

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting –November 17, 2009

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 17th day of November, 2009, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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  
Paul Livieri  
Hank Schneider  
Tanja Tuck

Absent: Una McGeough

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:

Natalie Dandino	Ryan Hopker
Laura Doherty	S. Kenmotsu
Meghan Espinoza	Claudy Levin
Susan Gustafson	Andrew Mace

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 Tuck, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Agenda, which contained the following:

- a. Minutes  
Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 20, 2009  
Closed Board of Education Meeting – October 20, 2009
- b. Personnel: Certificated Appointment: K. Frampton; Personal Absence Leave: E. Beall, J. Siedband; Temporary Disability Leave: I. Nevinger; Classified Resignation: J. Strohl, A. Yoder
- c. Financial Reports
- d. October expenditures as follows: (a) accounts payable checks dated 10/31/09 in the amount of \$576,375.45; (b) handwritten checks in the amount of \$153,608.24; (c) payroll checks in the amount of \$2,085,117.75; for a total of \$2,815,101.44 checks issued for October.
- e. Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes  
Transfer to Open: 4/18/06, 2/17/09, 3/17/09, 5/19/09, 6/16/09, 8/18/09  
Retain as Closed: 2/20/07, 7/21/09  
Destruction of Verbatim Record: 11/27/07, 12/18/07, 1/15/08 (Pt 1), 11/15/08 (Pt 2), 2/19/08 (Pt 1), 2/19/08 (Pt 2), 3/18/08
- f. Linking for Learning Library Grant Review  
Approve components for the FY2010 Linking for Learning Grant

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

## 3. 2008-09 AUDIT REPORT

Andrew Mace, a partner with the District's independent audit firm Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd. presented the annual audit report and management letter to the Board. He highlighted key schedules and explained new accounting standards for this year and the corresponding changes that were implemented in audit procedures, including reporting of post-retirement benefit liability based on actuarial estimates. He noted that a Single Audit was required this year because the district expended over \$500,000 in federal monies, resulting in additional testing of internal procedures. He commended the District for its prudent management and he noted that continued caution in spending is prudent, especially in light of the current economic uncertainty. President Schneider thanked Mr. Mace for his report.

## 4. PERFORMANCE SCORECARD REVIEW

The Board continued its discussion about governance and board process which began during the Board retreat in early October. There was discussion about various sample Board evaluation templates, the strategic plan, and the performance scorecard, which led to the conclusion that there were two distinct areas of interest: Board evaluation and monitoring

progress toward Board goals. The Board agreed to create sub-committees to work in each of these areas and report back to the full Board. The first committee, composed of Members Schneider and Tuck, will draft an evaluation/checklist to be used for Board self-evaluation and the second, composed of Members Anson and Beller, will expand the performance scorecard to include broader descriptive Board goals combined with summary information from the strategic plan.

5. NILES TOWNSHIP DISTRICT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION #807

Superintendent McTague reported recent discussions of the Niles Township District for Special Education #807 Board and township superintendents about bringing a number of services back into the districts rather than having those students served by NTDSE. She presented two options which are under discussion: one is for each district to take back their own early childhood and developmental kindergarten students; the second option is to have a limited number of districts offer the programs and accept tuition from other districts to house the students in their program. There was discussion about the philosophical aspects of this change as well as the financial implications. There was support to continue this exploration. Dr. McTague indicated that specific cost information would be presented at the December Board meeting. President Schneider thanked Superintendent McTague for her report.

6. DISTRICT 67 CONSOLIDATION STUDY

Superintendent McTague presented a request from the Golf District 67 Superintendent to participate in a consolidation feasibility study. After discussion, the Board declined to proceed.

7. TAX BILL AND RATE INFORMATION

Assistant Superintendent Millard presented information on a typical residential tax bill for a District 68 taxpayer in 2008. She noted that public schools account for the majority of the bill with 33% of the total going to District 219 and 29% designated for District 68. She noted that while the overall EAV of the district increased 7.2%, tax rates declined as result of the tax cap so projected tax revenues increased 4.5% (tax cap level of 4.1% plus new revenue from new construction).

8. 2009 TENTATIVE TAX LEVY

Assistant Superintendent Beth Millard reviewed the tentative 2009 tax levy. She explained that the proposed levy is significantly higher than the tax cap level of 0.1% to insure that the district fully benefits from any new construction coming on the tax rolls for 2009 since this figure will not be available until next fall.

It was moved by Member Beller, seconded by Member Livieri, to adopt an estimated tax levy for the tax year 2009 in the amounts 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.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

#### 9. FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent Millard presented the five-year financial projections. Ms. Millard noted that, similar to other school districts, District 68's financial health continues to be impacted by the economy, the tax cap, business property tax appeals, uncertainty of state funding, and escalating costs. She noted that recent new construction in the District has provided some relief from the restrictions in revenue from the tax cap but that future new growth is expected to be significantly lower based on economic conditions. 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 reviewed the District strategy of using Working Cash Bond sales to offset these operating deficits but pointed out their limitations. Ms. Millard 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.

#### 10. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board reviewed several communication items.

#### 11. ADJOURN THE MEETING

It was moved by Member Beller, seconded by Member Livieri, to move the meeting to closed session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel, as per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

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Beth Millard, Board Secretary

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Hank Schneider, President