

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 68, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Board of Education Meeting – July 18, 2006

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 18th day of July, 2006, 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
Beth Millard, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Barbara Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

No visitors were present

1. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Since no visitors were present, President Beller waived the introductions.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no audience members.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A Board member requested that item 3d: Life Safety Ten Year Survey be removed from the Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Member Kaczowski, seconded by Member Steiner, that the Board of Education approve items on the Consent Agenda, which contained the following items:

- a. Minutes
 - i. Regular Board of Education Meeting – June 20, 2006
 - ii. Closed Board of Education Meeting – July 11, 2006
- b. Personnel
 - i. Appointment of Dean of Students – Jake Klipsch
 - ii. Resignation of staff member Judith Karzen
- c. Authorization of expenses for Board members attending the IASB and NSBA Conferences; Authorize the Board delegate to vote at the IASB Delegate Assembly
- d. Authorization for the Board President to submit the required documents for outstanding Life Safety Amendments to the Regional Superintendent of Schools for an extension of time on one outstanding amendment and to close the remaining open amendments
- e. The financial reports
- f. June expenditures as follows: (a) accounts payable checks dated 6/30/06, in the amount of \$245,375.32, (b) handwritten checks in the amount of \$579,051.02, (c) payroll checks in the amount of \$2,177,665.16 for a total checks issued for June of \$3,002,091.50.
July expenditures as follows: (a) accounts payable checks dated 7/3/06 in the amount of \$309,970.80.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

3. TEN-YEAR LIFE SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

There were several questions about the Ten Year Life Safety Survey Report regarding the requirements and the process. Assistant Superintendent Millard explained that a variety of safety inspections are done on a regular basis, however the state requires that a comprehensive survey of each school is conducted every ten years to identify corrections needed to comply with the current building codes that make up the Life Safety Code.

It was moved by Member Frendreis, seconded by Member del Rosario, that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of the Ten Year Life Safety Survey and authorize the Board President to submit an Application for Approval of Ten-Year Safety Survey Report to the Regional Superintendent of Schools for each of the schools in the District.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

4. NILES TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION #807

Member Schneider presented a report on the June 27, 2006, meeting of the Niles Township Department of Special Education #807. He noted that the bus contract has been approved for 2006-07, however, there are continuing concerns about the performance of the current contractor. President Beller thanked Member Schneider for his report.

5. 2006-07 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Assistant Superintendent Beth Millard presented the tentative budget for 2006-07. She noted that the budget reflects an operating deficit of less than \$200,000, which is the smallest it has been for a number of years. Revenues are projected to increase 8.6% largely due to recent commercial property developments in the District which brought in significant new tax dollars. Overall expenditures are anticipated to increase only 2.2%, primarily due to a reduction in the number of capital improvement projects planned and other cost containment measures. President Beller thanked Ms. Millard for her report.

It was moved by Member Kaczkowski, seconded by Member del Rosario, that the Board of Education adopt the 2006-07 Tentative Budget, as prepared by the Superintendent and submitted at this meeting, and that a copy be made available for public inspection for a period of not less than thirty (30) days expiring on or before September 19, 2006, and that a public hearing on the said Tentative Budget be held September 19, 2006, at 7:30 o'clock p.m., and further that the Secretary be directed to have inserted in the issue of local newspaper, the Pioneer Press Newspaper, on July 27, 2006, the following notice of said availability for inspection and public hearing.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TENTATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Education of School District Number 68 in the County of Cook, State of Illinois, that a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection in the Educational Service Center at 9440 North Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, in this School District from and after 8:00 a.m. on the 27th day of July, 2006.

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 7:30 o'clock p.m. on the 19th day of September, 2006, in the Educational Service Center at 9440 North Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, in this School District Number 68.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2006

Board of Education of School District Number 68
in the County of Cook of the State of Illinois
/s/ Beth L. Millard, Secretary

6. FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

There was an extended discussion about implementation of full day kindergarten. Superintendent McTague noted that the improved financial position resulting from the increased tax revenue provided by new commercial development in the District provides the opportunity to implement full day kindergarten without jeopardizing the financial stability of the District. There was discussion of the benefits of providing full day kindergarten, especially for at risk and ESL students. There was consensus to move forward with full day kindergarten beginning in 2007-08. It was suggested that we use this change as an opportunity for community outreach. There was also a request to present a comprehensive list of other possible program changes and associated costs in January so that the Board can continue to look at the big picture as it considers individual program recommendations.

President Beller thanked Superintendent McTague for her report.

7. WAIVER OF STATE HOLIDAY HEARING

President Beller opened the hearing for the proposed waiver application to observe Presidents' Day holiday in lieu of Lincoln's Birthday, beginning with the 2007-08 school year. Superintendent McTague explained the reason for the waiver. There were no audience members present for comments or questions. The hearing was adjourned.

It was moved by Member Kaczowski, seconded by Member Steiner, that the Board of Education submit an Application for Waiver or Modification of State Board Rules and/or School Code Mandates to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Frenreis, Kaczowski, Schneider, Steiner

NAY: None

Motion carried.

8. BOARD POLICIES

An Ad Hoc committee of David Beller, Ross del Rosario, and Superintendent McTague was selected to review the proposed revisions to Policy 1118 – Board Communications, 5140 – Administration of Medication to Students by District Health Personnel and Self-Administration of Asthma Medication, 6123 Instructional Equity, new policies 1119 Development of Board Agendas, 5145 – Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, and 6121 – School Wellness. The policies will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

9. BOARD GOAL SETTING

There was a discussion about how to approach board governance and determine what the Board goals actually are. One starting point would be an in-depth discussion focusing on the strategic plan with each member Board member to identify two end goals. There was agreement that time would be allocated at a future meeting to begin this discussion with each member asked to prepare two goals.

10. COMMUNICATION

The Board reviewed the Freedom of Information Act requests as well as other communication items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Frendreis, seconded by Member del Rosario, and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Beth Millard, Board Secretary

David Beller, President