

VIII. a

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FIELD SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
3131 Techny, Northbrook, Illinois 60062
7:00 PM, December 17, 2009

CALL TO ORDER OF THE 2009 LEVY HEARING

The 2009 Levy Hearing of the Board of Education was called to order by President Handler at 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Members

Present: David Handler
Jeffrey Silver
Mary Crowe-Richards
Bob Spector
Shel Leshner
Bonnie Schoenberg
Mike Berkowitz

District Administration

Present: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Roberts, Director of Business Services

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by Vice President Silver.

2009 LEVY PRESENTATION

Cheryl Roberts summarized the 2009 Levy.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

ADJOURN 2009 LEVY HEARING

Member Berkowitz made a motion to adjourn the Levy Hearing. Member Silver seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0 The Levy Hearing adjourned at 7:05 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Open Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Handler at 7:05 PM.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Nicholson added item XI. a. i. 3, Request for a Fee Refund, and item XI a. i. 4, FOIA.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

None.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

President Handler informed the audience that an anonymous letter that was written by concerned District 31 parents was given to some of the Board members the day of the November 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting. Member Crowe-Richards explained that the Board did not have a response to this letter at the November 19th meeting because of the timing of its receipt. Member Silver read a response from the Board to the audience in reference to the anonymous letter. Their response included corrections of inaccurate information that was included in the letter and reasons for the Board awarding salary increases to the administration.

Julie Tye, 2301 Mohawk, Glenview Illinois addressed the Board to express her discomfort on the issue of salary increases.

Sue Americus, 2401 Indian Ridge, Glenview Illinois addressed the Board to express the timing of the salary increases in reference to a possible referendum.

President Handler responded to Mrs. Tye and Mrs. Americus. He explained that the District saved money when hiring Superintendent Nicholson and underpaying her. He further explained that the District has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars under Dr. Nicholson's leadership and this money was able to be used for improvements to the District.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PRESENTATION

Principal Erin Murphy, Assistant Principal Dan Razes and Physical Education Teacher Betsy Maher gave a middle school extra-curricular activities presentation.

STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS UPDATE

Superintendent Nicholson provided an updated on the Strategic Plan process. She explained that the survey deadline date is being extended so that more responses can be gathered and reviewed. The next stage is getting volunteers to be on the Strategic Plan Team.

PRESENTATION OF REFERENDUM OPTION

Director of Business Services Cheryl Roberts summarized the third option. Mrs. Roberts explained that in 1994 Cook County become a capped county. She further explained that the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) permitted district's to establish

Debt Extension Services Bases (DESB) in an amount equal to non referendum bonded debt that existed prior to the tax cap going into effect. Non-referendum bonded debt can be working cash bonds, life-safety bonds, etc. A debt service extension operates similar to a home equity line of credit. The District's Debt Service Extension Base is approximately \$702,000. This referendum option is to ask voters to approve an increase in that base to \$1.5 million. Debt Service Extension Base principal and interest payments can be amortized over a maximum of 20 years. Therefore, PTELL permits the District to front load its borrowing capacity for example, the District could authorize \$5 million in working cash bonds, repay the principal and interest within five years and repeat the process. In this scenario the first year would cost approximately 18 cents. Subsequent principal and interest payments would cost 12 cents, 8 cents, etc. Cheryl Roberts explained that the ballot question is much simpler. Cheryl Roberts stated that at the January 28, 2010 Board meeting she will review option two.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Schoneberg made a motion to approve items a through i of the Consent Agenda. Member Leshner seconded the motion. Member Silver asked if the email from Rachael Gibbert was her letter of resignation. Superintendent Nicholson confirmed that it was. The motion passed 7:0.

ACTION ITEMS

Member Silver made a motion to approve the tax levy. Member Leshner seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to approve the employment of Christina Liakos as a Grade One Instructional Assistant. Member Spector seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Cheryl Roberts reported that our property and casualty insurance is increasing to 3.39%. Reasons for the increase include a rise in property values of 4%, vehicle values of 5%, the bus count is up slightly from 252 to 256 and student population is up slightly by 1%. The Suburban School Cooperative Insurance Pool has experienced these increases nationwide. Cheryl Roberts stated that the total premium would be \$41,557.

