

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
of the Board of Education  
Riverside School District No. 96  
Held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010  
L. J. Hauser Jr. High School  
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

Enclosure  
C.1.a.  
02/16/10

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

10-01 The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by President Nancy Jensen and on roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Absent: Mr. Giles McCarthy

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; Administrative Coordinator, Meg O'Brien; Special Education Director, Dr. Mary Polk; Technology Director, Vern Bettis; 1-to-1 Laptop Initiative Project Manager Elizabeth Whaley; approximately 25 staff, parents and interested citizens of the community; and one reporter from the LANDMARK newspaper.

B.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

B.1.a. Supt. Lamberson reported total District enrollment as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 1,531 students including 18 students attending the ECE program at Blythe Park School and 7 students who attend ECE support programs off-campus. He noted that District 96 enrollment has not been at this level since 1971. Of the 1,531 total students enrolled, there are 48 students in K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade who are attending outside of their attendance area due to the Flexible Boundary Plan.

B.1.b. Dr. Lamberson presented the *District 96 Dashboard, A Strategic Progress Monitoring Tool to Assess Attainment of District Goals*. The *District's Dashboard* was developed per Mrs. Jensen's request to highlight the areas tracked by the District Leadership Team to measure progress toward achievement of the District's strategic goals.

The *Dashboard* concept comes from a business model that says "You can't look at all things that occur in an organization and evaluate its efficacy. Everything that occurs in an organization can't be of equal importance." Rather, key performance indicators should be monitored to evaluate effectiveness.

The District 96 *Dashboard* intends to quantify the District's performance in four strategic goal areas by observing certain benchmarks over a 3-year period:

**1. Improve the Academic Achievement of All Students**

- Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards on ISAT.
- Percentage of students meeting spring growth/performance target in reading and math on MAP.
- 3-year average of Grades 6-8 cohort exceeding state standards in reading and math on ISAT.
- Average district-wide class size as reported on the State Report Card.
- Percentage of student groups achieving AYP in reading and math.
- Percentage of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students achieving highest stanines in reading and math.

**2. Provide an Exemplary, Dynamic Academic Program**

- Number of initiatives designed to improve academic programs.
- Number of programs eliminated due to financial reason or school capacity constraints.

**3. Enhance and Retain Creative Teachers who are Exceptional Critical Thinkers**

- Percentage of teacher retention.
- Percentage of teachers in attendance on Institute Days.
- Student-to-classroom teacher ratio.
- Student-to-all certified teachers ratio.
- Percentage of certified teachers with Master's Degree.

**4. Evidence Good Fiscal Stewardship**

- Operating expense per pupil is below the average of the highest performing elementary school districts, as listed on "Bright Red Apple Awardees."
- Percentage of spending for classroom instruction is above the state average.
- Percentage of fund balance to revenue as per ISBE's School District Financial Profile.
- Percentage of expenditures to revenue as per ISBE's School District Financial Profile.
- Highest financial profile rating by ISBE.

Supt. Lamberson stated that the *District's Dashboard* as presented is a "work in progress" and encouraged Board members to forward their feedback to him.

B.2. From School Board Committees.

There were no updates from the Building or Finance Committees.

B.2.c. Education Committee Chair, Hareena Wakely, provided an update from the Education Committee meeting that took place earlier this evening. She noted that the International Baccalaureate Study Group presented the findings of their research conducted over the past several months regarding International Baccalaureate Educational Programs. In the continuous effort to enhance the curriculum, Supt. Lamberson asked the study group to investigate whether implementation of the highly regarded IB Middle Years Program would benefit students at Hauser. A wealth of valuable information was presented by the study group that will be posted on the District 96 website. Mrs. Wakely noted that the study group is waiting for direction from Dr. Lamberson and the Board regarding next steps.

A review of the *Regie Routman in Residence* writing program implementation was presented to the Committee by Dr. Limperis and Mrs. O'Brien. Language Arts Committee teachers are using the new curriculum in their classrooms this year. Remaining Elementary Classroom teachers, Special Education teachers, and 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts teachers are receiving professional development in the program throughout 2009-10 for implementation in 2010-11.

Elementary music teachers Bill Howes and Jane Lauritsen proposed a change to the elementary music performance schedule in an effort to enhance the music curriculum. Mrs. Wakely remarked that the elementary school principals fully support the proposed changes and that, by consensus, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend adoption of the proposal to the Board.

Mrs. Jensen stated that the music department proposal would be added to the February meeting agenda as an item of *New Business*.

