

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 15, 2009

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 15th day of December, 2009, 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 Hank Schneider, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: Amy Anson
David Beller
David Ehrlich (entered at 7:37 p.m.)
Una McGeough
Hank Schneider
Tanja Tuck

Absent: Paul Livieri

Administrative staff members were present as follows:

Frances McTague, Superintendent
Leslie Gordon, Highland School Principal
Robyn Hawley, Old Orchard Junior High School Assistant Principal
Luis Illa, Old Orchard Junior High School Principal
Jac McBride, Director of Special Services
Beth Millard, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Randy Needlman, Devonshire School Principal
Susan O'Neil, Jane Stenson School Principal
Barbara Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Visitors:

Rebecca Bearer	Katie Eckert	Jessica Knopf
Rebecca Borree	Meghan Espinoza	Melissa Rothman
Jacque Burton	Katie Gassensmith	Tarryl Saipe
Nancie DeNeve	Christine Heath	Christine Toy

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 Beller, 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 17, 2009
Closed Board of Education Meeting – November 17, 2009
- b. Personnel: Family Medical Leave: N. Guerrero; Administrator Resignation: L. Illa; Certified Resignation: L. Ardell, N. Dandino, B. Greenberg, G. Sloan; Classified Resignation: E. Saltz
- c. Financial Reports
- d. November expenditures as follows: (a) accounts payable checks dated 11/30/09 in the amount of \$372,996.47; (b) handwritten checks in the amount of \$200,097.21; (c) payroll checks in the amount of \$1,385,275.61; for a total of \$1,958,369.29 checks issued for November
- e. Insurance Renewal: Period 12/31/2009 to 12/31,2010, with the Suburban School Cooperative Insurance Pool for a total premium of \$151,873
- f. Elementary School Copier Lease: \$10,708 per year for five years plus annual maintenance fees of \$20,208

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Beller, McGeough, Schneider, Tuck

NAY: None

Motion carried.

3. FALL 2009 STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS IN READING AND MATHEMATICS

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Phillips presented an overview of the various assessments currently in place in the district and described how each is used. She explained how the data is used for screening and to inform instruction. There was discussion about the appropriate level of testing. President Schneider thanked Dr. Phillips for her report.

4. ART LEARNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Phillips reviewed the work of the Art Learning Team. She summarized the curricular recommendations and program structure guidance which resulted from the process. She noted that phase I of implementation planning is underway and implementation of the revised art curriculum will begin next year. President Schneider thanked Dr. Phillips and the committee for their work.

5. NILES TOWNSHIP DISTRICT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION #807

Member McGeough reported on the December 9, 2009, meeting of the Niles Township District for Special Education #807. The Board then discussed the question whether the developmental kindergarten and early childhood classrooms housed in District 68 should remain NTDSE programs or be absorbed as District 68 programs. Assistant Superintendent Millard shared the

cost analysis which indicated that the change would likely be cost neutral. There was support for moving forward with this initiative.

6. PERFORMANCE SCORECARD/BOARD GOVERNANCE

President Schneider reviewed the draft of the Board Self-Evaluation Policy that he and Member Tuck have drafted. Members Beller and Anson shared their work on the Performance Scorecard.

It was agreed

- to add the global description of what we are about to the Performance Scorecard;
- to have more demonstrations by teachers to bring the scorecard goals to life; and
- have the Board do a self review in coordination with the superintendent's mid-year and year-end reports.

President Schneider thanked Board members for their work.

7. BOARD MEMBER SABBATICAL

The Board discussed plans for coordination with Member McGeough during her sabbatical in Switzerland.

8. ADOPTION OF TAX LEVY RESOLUTION FOR THE TAX YEAR 2009

In accordance with the discussion of the Board of Education on November 17, 2009, President Schneider stated that it was necessary at this time for the Board of Education to adopt the tax levy resolution for the tax year 2009, and asked the Secretary to present the resolution as follows:

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

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	\$17,000,000	for educational purposes, and
the sum of	3,625,000	for operations and maintenance purposes, and
the sum of	800,000	for transportation purposes, and
the sum of	100,000	for working cash purposes, and
the sum of	350,000	for Illinois Municipal Retirement purposes, and
the sum of	550,000	for social security and Medicare purposes, and
the sum of	0	for fire prevention, safety, environmental, and energy conservation purposes, and
the sum of	100,000	for tort immunity purposes, and
the sum of	175,000	for special education purposes

on the equalized assessed valuation of all the taxable property in School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, for the year 2009.

It was moved by Member Beller, seconded by Member Ehrlich, to adopt the tax levy resolution for the tax year 2009.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Beller, Ehrlich, McGeough, Schneider, Tuck

NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. RESOLUTION TO INTERVENE IN TAX APPEALS

It was moved by Member Anson, and seconded by Member Ehrlich, to adopt a resolution to intervene in a tax appeal 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.

After a full and complete discussion thereof, the President directed the Secretary to call the roll for a vote upon the motion to adopt this Resolution.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Beller, Ehrlich, McGeough, Schneider, Tuck

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The President declared the motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted this 15th day of December, 2009.

By: s/s Hank Schneider

President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

By: s/s Beth Millard

Secretary, Board of Education

8. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board reviewed several communication items.

9. ADJOURN THE MEETING

It was moved by Member Beller, seconded by Member McGeough, to move the meeting to closed session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel, as per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057 and the lease of school property per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Beller, Ehrlich, McGeough, Schneider, Tuck

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Beth Millard, Board Secretary

Hank Schneider, President