

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting held at 7:30 p.m.  
September 26, 2011  
Franklin Elementary School  
2401 Manor Lane**

Board President John Heyde called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. Other Board members present were Eric Uhlig, Pat Fioretto, Sharon Lawson, Tony Borrelli and Scott Zimmerman. Board member Dan Collins joined the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Bender, Principal Dan Walsh, Business Manager Becky Allard, Director of Facility Management Scott Mackall, Director of Technology Terri Bresnahan, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm and three members of the public.

Board of Education meetings now are being videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at:

<http://www.d64.org/subsite/dist/page/board-education-meetings-984>

Franklin Principal Walsh and Director of Facility Management Mackall led a walking tour of the improvements completed outdoors at Franklin during summer 2011. The tour began in the new playground area south of the building and moved to the parking areas further south and west. Mr. Walsh noted that the playground equipment had been selected to maximize the number of students who can be actively engaged in play together. Mr. Mackall pointed out the new safety surface under the playground. He also noted that a large underground retention system had been built under the parking lot. Mr. Walsh identified the lighting and safety features that had been added to create a pedestrian walkway along the west side of the school. The Board then returned to the gymnasium, and viewed a presentation of construction photos showing progress at various stages through the summer.

On return after the tour, the other administrators were there as well as both Assistant Superintendents Dr. Stringer and Diane Betts and Director of Pupil Services Jim Even. Also approximately 45-50 members of the public.

Following the presentation, the Board took a short recess before beginning the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET**

Public Hearing on  
The Budget

The Public Hearing satisfies the legal requirement to approve a final budget for 2011-12 by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The budget is a numerical representation of student programs offered by District 64. This budget fulfills the referendum promise and goals of the second year of the Strategic Plan. School districts are limited by tax caps for the amount they can collect in property taxes to the lesser of the CPI (Consumer Price Index) or five percent. The Board has discussed this budget since

January 2011, with a tentative budget presented in May and approved in July. The Board has reviewed all revenue and expenses.

The tax levy will be discussed at the October and November Board of Education meetings and a Public Hearing on the Levy will be held at the December Board meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## Public Comments

Ms. Jean Miller commented that she moved to Park Ridge, like other residents, because of the quality of our schools, teachers, and high ACT scores. She believes teachers are worthy of higher salaries if they are well trained, passionate, dedicated, and prepare students for high school and college. She thinks teachers' salaries must remain competitive in order to retain quality teachers and keep our home values high in Park Ridge.

Mr. Marshall Warren described his comments as the good, the bad and the ugly. The good is that Board meetings are now videotaped and information is posted on the District 64 web site in a timely manner. These two things point to the Board's responsiveness and transparency for the public. The bad is that property values have declined, and although residents moved to Park Ridge for the quality of the schools, he questioned whether they are worthy of such praise given that no District 64 school is among the Top 100 schools in Illinois. Mr. Warren distributed a graph of District 64 average teacher and administration compensation, recent Park Ridge single family home sales, and a print out of Chicago Sun-Times reports on school rankings. The ugly is that 80 percent of expenses go to salaries and benefits. He believes the current system of teacher salary increases is archaic, and upcoming contract negotiations will offer an opportunity to keep teachers' salaries in line. He hopes the Board will aggressively negotiate the teachers' contract and reward outstanding teachers through merit raises based on classroom outcomes.

Ms. Katie Renali said that teachers should not be rewarded based on classroom performance; however, the burden is on taxpayers to support schools. She does not believe parents should have to pay for the lunch supervision program. Other districts do not have similar programs paid for by parents.

Ms. Susan Sweeney does not support the proposed budget, saying it puts the District on a path toward deficit spending. She believes the Board will need a referendum to support the budget. In the meantime, students' needs are not being met where there are heating and air conditioning problems at Carpenter and Field Schools. Ms. Sweeney believes the current surplus should be used to address those HVAC issues. She cautioned the Board to be very careful so that teachers are not laid off. She asked how to fix deficit spending and why money was moved into the Working Cash Fund.

Mr. Heyde explained that while an individual fund may be in a deficit, when all funds are added together, the District is not operating in a deficit.

