himes and Petrarca regarding the matter.

Following discussion, Mrs. Stimming withdrew her request to amend the following policies:

- Policy 7:80: Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance.
- Policy 7:150: Agency and Police Interviews.
- Policy 7:160: Student Appearance.
- Policy 7:210: Expulsion Procedures.
- Policy 7:220: Bus Conduct.
- Policy 7:310: Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material.
- Policy 7:340: Student Records.

C.3.d. As the District 96 Liaison with the Illinois Association of School Boards, Mrs. Leimberer will attend the Annual Meeting of the IASB Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 21, 2009. At this meeting delegates from member school districts will have an opportunity to vote on the new resolutions; amendments to existing IASB positions; and reaffirmation of existing IASB positions being presented.

C.3.e. Dialogue transpired regarding the Village of Riverside's decision to eliminate crossing guards from their budget effective at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. Through an initial survey Supt. Lamberson reported that crossing guard service is provided by the village for most member school districts of the West Suburban Consortium of Academic Excellence (WSCAE). Similar to District 96, some member districts pay school employees

to supervise cross walks located adjacent to school property. Crossing guards situated at cross walks elsewhere in these communities are typically provided by their respective villages. Dr. Lamberson noted that District 96 currently subsidizes the cost of one and a half crossing guards employed by the Village of Riverside.

In discussion Board members expressed their belief that crossing guard service is a matter of public safety that should be provided by public safety officials who are qualified to run and supervise an effective program. Supt. Lamberson remarked he would be willing to work with members to draft a resolution for approval in December that expresses the Board's position on this matter.

09-116 There being no further business or reports, a motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, 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 10:15 p.m.

Recorded: November 17, 2009

Approved: December 15, 2009

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Board Secretary

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