Cheryl Roberts summarized the referendum communication related to District 225. Cheryl Roberts outlined the Illinois law affecting school finance referendums for the Board to review for future decisions on going out for a referendum.

Cheryl Roberts reported on refund request from Jon Elliott. She explained that several years ago his company began construction on a subdivision in Glenview. In December 2005 the District received impact fees for all (7) of the buildings in advance. To date, only (6) buildings have been constructed. Because of the declining real estate market over the last few years, the construction company has been forced to abandon plans to build the last building in the subdivision. This is the reason for the request of the refund

of the impact fees that total \$3160.00. The Board of Education can not vote on this today because it is an action item.

Cheryl Roberts summarized the updated Freedom of Information Act Policy (FOIA) which on effective January 1, 2010. There are new changes such as a it is going from a seven day response period with a seven day extension period to a five and five business days unless it is a commercial request. FOIA officers for the District will need to be appointed by the Board of Education. Those officers will need to go through training . Training needs to occur by July 1, 2010. There will be a person at the attorney general's office that will at as the liaison for the school districts. The FOIA exemption list has been drastically reduced. The personnel files information has been narrowed down to very specific personal information. Teachers and administrators evaluations will be a challenge. Several school districts have petitioned the Attorney General to put evaluation on the exemption. District 31 will need to adopt a new policy to address the new law and put into place administrative procedures. Superintendent Nicholson added that there are political organizations and politicians that are trying to change the new law to bring back some of the exemptions. Superintendent Nicholson stated that the school attorney's sent a FOIA policy for us to review and vote on. The Board of Education can not vote on this today. It will be back on the agenda for the January Board meeting to be voted on. Member Silver questioned if we had a FOIA officer designated. Superintendent Nicholson stated that Cheryl Roberts is our officer but has not been made official yet. The District will need to have another officer appointed which will be done next month as well.

Principal Kalant reported on the following ACT (Academic, Community, and Teacher) information:

- December 4, 2009 was the H1N1 vaccination day. 206 students and 26 staff members were vaccinated and the day went smoothly.
- Teachers and students are anxiously waiting for the holiday break. Upon return from the break, the teachers will be focusing on the reading and language arts committee, strategic planning and implementing more RtI principles and problem solving.

Principal Murphy reported on the following ACT information:

- Field's H1N1 vaccinated day also went very well. 126 student and 18 District and Field staff were vaccinated.
- Many service learning opportunities are gong on in the school such as donating pens, selling candy canes and giving money to charities.
- When the winter break is over, the teachers will be getting the ground up and running with reading and the strategic plan.

Director of Student Services Joanne Panopoulos reported on the following information:

- The Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (VPAC) met for the second time and it went very well.

Director of Communications Nancy Wasielewski reported on the following:

- The Fall Communicator was printed and delivered this week.
- A Strategic Plan pod cast and SWOT survey is on our WEB site.
- The Pioneer Press covered Winkelman's Ricky Recycle Program and its Snowflurry Program.
- The Chamber of Commerce has an ad for the Hearts of Glenview that features art work done by District students.

Board Reports

Member Silver reminded the Board of the North Cook division IASB dinner in February and that he will try to attend.

Member Crowe-Richards reported on emails that she has been receiving on the NSA building. Everything is running smoothly. Bill Charis will be retiring at the end of this year from NSSD.

Member Schoenberg reported that the Education Foundation approved a grant for the literacy specialists to attend a reading conference and the Education Foundation will be funding the family literacy night, again, this year.

Superintendent Nicholson reported that the PTC is still discussing the corporate entity issue. After the PTC decides what they prefer, they will be available to discuss it with the Board if needed.

Freedom of Information Act

None

District Enrollment

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the District enrollment reports.

Teacher Appraisal Survey Results

Superintendent Nicholson summarized the teacher appraisal survey results.

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

None.

MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Crowe-Richards made a motion to go into closed session. Member Schoenberg seconded this motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned to closed session to consider possible employment, compensation or performance of specific employees.

The Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 8:40 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Member Spector made a motion to approve the employment of Christina Liakos for the assignment of a full time grade one instructional assistant. Member Crowe-Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

ADJOURN MEETING

Member Silver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schoenberg seconded the motion. The motion was passed 7:0. The Board adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date