

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 18, 2005

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 18th day of October, 2005, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President of the Board, David Beller, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: David Beller
Ross del Rosario
David Ehrlich
John Frendreis
Jim Kaczowski
Hank Schneider
Elaine Steiner

Absent: None

Administrative staff members were present as follows:

Frances McTague, Superintendent
Margaret Clauson, Old Orchard Junior High School Principal
Leslie Gordon, Highland School Principal
Kimberly Heath, Old Orchard Junior High School Assistant Principal
Beth Millard, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Randy Needlman, Devonshire School Principal
Susan O'Neil, Jane Stenson School Principal
Barbara Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Connie Powell, Director of Special Services

The following visitors were signed in as present:

Katie Bomba	Kate Hanson	Jillian Light
Gail Grewe	Curtis House	Lisa Lipin
Nichole Gross	Sylvia Kite	Elizabeth Yaylali
Sue Hagedorn	Cindy Latin	

1. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS

President Beller asked the Board members and administrators at the head table to introduce themselves. He then called for statements to the Board from the audience regarding topics not listed on the meeting agenda. There were no comments.

Superintendent McTague thanked the Jane Stenson staff and the community for their outreach to the family from Louisiana, with a 5th grader attending Stenson, who were

refugees from Hurricane Katrina. She also thanked the Bellers for their support for this family from the Melissa Beller Foundation.

2. ISAT TEST RESULTS

Assistant Superintendent Barbara Phillips presented an overview of the 2005 ISAT results. Director of Special Services Connie Powell and Old Orchard Jr. High Principal Margaret Clauson reviewed the process that they and a group of Old Orchard staff members used to analyze the achievement data and highlighted the plans to use the data analysis to improve instruction.

President Beller thanked Assistant Superintendent Phillips, Connie Powell and Margaret Clauson for their report.

3. TRANSFER OF CLOSED MINUTES TO OPEN

It was moved by Member Ehrlich, seconded by Member Kaczkowski, that the Board of Education, in compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, take action as shown below on the minutes and verbatim record of closed meetings held:

Transfer to Opening Meeting Minutes

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Topic of Meeting</u>
January 18, 2005	Personnel
February 15, 2005	Personnel
March 15, 2005	Superintendent's Evaluation
April 26, 2005	Personnel
May 17, 2005	Personnel, Superintendent's Evaluation, Administrative Salaries

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Frendreis, Kaczkowski, Schneider, Steiner

NAY: None

Motion carried.

4. PERSONNEL

It was moved by Member Frendreis, seconded by Member Kaczkowski, that the Board of Education place the following classified staff member on temporary disability absence under Article 4.3 of the Classified Employee Professional Negotiations Agreement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Most Recent Position</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>	<u>Length of Service</u>
Judy Karzen	Teacher Assistant Devonshire School	1/9/06 – 6/07* (including sick leave beginning 8/31/05)	8/25/97 – 12/23/05

*Maximum length of absence in Agreement – employee may return sooner

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Frendreis, Kaczkowski, Schneider, Steiner

NAY: None

Motion carried.

5. NILES TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION #807 REPORT

Member Schneider reported on the September 27, 2005, meeting of the NTDSE Board. President Beller thanked Member Schneider for his report.

6. 2004 PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

Assistant Superintendent for Business Beth Millard reviewed 2004 tax assessment data and compared sample taxpayer information from 2003 to 2004. She noted that the District's total equalized assessed valuation for 2004 is \$891,486,537, an increase of \$121 million from 2003. She explained that the increase was the result of the triennial reassessment, an increase in the multiplier, and \$3 million in new construction which was partially offset by tax appeals and a significant increase in senior citizen and homeowner exemptions. However, because of the tax cap and prior EAV limitations, the 2004 tax revenues increased only 2.3% from 2003. A report showing the dramatic loss of revenue that has resulted from the tax cap over the past several years was also presented.

President Beller thanked Ms. Millard for her report.

7. FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent for Business Beth Millard presented the five-year financial projections for District 68. Ms. Millard noted that, similar to other school districts, District 68's financial health continues to be impacted by the tax cap, business property tax appeals, escalating costs and minimal revenue increases. She highlighted a number of cost containment measures that have been put in place and noted that minor changes can have a major impact over a number of years. She also highlighted the District's plan to use a series of Working Cash Bond sales to mitigate operating deficits. The Board agreed that prudent planning to preserve financial stability for future students is a high priority for the District.

President Beller thanked Ms. Millard for her report.

8. APPROVAL OF PAY ORDERS AND EXPENDITURES

It was moved by Member Ehrlich, seconded by Member Frendreis, that the Board of Education approve the following expenditures: (a) accounts payable checks dated 9/29/05, in the amount of \$334,572.29, (b) handwritten checks dated during September, including

imprest, in the amount of \$241,610.29, (c) total payroll for September in the amount of \$1,798,728.78. Total checks issued for September, \$2,374,911.31.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Fren dreis, Kaczkowski, Schneider, Steiner

NAY: None

Motion carried.

9. COMMUNICATION

The Board reviewed the report of student disciplinary action as well as resumes from various committees. After a brief discussion about strategic planning, it was agreed that Supt. McTague will schedule presentations from several of the firms that have been identified as possible consultants to lead the process.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Ehrlich, seconded by Member Kaczkowski, and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m. to reconvene in closed session.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Fren dreis, Kaczkowski, Schneider, Steiner

NAY: None

Motion carried.

David Beller, President

Beth Millard, Board Secretary