B.2.d. Flexible Boundary Committee Chair, Jennifer Leimberer, noted that the Flexible Boundary Policy was reviewed in detail at the last committee meeting. Discussion transpired among those in attendance regarding perceived discrepancies between the way the policy is written and the way it is seemingly used to place students in District 96 schools. She noted that those in attendance found the policy language difficult to understand. The committee is developing a list of recommended policy changes. Mrs. Leimberer remarked that approved Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting Minutes and supporting documentation are posted on the District 96 website for those interested in following the Committee's discussion and progress.

B.2.e. There were no updates provided by Board liaisons.

B.3. Public Comment/Statement.

Riverside resident, Tom Jacobs, acknowledged the Board and thanked members for their ongoing conversation with the Village of Riverside regarding crossing guard service.

As a member of the Riverside Sustainability Council, Mr. Jacobs inquired whether District 96 was aware of the *Farm to School* program that connects schools to local farms for the purposes of serving healthy foods in school cafeterias; providing health, nutrition and environmental education opportunities; and to support local and regional farmers.

Supt. Lamberson stated that although District 96 is not currently involved in this program he would be interested in learning more about it.

Mrs. Jensen thanked Mr. Jacobs for bringing this program to the Board's attention and remarked that Dr. Lamberson could explore the program with the Administrative team and bring a recommendation to the Board for consideration.

A Hollywood parent addressed the Board regarding comments shared at a recent PTA meeting about the possible relocation of the ECE program to Hollywood School in 2010-11. She noted that some 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students were unable to attend Hollywood School this year because the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class was full. She stated parents are wondering how there will be room to run a new program in the building when there wasn't enough room to accommodate all of its resident students, causing some to be displaced to another District 96 school.

Mrs. Jensen thanked the parent for her comments and noted that a relocation of the ECE program will be an Administrative decision rather than a Board decision.

Supt. Lamberson also thanked this parent for her remarks and stated that the District Leadership Team is open to considering all relocation options for the ECE program that are consistent with finding a permanent home for the program for the next few years. He further remarked that he hopes to bring a recommendation to the Board in April.

B.3.a. No FOIA requests were received by the District since the last report given at the December meeting.

B.4. There were no comments from the Riverside Education Council.

C.1. Consent Agenda.

President Jensen stated that the approved Minutes of the Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting of December 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 will be added to tonight's *Consent Agenda*.

10-02 Following notation of typos that need to be corrected in the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 15, 2009, a motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* (Items C.1.a. through C.1.f.) as follows:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 15, 2009.
- b. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of December 15, 2009.
- c. Approval of the Financial Statement as of December 31, 2009.
- d. General Invoices, Schedule A-694.
- e. Resignation, Instructional Staff, Schedule B-383.
- f. Appointment, Support Staff, Schedule C-929.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

C.2. Old Business.

C.2.a. Supt. Lamberson commented that the calendar discussion is still ongoing and that the Board does not need to take action this evening. He indicated that parent feedback continues to be that there is no need to align the District 96 winter break with the high school schedule. There has been some discussion from staff regarding the possibility of moving the school year start date from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> so that the first week of school would end with the Labor Day weekend. Making this change would push the end of the school year toward the middle of June.

Dr. Lamberson remarked that a suggestion has been made to imbed additional Parent/Teacher Conference time into the calendar. This change would take away from instructional time unless the REC during negotiations this spring votes for an

increase in the number of annual teacher work days. If the REC makes that decision he noted that the calendar can be adjusted at that time.

Dr. Lamberson noted that he is trying to establish a level of “predictability” for parents from year to year regarding major aspects of the school calendar such as start date, end date, and winter break. He stated that parents and staff have expressed universal agreement that school should not resume on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 following winter break. It is likely that the first week in January 2012 will be a 4-day week with school resuming on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A question arose regarding whether the Administration would consider starting the school year with three full student attendance days at the beginning of the week (Monday through Wednesday) and ending the week with a half-day for students on Thursday and a Teacher Institute Day on Friday. Dr. Lamberson remarked that teachers have expressed the need for preparation time before students return on the first Institute Day of the new school year.

A question was asked regarding how many instruction days are required by the state. Supt. Lamberson noted that the minimum requirement is 175 pupil attendance days exclusive of 5 emergency days. District 96 can add student attendance days to the school calendar but cannot have fewer than the required 175 days.

Dr. Lamberson reiterated that no decision is required tonight but asked the Board to continue thinking about the start date for next school year for action at the February meeting.

