

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Hollywood Elementary School
Cook County, Riverside, Illinois

Enclosure
C.1.b.
04/20/10

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

- 10-22 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
Mrs. Mary Stimming
Mrs. Hareena Wakely

Absent: Mr. James Schraidt

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; PAV YMCA Program Coordinator Mary Fehrman; and approximately 20 staff, parents and interested citizens of the community.

- B.1. From Superintendent and Staff.

Supt. Lamberson noted that the Finance Committee would like to add an item to tonight's *Consent Agenda*.

- 10-23 A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that a *Resolution to Loan Monies From the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund* be added to this evening's *Consent Agenda*. Mr. McCarthy commented that anticipated funds have not been received from the State of Illinois. If approved, this resolution will authorize the temporary transfer of \$300,000 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund to support Special Education transportation costs.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: Mr. Schraidt

- B.1.a. Dr. Lamberson reported total District enrollment as of February 26th, 2010 at 1534 students including 20 students attending the ECE program at Blythe Park School and 8 students who attend ECE support programs off-campus. Of the 1,534 total students enrolled, there are 49 students in K-5th Grade who are attending outside of their attendance area due to the Flexible Boundary Plan.

B.1.b. Supt. Lamberson reported that, following the close of Kindergarten Registration on Friday 3/12/10, 153 students are registered for Kindergarten in 2010-11 as follows:

	Enrollment As of 3/12/10	Capacity (Class limit of 20)	Enrollment Over Capacity
Ames	57	40	17
Blythe	26	20	6
Central	55	60	-5
Hollywood	15	20	-5
	153	140	13

Note: Per Board policy, electronic residency validation will be conducted on all 153 students by National Investigations, Inc.

In addition to the 153 fully registered students, there are 7 potential students whose families have made contact with District 96 but have not completed the registration process.

Dr. Lamberson noted that, based on past experience, he anticipates KA enrollment will increase to the mid-160's by the end of this summer. To accommodate for this, he recommended that the number of KA sections District-wide be increased from 7 to 8 in 2010-11. In an effort to allow as many students as possible to attend school in their attendance area he also recommended that the Board approve a District-wide increase in the Kindergarten class size limit from 20 to 23 students per section in 2010-11 later this evening.

Dr. Lamberson remarked that 2010-11 Kindergarten enrollment was projected at 116 students following distribution of a KA Planning Survey to current District 96 families and to area pre-schools in February. Projected KA enrollment following KA Information Night on March 4th was significantly higher, at 147 students. He noted that the KA Planning Survey may be discontinued if its predictive accuracy does not improve next year.

B.1.c. Beginning in 2009-10, Before and After School programs in District 96 elementary schools are run by the PAV YMCA. Dr. Limperis noted that average participation per school is as follows:

Ames	24
Blythe	12
Central	32
Hollywood	12 (on Tuesday and Thursdays)

PAV Program Director, Mary Fehrman, shared the results of a District 96 parent satisfaction survey conducted recently. She noted that parents/guardians were asked to rate their "level of satisfaction" (with 1 being the lowest rating; 5 being the highest rating) with the following areas of the program:

- Age of staff
- Location of program
- Activities
- Flexibility
- Safety of Children

- Snack
- Structure
- Staff Performance
- Administration
- Billing
- Registration Process
- Cost
- Staff to Child Ratio
- Half Day Program/School's Out Days
- Overall Quality of Program

Ms. Fehrman was pleased to note that each program area above received a rating of 4 or 5 by all parents surveyed.

She also noted other positive aspects of the program as expressed by District 96 parents as follows:

- Program availability at all District 96 elementary schools – students are not “bussed” to an alternate location.
- Enrollment flexibility – open enrollment throughout the year. (Parents can change the number of enrollment days per week and can add morning or afternoon care as needed.)

Changing to a weekly or monthly payment schedule (instead of the current bi-weekly payment schedule) was noted as an area for improvement by District 96 parents.

Supt. Lamberson thanked Ms. Fehrman for the wonderful job she and her staff are doing running the Before/ After School Program in District 96 schools this year, and he expressed interest in continuing the program in 2010-11.

B.1.d. Dr. Lamberson was very pleased to note that District 96 once again received the *SchoolSearch Bright Red Apple Award for Educational Excellence* based on achievement in the following five “family friendly” areas.

