

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 20, 2011

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 20th day of December, 2011, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by the president of the Board, David Beller, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: Amy Anson
Katrina Bell-Jordan
David Beller
Richard Berk
Hank Schneider

Absent: Una McGeough
Darius Zakeri

Administrative staff members were present as follows:

Frances McTague, Superintendent
Leslie Gordon, Highland School Principal
Robyn Hawley, Old Orchard Junior High School Principal
Laurie Heinz, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Jac McBride, Director of Special Services
Rob McElligott, 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
Irina Ziemann, Director of Information Technology

Absent: None

Visitors: Ryan Berry
Ed Boundy
Natalie Dandino
Laura Doherty
Katie Hills
Lisa Omori
Rowena Salomon
Lisa Sarnoff
Marilyn Soglin

1. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President Schneider asked Board members and administrators at the head table to introduce themselves. He asked for comments from the audience regarding items not on the agenda. There were no comments.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting – November 15, 2011
Closed Board of Education Meeting – November, 15, 2011
- b. Personnel: Certificated Resignation/Retirement: L. Miller; Request for Personal
Absence Leave: M. Siegel; Classified Resignation: D. Ganjani, M. Jennings, O. Wehrle
- c. Financial Reports

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

3. CLASSROOM AND INDIVIDUAL GOAL SETTING

Devonshire School principal Randy Needlman and teacher Elizabeth Bottonari presented an overview of the classroom goal setting process at Devonshire school. Old Orchard Junior High principal Robyn Hawley, teacher Katie Hills, and two 8th grade students described the individual goal setting process at Old Orchard. There was Board discussion about the process and the motivational aspects for both students and teachers, and ways to bring parents into the conversation. President Beller thanked the presenters.

4. FACILITIES STUDY REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Millard provided background on facility renovations in the district in the late 1990's and early 2000's and the rationale for performing the comprehensive study of the district school buildings. Architect Tim McGrath from BLDD Architects summarized the study process and Assistant Superintendent Millard highlighted the planned renovations for 2012 and 2013.

5. DISCUSSION: NEW POLICY 5144 BULLYING, HAZING, HARASSMENT AND/OR CYBULLYING

Superintendent McTague summarized the proposed policy on Bullying, Hazing, Harassment and/or Cyberbullying. There was discussion about some of the wording of the policy and the issue of bullying in general.

6. DISCUSSION: NEW POLICY 5137 STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURIES

Superintendent McTague reviewed the proposed policy.

7. PARENT SURVEY ON CALENDAR AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE AT OLD ORCHARD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Superintendent McTague presented the results of the parent survey on the school calendar and the Student Resource Officer.

8. DISCUSSION: BOARD VALUES

Member Schneider reported on a powerful conference he attended on Board values.

9. NILES TOWNSHIP DISTRICT #807 FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Member Berk reported on the December 14, 2011 report of the Niles Township District #807 for Special Education.

10. WORKING CASH BOND SALE RESOLUTION

It was moved by Member Berk, seconded by Member Anson, to adopt a resolution providing for the issue of \$8,300,000 Taxable General Obligation Limited School Bonds, Series 2011, of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds (see Attachment A).

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:
AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider
NAY: None.
Motion carried.

11. 2011 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION

It was moved by Member Schneider, seconded by Member Anson, to adopt the 2011 Tax Levy Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of School District Number 68, Cook County, Illinois, adopt a tax levy resolution as follows:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| the sum of | \$17,840,000 | for educational purposes, and |
| the sum of | 2,990,000 | for operations and maintenance purposes, and |
| the sum of | 820,000 | for transportation purposes, and |
| the sum of | 100,000 | for working cash purposes, and |
| the sum of | 500,000 | for Illinois Municipal Retirement purposes, and |
| the sum of | 600,000 | for social security and Medicare purposes, and |
| the sum of | 0 | for fire prevention, safety, environmental, and energy conservation purposes, and |
| the sum of | 330,000 | for tort immunity purposes, and |
| the sum of | 200,000 | for special education purposes |

on the equalized assessed valuation of all the taxable property in School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, for the year 2011.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:
AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider
NAY: None.
Motion carried.

12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERVENTION IN TAX APPEAL

It was moved by Member Anson, seconded by Member Schneider, that the Board of Education adopt a resolution authorizing the Niles Township Property Tax Appeals Cooperative to file a tax appeal intervention as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERVENTION IN TAX OBJECTION COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS PENDING IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, tax objection complaint proceedings filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County have historically been one of the largest sources of property tax refunds for those properties situated within the boundaries of Skokie School District No. 68 (the “School District”); and

WHEREAS, the filing of a tax objection complaint seeks a reduction in the assessed value of a parcel that, if successful, leads to the issuance of a real estate tax refund from the School District; and

WHEREAS, the total dollar amount of all real estate tax refunds generated by the settlement or other resolution of tax objection complaints has constituted a significant, ongoing, and detrimental expense of the School District; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled in *Madison Two Associates v. Pappas*, 227 Ill. 2d 474, 884 N.E. 2d 142 (2008), that a taxing district may intervene in tax objection complaint proceedings before a circuit court in accordance with the requirements of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court found in *Madison Two* that “taxing districts have a direct and immediate stake in how assessment challenges are decided, for if assessments are ultimately found to be excessive, the portion of the taxes attributable to the over assessment must be refunded, and the tax proceeds available to the taxing districts will necessarily be reduced.” *Id.*; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the School District has determined that it is necessary, desirable, advantageous, and in the public interest to defend the Board’s real property tax revenue by intervening in tax objection complaints pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Skokie School District No. 68, as follows:

1. The Board finds that the recitals contained above are true and correct, and that the same are hereby incorporated herein by reference.
2. The Board hereby authorizes Franczek Radelet P.C., as its legal representative, to: a) file Petitions to Intervene in those tax objection complaints filed in the Circuit Court of Cook

County as directed by the Assistant Superintendent for Business in consultation with the Superintendent considering the reasonable likelihood of success in a particular case, the risk of loss of substantial tax revenue, and whether the case may set an important precedent; and b) represent the Board's interests in these proceedings.

3. All motions and resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.
4. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the other sections, paragraphs, clauses, or provisions of this Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall be in force and effect upon its adoption.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

13. FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent Millard presented the five-year financial projections. Ms. Millard explained that the district's financial health continues to be impacted by the economy, the tax cap, business property tax appeals, uncertainty of state funding, and escalating costs. As a result of the disparity between relatively flat revenue increases and increasing costs, the operating deficit is projected to grow significantly over the next five years. She 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. President Beller thanked Ms. Millard for her report.

14. MOVE THE MEETING TO CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Member Berk, seconded by Member Anson, to move the meeting into closed session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

15. RECONVENE MEETING

The meeting was reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

16. PERSONNEL

It was moved by Member Anson, seconded by Member Berk, to approve a separation agreement and general release for a classified employee (see Attachment B).

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

17. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board reviewed several Communication items.

18. ADJOURN THE MEETING

It was moved by Member Schneider, seconded by Member Berk, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Beller, Berk, Schneider

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

Beth Millard, Board Secretary

David Beller, President