

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting held at 7:30 p.m.
February 28, 2011
Carpenter Elementary School
300 N. Hamlin Avenue**

John Heyde called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Other Board members present were Pat Fioretto, Sharon Lawson, Ted Smart, Genie Taddeo, Eric Uhlig and Scott Zimmerman. Also present were: Superintendent Philip Bender, Scott Mackall, Marcy Canel, Bernadette Tramm and two members of the public.

The tour began at the south gym and was led by Director of Facility Management Scott Mackall and Carpenter School Principal Marcy Canel, who pointed out different learning environments and specific building features. The route included observation of regular and special education classrooms, a boys washroom, the north gym, and Learning Resource Center. The group then descended to the lower level to inspect water seepage work being undertaken in the auditorium and view the boiler room before returning to the south gym at 7:28 p.m. Following a brief recess, the regular meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION OF BORROWING OPTIONS

Presentation of
Borrowing Options

Board President Heyde introduced the presentation on borrowing options for capital expenditures. On average, District 64 budgets \$1.5 million each year for facilities issues. The Board asked a representative from William Blair and Company to educate them about borrowing options if expenses are expected to exceed that amount. Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy of William Blair prepared packets for the Board and presented an overview and financing options.

Due to aging facilities, critical capital needs have emerged, including roof repairs, boiler replacements, HVAC improvements, asbestos removal, and carpet and T12 lighting replacements. Other "older" districts are also experiencing similar needs.

Ms. Hennessy presented projected and actual tax limiting rates from 2005-2015, which included the passage of the 2007 referendum. She also defined a "debt service extension base" as the amount of principal and interest a school district can use to repay non-referendum bonds on an annual basis. The debt service is based upon a 1995 Tax Limitation Law that used the bond and interest levy for the tax year 1994 as the established benchmark or base. For the tax year 1994,

District 64 levied \$1,759, 745. In 2009, the law was amended to allow the debt base to increase with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Non-referendum bonds for school districts include: working cash fund bonds, life safety bonds, funding bonds, and insurance reserve bonds. Ms. Hennessy explained for what purpose(s) the bonds may be used. She also presented charts on the District's outstanding debt and tax rates as well as how a \$5.09 million limiting tax bond (referendum) for three years would affect taxpayers. She projected that the owner of a home with a \$400,000 market value would pay an additional \$107.78 per year.

While interest rates have declined in recent months, Ms. Hennessy expects them to inch up slowly; one factor is that because of volatility in the Middle East, oil prices are affecting interest rates.

The next available tax levy is the 2011 tax year levy. If the Board decides to borrow money, Ms. Hennessy recommended doing so for as short a time period as possible (no more than three years). She noted that an "Illinois premium" is charged because Illinois bonds are not desirable due to the State's financial status.

The Board reiterated that it was gathering information at this point in order to learn about its borrowing options and thanked Ms. Hennessy for her time.

DISCUSSION: 2011-12 STUDENT FEES

Discussion: 2011-
12 Student Fees

Ms. Allard led the discussion on recommendations for student fees for the 2011-12 school year. Any recommended increase in fees is directly related to the District's costs. The recommendations included no increase in required fees or participatory fees for instrumental music, sports and chorus.

Ms. Allard did recommend an increase of 14.1 percent in bus fees for students within 1.5 miles of their school for which the District is not reimbursed from the Illinois State Board of Education. However, if the Board approves a new bus company, these increases could be mitigated by the savings to the District based on the contract with the recommended transportation company. Lunch fees for a la carte items and plate lunches would increase to reflect a rise in food costs. Lunch supervision fees would increase significantly to reflect actual costs. There has been no increase in lunch supervision fees since the District took over running that program, now in its fourth year; however, it has been operating at a deficit for the past few years. There will be approximately an \$80,000 deficit going into the 2011-12 school year. One hundred sixty-eight (168) students from low income families or those with special needs do not pay for lunch supervision. Billing for extended day care will change from fractions of an hour to a flat hourly rate.