Ms. Allard further explained that the current surplus can be attributed to revenue increases and spending cuts.

Ms. Lori Diversey believes the Board is putting the teachers' contract ahead of the children. She voiced her dislike for collective bargaining, which she described as outdated, and said it is very difficult to layoff underperforming teachers.

Mr. Heyde responded that the board is required, by law, to participate in collective bargaining with the teachers' union. He went on to say that while salaries are set by the contract, there is a layoff provision in the teacher contract (although he agreed that it is difficult to enforce), and teachers are evaluated each year by administrators.

Ms. Linda Damianides, a District 64 staff member, was disappointed to hear attacks on teachers. She said teachers are not in their profession for the money, but because they love to teach. Teachers serve the children every day. They have received modest raises in good economic times and reduced raises in bad times.

Ms. Susan Sweeney said she is indebted to teachers and agree they work hard. However, this is a financial issue. While the private sector is experiencing tough financial times and pay freezes, it is assumed that the 1.5 percent CPI will be passed on to the Board to use for raises.

The Board thanked Ms. Allard for all her work on the budget. In order to maintain transparency, Mr. Borrelli said he would prefer to conclude the budget process before the start of the school year. The Board spoke in favor of collective bargaining as a two-sided process between the District and the unions. The Board's job is to negotiate a contract in good faith.

**ADOPTION OF FY12 DISTRICT 64 BUDGET**

Adoption of FY12  
District 64 Budget

Ms. Allard asked the Board to adopt the budget in the \_\_\_\_\_ form presented. At the Board's request, she will provide monthly summaries going forward so the Board can track discretionary funds and fluctuations during the year.

Mr. Heyde noted that it is good to hear input from the public on the budget during the entire process. The Board tries to properly fund programs while being respectful to taxpayers. He acknowledged that teachers put in a lot of hours and are not in their profession for the money. Their work is valued by the Board. The District has maintained a culture of savings and cost controls recently, such as bidding for a new bus transportation contract and professional services. These are examples of ways to manage the District's finances in order to avoid layoffs or program cuts.

A proposal to place \$500,000 in reserve from the Education and O&M Fund for purchased services, supplies and capital outlay was presented in response to the Board's request.

**ACTION ITEM 11-09-1**

Action Item 11-09-1

It was moved by Board member Lawson and seconded by Board member Zimmerman that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge –

Niles, Illinois, Adopt the Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, as presented. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Borrelli, Uhlig, Zimmerman, Heyde, Fioretto, Lawson, Collins

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Ms. Allard will track the discretionary spending in the Education and O&M Funds monthly and report to the Board. The fund balance in reserve will fluctuate during the year as expenses change and depending on State revenue and the timing of property tax receipts, both which are out of the District's control. Mr. Borrelli suggested the Board consider increasing the policy from four months to five months because of the State's precarious financial situation.

Mr. Warren asked if Mr. Heyde and Mr. Fioretto are willing to recuse themselves from contract negotiations because Mr. Heyde's wife is a teacher and Mr. Fioretto is an attorney with experience in contract negotiations. Both declined.

Mr. Warren asked the Board to consider its culture of savings when in contract negotiations. Although no decision has been made on how to move forward with the contracts, the Board will explain the process and timing of negotiations for the public.

**ACTION ITEM 11-09-6**

Action Item 11-09-6

It was moved by Board member Fioretto and seconded by Board member Borrelli that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, adopt the revised memo dated September 26, 2011 concerning the \$500,000 reserve proposal. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Collins, Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Zimmerman, Uhlig, Borrelli

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

**SIXTH DAY OF ENROLLMENT**

Sixth Day of  
Enrollment

Ms. Allard reported the enrollment as of August 29, 2011, the sixth day of attendance, is 4,277 students or 48 fewer students than last year's sixth day enrollment. She reviewed current class size guidelines by grade. There are 27 fewer kindergarten students, 9 fewer in

grades 1-5, 43 fewer students at the middle schools, 4 more students at Jefferson and the same number of special needs students placed outside the District.

Class sections increased overall by one from the previous year; they decreased by two in kindergarten, increased by four in grades 1-5 and there is one less homeroom section at the middle school level.