10-03 Ames School Principal, Colleen Lieggi provided a brief update of the success of the laptop initiative at Hollywood School. She noted that laptops have been going home with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students as assigned by their classroom teacher and that this aspect of the program is running very smoothly. She noted that students have demonstrated great responsibility for their computers and that parent feedback has been very positive. Based on this success at Hollywood School, the Laptop Initiative Team is seeking Board approval to allow 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students at the remaining elementary schools to begin taking their laptops home when assigned by their teacher no later than March 1, 2010.

1-to-1 Laptop Initiative Project Manager, Liz Whaley, also stated she is very pleased with implementation of the program at Hollywood School and that she is hopeful the Board will approve a roll-out of this aspect of the program at the other elementary schools this evening. She noted that if approval is given, a meeting with all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade parents will be scheduled to discuss the logistics of bringing the laptops home and to provide information regarding internet safety in the home. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions at these meetings so they can feel comfortable about the computers coming home.

A question arose regarding how many times per week Hollywood 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are taking their computers home. It was noted that on average the laptops are going home once or twice per week as assigned by the classroom teacher.

A Board member inquired what top three concerns were raised by Hollywood School parents at the information meeting. Mrs. Whaley noted that no particular question was raised repeatedly but that a variety of issues were discussed including:

- Who is responsible if a laptop is damaged?
- Are the laptops too heavy for students to carry?
- Will the laptops be stolen by high school students as the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders walk home from school?

She commented that District 96 will pay for laptop repairs as they arise but that there have been none to-date.

A question arose regarding how many of the Hollywood 5<sup>th</sup> Grade parents attended the laptop information meeting. Mrs. Whaley noted that the meeting was very well attended and that she tries to meet briefly with each family to discuss internet safety before the computers go home. She noted that parents are required to sign a "permission slip" acknowledging their approval for the laptops to come home. All parents will be given an information packet regarding the program even if they are unable to attend the parent meeting. Contact information for Mrs. Whaley and Technology Director, Vern Bettis, is included in the packet.

- 10-04 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. Schraidt, that the Board approve the extension of the Hollywood Laptop Pilot at the remaining schools no later than 3/1/10.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- 10-05 A motion was made by Mrs. Stimming, supported by Mrs. Leimberer, that the Board approve the 2<sup>nd</sup>/Final Reading of Board Policy 6:50 School Wellness currently under review.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

- 10-06 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the Board approve the 2<sup>nd</sup>/Final Reading of Board Policy 7:140 Search and Seizure currently under review.

Mrs. Stimming asked that it be reflected in the meeting minutes that she is strongly in favor of the language that has been inserted into this policy however she cannot vote

in favor of it given that, as written, permission is given to staff to search students prior to parents being contacted in non-emergency situations.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

C.3. New Business.

10-07 A motion was made by Mrs. Leimberer, supported by Mrs. Jensen, that the Board adopt a resolution to Elect that Certain Assessment Relief Provided by the Revenue Act of 1939 for Historic Buildings Not Apply to Taxes that are Levied by the Board of Education of School District No. 96, Cook County, Illinois.

Supt. Lamberson remarked that the Board adopts this resolution annually but that unfortunately the county ignores the District's request each year. He recommended that the Board adopt the resolution again this year for the county's consideration.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

10-08 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the Board approve the Memo of Understanding for the Race To The Top (RTTT) Grant.

Supt. Lamberson apologized for bringing this item to the Board at the same meeting when action is required. He noted that the state application process did not coincide with the December Board meeting date. Through the RTTT grant, federal funds are being made available to school districts on a pro-rated basis to support Title I programs for low-income students to be distributed over a 3-year period. Currently approximately 15% of District 96 students fall into the low-income category. Currently District 96 receives approximately \$94,000 annually in federal funding to support Title I programs. Through the RTTT grant District 96 could receive an additional \$45,000 annually for the next 3 years. Dr. Lamberson commented that after discussing the grant with President Jensen, he submitted the District 96 grant application prior to Board action because he did not want to miss this revenue opportunity. He noted that if the Board decides not to take action this evening he will withdraw the District's application.

Discussion transpired regarding the teacher performance evaluation component of the grant application that differs from the teacher evaluation procedure currently in place in District 96. This issue may have to be addressed during negotiations with the REC in the spring.

Following this discussion, the motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- 10-09 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Stimming, to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing litigation, student discipline, collective bargaining, and/or negotiations, and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

- 10-10 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Leimberer, that the closed session be adjourned and that the Board return to open session.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Six  
Nays: None  
Absent: Mr. McCarthy

- 10-11 There being no further business or reports, a motion was made by Mr. Schraidt, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Six  
Nays: None  
Absent: Mr. McCarthy

The time was 10:15 p.m.

Recorded: January 19, 2010

Approved: February 16, 2010

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Board Secretary

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Board President