The Board weighed in on the recommended fee changes, particularly the bus fee. It was suggested to either phase in the increase in bus fees or lower it because of the savings anticipated from the new bus company contract. The Board requested additional analysis and information on the fees to ensure forecasts are accurate. The Board will be asked to approve the fees at the March 14th Board of Education meeting.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR AND SUMMER
SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION**

Approval of Regular
and Summer School Bus
Transportation

The Board directed administration to bid regular and summer bus transportation services for the 2011-12 school year based on a recommendation from the Community Finance Committee. According to Illinois School Code, a school board is required to award contracts for transportation costs in excess of \$25,000 to the lowest responsible bidder, and may enter into a contract for up to three years, with an extension for up to two more years if mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Bid specifications were developed by administration and legal counsel. After a thorough review of references and an interview with bus company personnel, Ms. Allard recommended the Board accept the lowest bid of \$779,379.84 from Illinois Central School Bus for three years beginning with the 2011-12 school year. Buses will be equipped with two digital camera systems and GPS systems.

Ms. Allard said it is possible that bus routes may change. She explained that the home location of kindergarten students often determines school bus routes. Families will be notified of bus stop locations and anticipated departure and arrival times.

ACTION ITEM 11-02-5

Action Item 11-02-5

It was moved by Board member Fioretto and seconded by Board member Zimmerman that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, enter into a 3-year transportation contract beginning with the 2011-12 school year with Illinois Central School Bus for \$779,379.84. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Zimmerman, Uhlig, Taddeo, Heyde, Fioretto, Lawson, Smart

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

TERMINATION OF LEASE- CHILD CARE

Termination of Lease-
Child Care with
Confidence

WITH CONFIDENCE

A letter of notice was prepared by the District's legal counsel to advise Child Care with Confidence that its lease will be terminated effective

August 31, 2011, which is 180 days notice, as required by the terms of the lease between the District and CCWC.

In November 2010, Child Care with Confidence (CCWC) received a property tax bill from Cook County for the year 2009 for approximately \$119,000. The terms of the lease agreement between District 64 and CCWC require CCWC to pay their pro rata portion of any property taxes assessed the district. District 64 hired legal counsel to research the legality of the bill and was able to negotiate a reduced amount due of \$7,000 for CCWC. District 64 paid the amount due the County Assessor for CCWC in December, as CCWC represented that they did not have the funds to pay the amount due. The Board asked CCWC to re-pay the District for the \$7,000 by March 31, 2011. The Assessor is also asking for the first installment of 2010 taxes due by April 1, 2011 and back taxes for the years 2003-2008, estimated at approximately \$50,000.00.

While School District 64 qualifies for a property tax exemption, the legal counsel hired by District 64 believes CCWC, which operates at Jefferson School, does not. The letter of termination was prepared at the Board's direction following discussion over the past several months.

Dr. Bender stated that District 64 has a responsibility to all taxpayers and should not and cannot pay property taxes for a private entity. It is administration's opinion that CCWC will be unable to pay all taxes owed and may have to close down its operation at Jefferson School. If this happens, Dr. Bender said the space could be used for the Extended Day Program that currently has a waiting list of children.

Ms. Lois Fisher, owner of CCWC, was out of town on vacation and unable to attend the Board meeting. Several parents spoke on behalf of Ms. Fisher's excellent care for children.

Mr. Bob Downing of 521 S. Delphia, Park Ridge, sent all of his children to CCWC, saying it is a partner in the educational process of our children, provides a great service for working parents, and has a good record and staff.

Ms. Jill Besenjak of 1901 S. Courtland, Park Ridge, said CCWC has been a lifesaver for her children, one with special needs. She asked the Board to give Ms. Fisher a chance, adding Ms. Fisher may be able to negotiate with parents for higher rates.

Ms. Sharon Millon of 1100 S. Crescent, Park Ridge, has worked at CCWC since 1984. CCWC helps 43 families with 65 children between them and said it is like a family, with a warm and loving environment. Eleven of the children in CCWC's

care are children of District 64 staff members. She is sure Ms. Fisher will make good on her word and pay the taxes.