These enrollment figures are very close to projections from the demographer presented in December 2009. The Board also received a breakdown of enrollment by grade and school.

Ms. Allard explained staff may increase even though enrollment decreases based on the configuration of students by grade, class sections, or building. In addition, the makeup of students, particularly special needs students, and square footage of classrooms at the different schools are all factors considered by Principals, the Curriculum Team, Human Resources and the Superintendent when making decisions whether to add another class section. If one student registers, putting a class over the guideline, a teacher may be hired. However, if one or more students don't show up at school, there is currently no mechanism in place to handle that situation. The Board will discuss this process in the future.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF FACILITY  
MASTER PLAN GOALS**

Discussion / Approval  
of Facility Master Plan  
Goals

Following the Roles, Goals and Controls workshop presented by Fanning-Howey at the September 12, 2011 Board of Education meeting, Dr. Bender met with Fanning-Howey representatives to further refine the Master Facility Plan goals.

The Board discussed these goals, reordered them to reflect the Board's priorities, and modified the wording of certain statements regarding cost efficiency, meeting LEED criteria for any new construction, and having Energy Star ratings for building improvements.

The Facility Master Plan process will be completed by June 2013. Any changes to the Master Plan will be made collectively by the Board. The architects will make recommendations to the Board for the priority of projects, based on what they believe is in the District's best interests; however, the Board will have the final decision.

Ms. VanSant of Fanning-Howey distributed an updated timeline and organizational chart based on discussion from the September 12<sup>th</sup> workshop. Based on tonight's discussion, Mr. Kacan of Fanning-Howey restated and re-prioritized goal statements for the Board. The revised list will be given to the District and posted on the District 64 web site.

**ACTION ITEM 11-09-2**

Action Item 11-09-2

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, approve the Facility Master Plan Goals as discussed. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Borrelli, Uhlig, Zimmerman, Heyde, Fioretto, Lawson, Collins

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

**APPROVE DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT OF  
PART II ASSESSMENTS AND MAINTENANCE  
PLAN**

Approve Deferral of Payment  
of Part II Assessments and  
Maintenance Plan

At the Roles, Goals and Controls workshop on September 12, 2011, the Board asked Fanning-Howey to move up the Maintenance Plan to December 2011 so decisions could be made about summer 2012 construction projects. Since then, Fanning-Howey agreed to complete all physical assessments and the maintenance plan by December 2011 and defer a payment of \$48,016 until June 2012 for this portion of their work.

**ACTION ITEM 11-09-3**

Action Item 11-09-3

It was moved by Board member Lawson and seconded by Board member Zimmerman that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the deferment of payment of Part II assessments and maintenance plan to after July 1, 2012. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Zimmerman, Uhlig, Borrelli

NAYES: None

PRESENT: Collins

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

Discussion of  
Board Committees

At the request of Mr. Borrelli, the Board entered into a discussion about the structure and assignment of Board committees. Mr. Borrelli referenced the efficiency and unique structure of the Park Ridge Library Board's committees and suggested that perhaps it could be used to improve District 64 Board's functionality and committees' effectiveness. There are currently 15 separate Board of Education committees, with some operating as Committees-of-the-Whole attended by all Board members, such as Finance.

Board members asked Mr. Borrelli for additional clarification on committee structure, and agreed to consider the proposal after reviewing the current list of committees and assignments, followed by further Board discussion at a future meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda

The Board asked Ms. Bresnahan how the position of Technology Coach at Roosevelt School will be handled when that staff member goes on maternity leave and if results of the study on the effectiveness of the Instructional Coaches will be impacted.

There was also discussion on whether labor for the lighting upgrades across the District could be handled in-house by custodial staff. Mr. Mackall said the upgrade will require three men to handle this task. He did not think it was worth sacrificing three employees at the risk of not meeting the timeline to satisfy the grant for the work, or in the event an emergency arose and there was not enough staff to handle it. All lighting upgrade work will be done by union labor, as agreed. Costs to complete this work would increase only if the number of light fixtures was miscounted or unforeseen hazards occur as the work is being done.