- Academic Performance
- Pupil/Teacher Ratio
- Operating Expenditure Per Pupil
- Educational Level of Teachers
- Average Teacher Salary

He commented that only 81 school districts, out of a total 868 districts in Illinois, won this award. He thanked District 96 staff, parents, and students for the outstanding job they are doing on a daily basis to help make District 96 schools exceptional.

It was mentioned that corporations provide *SchoolSearch Bright Red Apple Award* data to families that are relocating for employment.

B.1.e. Supt. Lamberson was also delighted to note that Blythe Park (for the 6th year), Central School (for the 3rd year), and Hauser Jr. High (for the first time) won the *Illinois State Board of Education Academic Excellence Award* based on the following criteria:

- In PK-8 schools, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years;
- In high schools, 80 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years; and
- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008 and 2009, which includes:
 - At least 70 percent meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics;
 - 95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup;
 - Attendance rate of at least 90 percent for elementary and middle schools and a graduation rate of at least 78 percent for high schools.

Dr. Lamberson noted Hauser’s achievement as exceptional because during the 3-year evaluation period the school experienced the following changes:

- 30% increase in student enrollment
- 280% increase in the number of low-income students
- 400% increase in diversity

Supt. Lamberson commented that at least 90% of the students at Ames and Hollywood Schools met or exceeded state standards in reading and math for the last two years. He further noted that if students perform similarly this year he anticipates these schools will win the ISBE Academic Excellence award next year.

Mrs. Jensen thanked District 96 principals, staff and students for their outstanding achievement.

B.1.f. The federal government is requiring all public school students to be re-identified in terms of ethnicity and race. To comply, the *U. S. Department of Education Race and Ethnicity Data Standards* form will be included in District 96 2010-11 registration materials. Director of Technology, Vern Bettis, commented that the ethnicity and race information gathered on these forms will be entered into PowerSchool (the District 96 student database) and then uploaded to the ISBE Student Information System.

Per instructions on the form, “the school district is required to provide missing information by observer identification,” if parents decline to complete the form.

Supt. Lamberson commented that any questions regarding the District’s compliance with this federal and state requirement should be directed to Mr. Bettis.

B.1.g. District 96 2010 Census liaison, Meg O’Brien, provided an update on the District’s efforts to “pass the word” about the importance of completing the 2010 Census survey. She noted that a *United States Census is Coming* flier has been posted on the District website and on each school’s website (in the Wednesday eBackpack) in an effort to notify parents. Mrs. O’Brien was pleased to share that District 96 ELL teachers translated an informational letter about the 2010 Census into the native language of District 96 ELL students. She also noted that 2010 Census coloring books had been distributed to K-2 Grade students.

B.3. Public Comment/Statement (at 8:15 p.m.).

There were no comments from members of the public.

B.2. From School Board Committees.

There were no updates from the Education or Building Committees.

B.2.a. Committee member, Giles McCarthy, provided an update from the Finance Committee meeting that took place earlier this evening. He noted that a representative from a firm that specializes in school finance presented various funding options available to the District for capital improvement projects. He commented that the Finance and Building Committees are working closely together to formulate a "roadmap" for the improvement of District 96 schools. This "roadmap" will include the development of a capital improvement projects list as well as a list of financing alternatives. He noted that, due to low interest rates, current economic conditions are favorable for borrowing and that the Committee will continue to research various financing alternatives.

The Committee discussed 2010-11 student fees. Mr. McCarthy was pleased to report that the Committee recommends no increase in student fees for the 5th consecutive year.

Mr. McCarthy stated that overall fiscal projections as set forth in the budget last year are on track and that only minor adjustments will be made prior to the close of this fiscal year on June 30th, 2010.

Mr. McCarthy was pleased to report that District 96 recently received the highest "financial health rating" possible from the Illinois State Board of Education. He thanked Dr. Lamberson and the District Leadership Team for their hard work in demonstrating strong fiscal stewardship.

B.2.d. Flexible Boundary Committee Chair, Jennifer Leimberer, remarked that the Committee met several times since the February 16th Board meeting. She noted that Committee members have reached consensus regarding the following:

- The current Flexible Boundary Plan should be divided into two policies: a Class Size policy and a Student Placement policy.
- District 96 parents value:
 - 1) class size
 - 2) neighborhood schools
 - 3) keeping siblings together

The Committee is still running enrollment scenarios in an effort to develop a clearly articulated policy that accommodates the community's stated values and includes recommended procedural guidelines. Mrs. Leimberer remarked that the Committee hopes to present their recommendations in the fall.