Mr. James Kolz of 607 S. Knight, Park Ridge, asked the Board to consider the young girls who work at CCWC getting on-the-job experience; many are our future teachers. He also asked that the Board give Ms. Fisher an opportunity to raise money to pay the tax bills, perhaps with fundraisers.

Mr. Rob McCoy of 240 Michael John, Park Ridge, asked if the District can negotiate with Cook County on behalf of CCWC.

Ms. Angela Baker of 7348 Howard, Niles, reminded the Board that if CCWC closes its doors, teachers will lose their jobs in a very difficult economy when jobs are scarce.

Mr. Scott Kilnan of 403 Talcott, Park Ridge, inquired if it is possible to appeal the Assessor's decision.

Ms. Sarah Sagmeister of 1112 Austin, Park Ridge, asked the Board to consider the benefits the District has received during the many years CCWC has leased its space.

Dr. Bender said the property tax issue is really between CCWC and Cook County. There is a 7-year limit on collecting taxes. District 64 intervened and helped to get the taxes reduced, but the District is responsible to all taxpayers, not only those who send their children to CCWC.

CCWC currently pays approximately \$30,000 a year to lease the space at Jefferson School, which the District believes is below market rate. All back taxes plus interest will be due by fall 2011, including the second installment of 2010 taxes.

Mr. Matthew Hachigian of 704 S. Hamlin, Park Ridge, questioned what the fair market value is for rent given the current economy.

Ms. Katie Wahl of 1006 S. Delphia, Park Ridge, commented that CCWC is unique in that it provides infant care and prepares children well for kindergarten.

Ms. Erin Gratin of 409 N. Lincoln said she selected CCWC because of Ms. Fisher, and her child is very happy there.

Mr. Marty Gabar of 8153 Greendale, Niles, asked that the Board not make its decision on speculation that Ms. Fisher cannot pay the taxes.

Mr. Joe Schubert of 921 S. Clifton, Park Ridge, noted that Cook County is struggling to meet its budget and is trying to collect taxes from whomever it can.

Ms. Kristin Olsen of 245 Columbia, Park Ridge, suggested the Board consider renegotiating its lease with CCWC.

Mr. Kendall Winigar of 600 Thames Parkway, Park Ridge, said it would be difficult for the District to find someone else to rent CCWC's space for a higher amount in this economy.

Ms. Allard quoted standard square footage costs for rental space in the area, but said that if CCWC vacates the space it most likely will be used by District 64 rather than leased to someone else.

The Board stated its concern for families should CCWC close its doors in the middle of the school year, and reiterated its responsibility to the entire community. The Board also discussed whether to delay the motion. The notice of termination would give Ms. Fisher 180 days to find alternate space. Ms. Fisher's contribution to the community was acknowledged. If the Board terminates the lease now with CCWC, it does not preclude them from initiating a new lease at a later date, depending on the outcome of tax payments.

The Board asked District 64 Administration to work with Ms. Fisher on an exit plan, if it becomes necessary, that will cause the least disruption to families. The Board requested that District 64 Administration create a plan for how the space could best be used when it comes available.

ACTION ITEM 11-02-6

Action Item 11-02-6

It was moved by Board member Lawson and seconded by Board member Taddeo that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois terminate the Lease with Child Care with Confidence, Inc. effective August 31, 2011. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Smart, Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Taddeo, Uhlig, Zimmerman

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF 3-YEAR CONTRACT FOR
AUDITING SERVICES**

Approval of 3-Year
Contract for Auditing
Services

As good business practice and in line with the District's spend management policies, the administration participated in an effort to bid independent auditor services for annual audits for the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years. On behalf of School Districts 62, 63 and 64, the Maine Township Treasurer issued a Request for Proposal for audit services.

Following a thorough review of qualifications, references and a personnel interview, administration recommended the Board accept the lowest bid of \$76,640 from Klein, Hall & Associates for a three-year contract.

