

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting held on November 17, 2016

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The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, 9440 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the President of the Board, Una McGeough, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: Frank Alkyer  
Amy Anson  
Katrina Bell-Jordan  
Menucha Levy  
Una McGeough  
Mark Weil (by phone)

Absent: Richard Berk

Also present were: James Garwood, Ed.D., superintendent of schools; Lisa Schwartz, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction; Ryan Berry, chief school business official; Peg Lasiewicki, Ed.D., director of student services; Nancy Battaglia, director of technology; Barbara Marler, director of EL services; Karen Bradley, Ed.D., principal; Robyn Huemmer, principal; Susan O'Neil, principal; Hal Schmeisser, principal; Phyllis Carlstrom, recording secretary; other staff, and members of the community.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests to address the Board.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

##### Annual Audit

Cheryden Jurgensen, with the District's independent audit firm Eder, Casella, & Co., presented the annual audit report and management letter to the Board. Ms. Jurgensen indicated that the audit did not identify any material weakness. She highlighted key schedules and noted that a Single Audit was required because the district expended over \$500,000 in federal monies, resulting in additional testing of internal procedures. Lastly, she commended the District for its prudent financial management and informed the Board to remain sensible in building solid reserves.

##### Student Learning Objectives and Student Growth in Teacher Evaluations

Mrs. Schwartz presented a report on how District 68 is using Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) as our measurement tool for student growth in order to meet the requirements of The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) that was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the Governor in January 2010. This act changed how teachers' and principals' performance is measured by the state. The full report and examples can be found [HERE](#).

##### Superintendent's Reports

Dr. Garwood recognized School Board Members Day 2016, and thanked board members for their dedicated leadership in public education and continuing service to the children of this community.

Dr. Garwood reported that the second annual flu clinic that took place in schools on November 14, 2016, went smoothly. This year we had 102 students take advantage of the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

Dr. Garwood reviewed the types of activities that took place in our schools that recognized veterans on Veterans' Day including, but not limited to: assemblies, letter-writing, songs, daily announcements, and art work.

#### READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Dr. Anson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bell-Jordan, that the minutes from the following meeting of the Board of Education be approved and placed on file:

- October 20, 2016, Board of Education Regular Meeting
- October 20, 2016, Board of Education Closed Session

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Levy, McGeough, Weil

NAY: None

ABSENT: Berk

The motion carried.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Alkyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Anson, that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved, as presented, which included the following items:

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Financial Reports
- C. Approval of Pay Orders and Expenditures
- D. Board of Education Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
  - a. 4:170 Safety
  - b. 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Levy, McGeough, Weil

NAY: None

ABSENT: Berk

The motion carried.

#### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### Financial Projections

Ryan Berry, CSBO, reviewed financial projections for the period of 2016-2021. He noted the following points regarding some areas of revenue:

- Property Taxes represent over 80% of total revenue
- 2015 EAV - \$838,288,795 – decrease of nearly 3%. Total decrease of 28.40% from 5 years prior
- Tax cap – 0.7% for 2016 levy
- Property tax free in levy year 2017, 2018
- New property has decreased from a high of \$58.6M in 2007 to \$1.5M in 2015
- Tax appeal refunds for FY16 over \$1.05M
- Tax appeal refunds for FY17 already over \$240K

Some of the expenditures that were noted:

- Salaries represent 70% of total budget
- Salaries increase 2.0 to 3.7% per year partially offset by retirements
- Benefits up 8% per year including retirement costs and health care
- State share of TRS shifted to district at a rate of 0.5% per year
- Social Security/IMRF projected to increase 4% per year

##### Tentative Tax Levy

Mr. Berry shared the administration's recommendation that the Board approve a levy increase of 1.1% at its December board meeting that will sustain access to the maximum tax revenues under the tax cap.

Tax Rate 2016 Information

Mr. Berry reported that District 68 has a strong mix of residential, commercial and industrial taxpayers, with home owners currently representing just under half of the total equalized assessed value (EAV) of the district. Of every \$200 in property taxes, the District collects, approximately \$52 is paid by commercial or industrial property owners, and approximately \$48 by homeowners.

2017-2018 Draft School Calendar

The draft school calendar for the 2017-2018 school year was discussed as presented after a committee also met to consider a way to better serve parents on parent/ teacher conference dates. In lieu of four conference evenings over the course of the school year, there will be two evenings and two full-days of conferences thereby creating additional meeting slots and more time options to meet the needs of all parents.

Band Shells at Old Orchard Junior High

Dr. Garwood stated that the Old Orchard Jr. High PTA had begun fund-raising last year in order to buy band shells that would support all of our students' music performances. The total cost is approximately \$10,000, and to date the PTAs are about a quarter of the way there. Discussion took place as to whether or not this is an initiative that the Board would support the District funding. Consensus was yes, District 68 monies could fund the rest of this project.

IASB Resolution/Recommendations

Mrs. McGeough asked if there were any questions or comments on this topic prior to the Assembly Delegate voting, and there were none.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Semi-Annual Review fo Closed Session Minutes

Mrs. Levy made a motion, seconded by Dr. Anson, to release, or keep confidential, the closed session minutes from the following meetings:

The closed session minutes will be approved for full release for the following dates:

April 21, 2016  
May 19, 2016.

The closed session minutes will be approved for partial release for the following dates:

August 26, 2014  
September 18, 2014  
October 16, 2014  
December 18, 2014  
March 19, 2015  
April 16, 2015  
May 21, 2015

The closed session minutes will remain closed for the following dates:

February 20, 2007  
June 18, 2015  
February 18, 2016

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Levy, McGeough, Weil  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Berk

The motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Mrs. McGeough reported that there were two (2) requests and/or responses for information under the Freedom of Information Act during the period of October 15, 2016, through November 11, 2016. Responses to these requests had been sent.

Dr. Garwood noted that the State School Report cards are now available and that links will be posted to the District's website.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Levy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alkyer, to go into closed session to discuss Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Levy, McGeough, Weil

NAY: None

ABSENT: Berk

The motion carried. The Board recessed at 9:05 p.m.

#### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 10:50 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Alkyer and seconded by Mrs. Levy.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Weil made a motion, seconded by Dr. Anson, to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Levy, McGeough, Weil

NAY: None

ABSENT: Berk

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

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Richard Berk, Secretary  
Board of Education

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Una McGeough, President  
Board of Education