Mrs. Jensen provided a summary of the Committee of the Whole meeting that took place at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon regarding Board policies currently under review. She noted that District 96 receives *PRESSPlus* updates from the Illinois Association of

School Boards containing recommended revisions to school board policy as a result of changes in legislation. The Committee of the Whole met for the purpose of reviewing the recommended changes and to take action to adopt those changes into District 96 policies. As most of the recommended changes are per state law, Mrs. Jensen remarked that it would be prudent for these updates to be reflected in District 96 policies. The recommended changes will be posted on the District 96 website for public comment until April 20th, 2010.

- B.2.e. There were no updates provided by Board liaisons.
- B.3.a. No FOIA requests were received by the District since the last report given at the February meeting.
- B.4. Riverside Education Council President, Patty Gill, remarked that the REC negotiating team is looking forward to the first negotiation meeting taking place on Wednesday, March 24th. Mrs. Jensen thanked Mrs. Gill for her comments and noted that the Board's negotiating team is also looking forward to a successful negotiations process.
- C.1. Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Leimberer asked that the following items be added to this evening's *Consent Agenda*:

- Minutes of the Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting of February 11, 2010.
- Minutes of the Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting of February 18, 2010.
- Minutes of the Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting of March 4, 2010.

Board President Jensen responded favorably to this request.

- 10-24 A motion was made by Mrs. Meindl, supported by Mrs. Wakely, that the Board approve the items listed under the *Consent Agenda* (Items C.1.b. through C.1.l., excluding Item C.1.h. *Dismissal Resolutions* that will be discussed during Closed Session.) as follows:

- b. Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting of February 16, 2010.
- c. Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of February 16, 2010.
- d. Minutes of the Flexible Boundary Committee Meeting of January 27, 2010; February 11, 2010; February 18, 2010; March 4, 2010.
- e. Approval of the Financial Statement as of February 28, 2010.
- f. Payment of General Invoices, Schedule A-696.
- g. ISBE Applications for Building Permits - Ames, Hauser, and Hollywood Schools.
- h. Dismissal Resolutions.
- i. Designation of 52-Week Employee Holidays, 2010-11.
- j. Resignation, Instructional/Certified Staff, Schedule B-385
- k. Resignation, Support Staff, Schedule B-386.
- l. Resolution to Loan Monies From the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Consent Agenda Item C.1.a. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of February 16, 2010 will be considered at the April meeting.

Supt. Lamberson commented he anticipated Board action would occur this evening regarding *Consent Agenda Item C.1.h. Dismissal Resolutions* following Closed Session. He remarked that it is standard practice in District 96 to process dismissal notices at this time for all probationary (first year) Special Education Paraprofessionals because Special Education needs for next school year have not yet been determined.

C.2. Old Business.

C.2.a. Supt. Lamberson summarized his recent meeting with Riverside Village Manager, Peter Scalera, and Riverside Police Chief, Tom Weitzel, regarding community crossing guards. During their meeting, Mr. Scalera and Chief Weitzel expressed grave concern at the possibility that crossing guard service may not be provided at the downtown Riverside railroad tracks and at the busy 4-way intersection. They presented an *Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Riverside and Riverside School District #96 Relative to the Provision of School Crossing Guard Services (IGA)* for the Board's consideration. Dr. Lamberson highlighted the following provisions of the proposed Agreement:

- The Village of Riverside will hire 8, part-time seasonal school crossing guards (the crossing guards currently in place).
- The Village of Riverside will hire 1, part-time Community Service Officer (CSO) to supervise crossing guard performance.
- District 96 will reimburse the Village of Riverside monthly for all salary (including overtime pay if applicable) and related employee benefit costs (including but not limited to equipment and safety apparel costs) associated with employing school crossing guards and the CSO.

Dr. Lamberson commented that District 96 currently subsidizes twenty percent (20%) of the cost of community crossing guard service. He estimated the full program cost to be approximately \$80,000 in the first year. He also noted that attorney Anthony Scariano will incorporate a detailed review of the proposed IGA in his written legal opinion regarding community crossing guards.

Board members expressed concern about the following aspects of the proposed Agreement:

- District 96 is being asked to assume the full cost of school crossing guard service which is a municipal responsibility (state law allows the municipality to levy taxes specifically for school crossing guards).
- District 208 is not being asked to share the cost.

- The IGA contains no provision that specifies “the hiring of crossing guards shall occur for school purposes only”.
- The IGA contains no provision to ensure that funds contributed by District 96 will pay for crossing guards placed at intersections that District 96 students use to travel safely to and from school.
- Crossing guard work hours.

Discussion transpired regarding the possibility of District 96 presenting a “gift” to the Village of Riverside that would fund school crossing guard service for the next few years providing the Village an opportunity to develop a viable funding strategy for the future.

Following this discussion, Supt. Lamberson thanked the Board for their willingness to discuss how District 96 can help provide crossing guard service for students’ safety. He noted that Village Manager Scalera has asked for the Board’s decision regarding this matter by May 31st, 2010.

10-25 As presented earlier this evening, 8 sections of Kindergarten will be required next year to accommodate enrollment. Supt. Lamberson recommended that the Board increase the KA class size limit in 2010-11 from 20 to 23 students District-wide to allow as many students as possible to attend their neighborhood school. He remarked that next year’s KA enrollment is at the high end of the demographer’s projections and noted that 41% of the 153 currently registered KA students are from families that are new to District 96.

Dialogue took place regarding the basis for the demographer’s projections. Discussion also transpired regarding the possibility of adding capacity to make Blythe Park a two-section school to better accommodate increasing enrollment.

Following this discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the KA class size limit be increased District-wide in 2010-11 from 20 to 23 students.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

10-26 The certified public accounting firm of Evans, Marshall & Pease, P.C. submitted to the Board a Two-Year Agreement for Audit Services beginning with fiscal year 2010. Supt. Lamberson noted that EM&P has done an outstanding job providing quality auditing services in recent years and recommended that their two-year contract be approved.

Following these remarks a motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mr. McCarthy, that the Evans, Marshall & Pease, P.C. Two-Year Agreement for Audit Services be approved.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

C.3. New Business.

C.3.a. 2010-11 School Fees were discussed by the Finance Committee earlier this evening. Dr. Lamberson noted that, in April, he will be recommending no increase in school fees for the 5th consecutive year. He will also bring suggestions of how Hauser fees can be combined to make payment more convenient for parents.

10-27 A motion was made by Mrs. Wakely, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the Board approve the 1st Reading of Board policies currently under review as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards in *PRESSPlus* Issues 68, 69, 70 and 71 and approved by the Committee of the Whole earlier this evening.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: Mr. Schraidt

C.3.c. Supt. Lamberson noted that DuPage County Consolidated School District 181 has initiated the process to withdraw from the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE), effective July 1, 2011. If District 181 can demonstrate to ISBE they are capable of providing the same level of Special Education services to their students as LADSE their withdrawal will be approved by the state legislature. Having greater program control was noted as one of the reasons District 181 is interested in withdrawing. With an enrollment of more than 4,000 students, District 181 is one of the largest school districts in the LADSE Cooperative and the effect of their withdrawal could be significant. Amended LADSE Articles of Agreement for the remaining member districts were provided to the Board for their consideration. Dr. Lamberson asked the Board to review the Articles and to forward any recommended changes to his attention. He noted that a majority of LADSE districts must approve the Articles in order for them to be effective.

Board action on this matter will take place at the April meeting.

D. Future Meeting Dates.

Due to calendar conflicts, Supt. Lamberson remarked that the next Building Committee meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. on April 20th and the Education Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18th.

Mrs. Leimberer noted that the next Flexible Boundary Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, March 25th.

10-28 A motion was made by Mrs. Stimming, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the Board adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing:

- the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity;
- collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: Mr. Schraidt

The time was 9:35 p.m.

10-29 A motion was made by Mrs. Leimberer, supported by Mrs. Meindl, that the Board approve *Consent Agenda Item C.1.h. Dismissal Resolutions* as presented during Closed Session.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

10-30 There being no further business or reports, a motion was made by Mrs. Meindl, supported by Mrs. Stimming, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Six
Nays: None
Absent: Mr. Schraidt

The time was 11:52 p.m.

Recorded: March 16, 2010

Approved: April 20, 2010

Board Secretary

Board President