

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 68, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 17, 2006

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 17th day of October, 2006, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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

Absent: Elaine Steiner

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 for Instruction
Connie Powell, Director of Special Services

Visitors:

Lila Ardell	Lisa Gold	Tracy Ojeda
Ruth Berk	Carrie Guerard	Jan Parrilli
Maria Bolos	Kate Hanson	Diana Schmidt
Ed Boundy	Mary Hinsey	Jolan Silcroft
Natalie Dandino	Curtis House	Steve Spiegel
Sheryl Dorfman	Anne Kramer	Kate Sprague
Katie Eckert	Cindy Latin	Heather Taylor
Elaine Frangedakis	Jillian Light	Megan Weinstein
Kristy Frick		

1. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS

President Beller asked the Board members and administrators at the head table to introduce themselves. He also welcomed the visitors including the new teachers who introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Beller called for statements to the Board from the audience regarding topics not listed on the meeting agenda. There were no statements.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes
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- b. Personnel
Grant Family Medical Leave to R. Anderson and J. Liebman
- c. Adopt a Resolution Ratifying the Partial Abatement and Permanent Transfer of Monies from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund
- d. Financial Reports
- e. September expenditures as follows: (a) accounts payable checks dated 9/30/06 in the amount of \$514,723.71, (b) handwritten checks in the amount of \$234,973.61, (c) payroll checks in the amount of \$1,899,267.50, for a total of \$2,648,964.82 checks issued for September.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

4. 2006 SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Phillips presented a summary of the 2006 Summer School program, highlighting the significant increase in the need for basic skills classes. There was discussion about the Board subsidy of these classes for low income students.

5. 2007 SUMMER SCHOOL FEES AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION

It was moved by Member Fren dreis, seconded by Member Schneider, that the Board of Education:

- (1) Increase tuition for Summer School from \$98.00 per course to \$105.00 per course
- (2) Implement a \$10 per course discount for tuition paid by April 15, 2007

- (3) Increase the Summer School bus fee from \$81 to \$85 per student
- (4) Continue the registration fee at \$9.00 per student

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Frenndreis, Kaczkowski, Schneider

NAY: None

Motion carried.

6. REVISION OF POLICIES

It was moved by Member Frenndreis, and seconded by Member Kaczkowski, that the Board of Education revise the following policies:

- 1317 Soliciting Funds from School Personnel
- 3311 Authorization to Participate in Group Purchasing Programs
- 3545 Pupil Transportation Fees
- 5123 Promotion
- 6120 Goals of District 68

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Beller, del Rosario, Ehrlich, Frenndreis, Kaczkowski, Schneider

NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. NILES TOWNSHIP DISTRICT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION #807

Member Schneider presented a report on the September 26, 2006, meeting of the Niles Township District for Special Education #807. He also reported on the total number of District 68 students attending NTDSE programs and highlighted the increase in evaluations requested for private school students in the township. President Beller thanked Member Schneider for his report.

8. 2007-08 CALENDAR

Superintendent McTague explained that the elementary districts in the township are considering going back to the township calendar guidelines which would mean school would start the last week of August. As a result, the elementary districts would be starting a week later than the high school. She asked for feedback from the Board regarding this change. There was discussion about the best way to get parent input on this question and it was agreed to use parent teacher conferences in November to get parent feedback. It was also agreed to use this as the impetus to start the broadcast email process previously discussed.

9. TAX BILL AND RATE INFORMATION

Assistant Superintendent for Business Millard reviewed 2005 tax assessment data and compared sample taxpayer information from 2004 to 2005. She noted that the District's total equalized assessed valuation for 2005 is \$964,051,560, an increase of 8% from 2004. She explained that the increase was the result of an increase in the multiplier, \$14.6 million in new construction, and the phased triennial reassessment increase which is now limited to 7% per year.

10. FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent for Business 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 noted that recent new construction in the District has provided some relief from the restrictions in revenue from the tax cap but that the operating deficit is projected to grow significantly over the next five years. She reviewed the District strategy of using Working Cash Bond sales to offset these operating deficits but pointed out their limitation. Millard noted that minor changes can have a major impact over a number of years and that there are a number of unknown factors that could significantly impact the long range projections so prudent planning to preserve financial stability for future students is a high priority for the District.

11. TRAFFIC CONTROL

It was moved by Member Kaczowski, seconded by Member Del Rosario, that the Board of Education contract with the Skokie Police Department to provide an officer at Old Orchard Junior High School for traffic control during student dismissal at a cost of \$56 per day.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

12. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

The Board reviewed several communication items. There was additional discussion about the broadcast email system, a system in which parents opt in to the system compared to one in which all parents are included by default with the option to unsubscribe if they do not wish to receive the emails. It was also pointed out that since a significant number of District parents do not have easy access to email, any new communication plan would include an offline component.

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Kaczowski, seconded by Member Ehrlich, and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Beth Millard, Board Secretary

David Beller, President