ACTION ITEM 11-02-7

Action Item 11-02-7

It was moved by Board member Zimmerman and seconded by Board member Uhlig that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, enter into a 3-year contract beginning with the 2011-12 school year with KLEIN, HALL & ASSOCIATES, LLC for \$76,640.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Smart, Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Taddeo, Uhlig, Zimmerman

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

SITE FACILITIES UPDATE

Site Facilities
Update

Mr. Scott Mackall held meetings with both Carpenter and Franklin School staff and PTO's on the facility plans for those sites. Administration is looking into a sidewalk with guardrail on the west side of Franklin adjacent to the staff parking lot, in the interest of student safety, especially at dismissal time. As a result of those meetings, administration has decided to conduct a traffic study at Carpenter School because of potential safety issues.

Results of the Carpenter traffic study are needed before construction to alleviate flooding can proceed because it may impact the site design. Mr. Mackall hopes to receive results of the traffic study and construction bids in time for work to begin on flooding issues at Carpenter this summer. He will convene a committee with parent and teacher representation to communicate what was learned from the traffic study and get feedback on the proposed site design when it is prepared.

CALENDAR DISCUSSION

Calendar Discussion

At the Board's request from the February 14, 2011 Board meeting, Diane Betts, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, reconvened the Calendar Committee to discuss alternative calendars for the 2011-12 school year. Board members Fioretto and Uhlig were present at the Calendar Committee meeting.

After extensive discussion and no consensus, the Calendar Committee recommended moving ahead with the original calendar presented and working with families at the two non-air conditioned schools (Carpenter and Field) for how to handle excessive heat days.

Since the February 14 Board meeting, the Board and administration received negative feedback about moving back the start date of the school year.

The Board requested the Calendar Committee still look at a later start for the 2012-13 school year.

In the meantime, administration will determine guidelines for when to use excessive heat days, protocol for how to advise students and staff, logistics for those days when students are sent home, and cool locations for staff to work the remainder of the day. Because staff will remain at work, there will not be contractual issues. The minimum number of student attendance days will be waived if students are in school for at least one hour on excessive heat days. The Board agreed that communication will be key.

ACTION ITEM 11-02-10

Action Item 11-02-10

It was moved by Board member Zimmerman and seconded by Board member Fioretto that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois adopt the calendar for 2011-12 that was presented to the Board at the February 14, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Smart, Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Taddeo, Uhlig, Zimmerman

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Personnel Report contains private information. Please contact Sandra Stringer, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, if more information is needed.

B. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills

10 - Education Fund-----	\$ 518,003.11
20- Operation, Building and Maintenance Fund -----	319,855.40
30 – Debt Services -----	2,750.00
40 - Transportation Fund -----	144,632.50
60 - Site and Construction Fund -----	-
80 –Tort Immunity Fund -----	7,500.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund -----	-

Checks Numbered: 102725 - 102831

Total: \$ 992,741.01

C. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
JANUARY 31, 2011

D. DESTRUCTION OF AUDIO CLOSED MINUTES (NONE)

ACTION ITEM 11-02-8

Action Item 11-02-8

It was moved by Board member Taddeo and seconded by Board member Lawson that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda of February 28, 2011, which includes the Personnel Report, Bills, Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending January 31, 2011 and Destruction of Audio Closed Minutes (none). The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Smart, Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Taddeo, Uhlig, Zimmerman

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

ACTION ITEM 11-02-9

Action Item 11-02-9

It was moved by Board member Taddeo and seconded by Board member Uhlig that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District #64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois approve the Open and Closed Minutes of February 14, 2011, Committee of the Whole on Finance Minutes of February 14, 2011 and the Special Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2011. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Zimmerman, Uhlig, Taddeo, Heyde, Fioretto, Lawson, Smart

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Other Items of
Information

OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Bender included a Strategic Plan update in the Board packet and an update on the City of Park Ridge annual Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Dr. Bender shared information with the Board on the National Conference on Education that he attended. He suggested the Board read the white paper on consolidation of school districts in Illinois. There was discussion at a recent Community Finance Committee meeting about how to reach out to local legislators regarding legislation that may impact school districts.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

At 10:43 p.m., it was moved by Board member Lawson and seconded by Board member Taddeo to adjourn the meeting to closed session for the purpose of discussing:

1. 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. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

President

Secretary