The contractor, Altech, has done similar work in 50 Chicago Public Schools, at Post Offices and UPS facilities, and received glowing references from all.

The Board asked Ms. Allard questions about the financial update for the period ending August 31, 2011, and also requested that PREA employees' salaries be broken out from other employees' salaries on the expense summary in the future. Ms. Allard agreed to the request and will try to separate expenses for the different employee groups' benefits as well.

A. Personnel Report

The Personnel Report contains private information. If additional information is needed please contact Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Sandra Stringer.

B. Bills and Payroll

10 - Education Fund-----	<u>\$ 1,405,250.58</u>
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund -----	<u>1,002,888.21</u>
30 - Debt Services-----	<u>-</u>
40 - Transportation Fund -----	<u>128,448.95</u>
60 - Site and Construction Fund -----	<u>-</u>
80 -Tort Immunity Fund -----	<u>14,821.76</u>
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund -----	<u>-</u>

Checks Numbered: 104799 – 104801, 104830-104831, 105006-105792

Total:     \$ 2,551,409.50

Payroll for Month of August, 2011

10 - Education Fund -----	\$ <u>641,960.82</u>
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund -----	<u>208,539.54</u>
40 - Transportation Fund -----	<u>-</u>
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund -----	<u>69,780.29</u>
80 - Tort Immunity Fund-----	<u>                    </u>

Checks Numbered: 1248 – 1345

Direct Deposit: 900000272 - 900000481

Total                             \$ 920,280.65

C. Acceptance of Donation Check

D. Annual Application for Recognition of Schools

E. Approval of Lighting Replacement in District 64 Schools

F. Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending August 31, 2011

G. Destruction of Audio Closed Minutes

Action Item 11-03-4

**ACTION ITEM 11-03-4**

It was moved by Board member Uhlig 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 September 26, 2011, which includes the Personnel Report, Bills and Payroll, Acceptance of Donation Check, Annual Application for Recognition of Schools, Approval of Lighting Replacement in District 64 Schools, Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending August 31, 2011, and Destruction of Audio Closed Minutes. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Borrelli, Uhlig Zimmerman, Heyde, Fioretto, Lawson

NAYS: Collins

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.



**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of  
Minutes

**ACTION ITEM 11-09-5**

Action Item 11-09-5

It was moved by Board member Zimmerman and seconded by Board member Fioretto that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64 approve the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting: Health Insurance Minutes of August 22, 2011, Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2011, Committee-of-the-Whole: Roles, Goals, Controls Workshop Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2011, Committee-of-the-Whole: Budget Presentation Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2011, Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2011 and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2011. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Lawson, Fioretto, Heyde, Zimmerman, Uhlig, Borrelli

NAYS: None

PRESENT: Collins

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

**OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Other Items of Information

Dr. Bender noted several FOIA requests, the memo updating summer construction and maintenance projects, and the posting of administrators' compensation as required by law. The latter information will also be posted on the District 64 web site.

In addition, Dr. Bender also mentioned the memo from Mr. Heyde that provided historical background and information about future projects of the Community Finance Committee, and Traffic Safety Committee minutes. He also reminded Board members to take a required online test for the IASB.

There was discussion about a memo from Ms. Allard about the costs, tracking, and efficiency of three middle school lunch payment options. Ms. Allard will check on ISBE rules for collection of money.

Mr. Uhlig provided feedback from a meeting he attended of the North Cook IASB about education reform. State Representatives Mulligan, Nekritz and Garrett were there. The three key topics discussed were school district consolidation, pensions and staff evaluations.

Ms. Lawson believes it is time to revive the Board Legislative Committee based on what's happening at the State level regarding education, and stated she will be the delegate at the upcoming Triple I Conference.

Dr. Bender invited everyone to attend “Rachel’s Challenge” on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Emerson Middle School. This is being brought to District 64 through an ELF grant.

The Board agreed to post the Board packet and draft minutes on Friday afternoons prior to Monday Board meetings for the public to view.

Mr. Heyde distributed Board assignments for school visits and asked Board members to notify him of any changes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment

At 10:18 p.m., it was moved by Board member Lawson and seconded by Board member Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by consensus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary