

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING / OFFICIAL ACTION ON THE 2008-2009 BUDGET
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 208
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
and
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Alumni Lounge, Room 112

The regular Tuesday, September 9, 2008, meeting of the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge, Room 112, of the Riverside Brookfield Township High School building, by Mr. Lawrence Herbst, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

The Secretary called the roll.

Board members present: Karen Bensfield
 Laura Hruska
 Sue Kleinmeyer
 MariAnn Leibrandt
 James Marciniak
 William McCloskey
 Lawrence Herbst, President

Board members absent: None

Also present: Mary Ann Nardi, Secretary and non-member

Administrators present: Jack Baldermann, Superintendent/Principal
 John Passarella, Assistant Principal
 Tim Scanlon, Assistant Principal
 Chris Whelton, Business Office Manager

Others present: Student Association: Molly McCloskey, Corie Suzuki, Jordan
 Messner, Meghan Landahl, Giulia Bova, Stephanie Duve,
 Lisa Stephan
 James Baum
 Shari Bongiorno
 Donald Spatney
 Bob Skolnik, *Landmark*
 David Hilpp
 RBTV Crew

Consideration of Proposed 2008-2009 Budget

A quorum being present, the President stated that the first business before the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing on the Budget, prepared in tentative form, as set forth in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education held on June 24, 2008.

The President then stated that due notice had been given of the Public Hearing on the Budget and that all other statutory requirements preliminary to the holding of such Public Hearing had been complied with.

The Superintendent and Business Manager then presented the 2008-2009 Budget to the Board of Education and the public. Mr. Whelton presented the changes from the tentative budget, and they were discussed. Copies of the proposed budget were included separately in the Board Agenda packets and were available to those present at the meeting.

Following this discussion, the President declared the meeting to be open for public discussion

and stated that all persons desiring to be heard would be heard at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

At 7:47 p.m., the President declared the Public Hearing on the Budget completed and stated that the meeting would proceed, with the first order of business being the completion of those items on the Agenda pertaining to the Budget.

The following documents were submitted for the record:

The Secretary of the Board of Education admitted the following Affidavit and Certificate of Publication:

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, Mary Ann Nardi, the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, and the keeper of the records thereof, DO HEREBY CERTIFY as follows:

1. That on the 24th of June 2008, there was placed on file in the Office of said Board of Education, and maintenance therein from said date up to and including the date of this certificate, for public inspection during regular office hours, a Tentative Budget for said District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009.

2. That on the 24th day of June 2008, there was cause to be published in the *Suburban Life*, being a newspaper published in said District, notice of the availability of said Tentative Budget for public inspection and hearing on said budget to be held on the 9th day of September 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at Riverside Brookfield Township High School. A true and correct copy of a Certificate of Publication of said notice is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of September 2008.

Secretary, Board of Education

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2008-2009 BUDGET

The following resolution entitled "Budget of 2008-2009 School District No. 208, County of Cook, State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008, and Ending June 30, 2009," was proposed and read in full as follows by Mrs. Kleinmeyer:

RESOLUTION #11850

Budget of 2008-2009 School District No. 208, County of Cook, State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008, and Ending June 30, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Township High School District No. 208, County of Cook, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available to the public for inspection for at least thirty days prior to final action thereon;

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held as to such budget on the 11th day of September 2007, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of said District as follows:

SECTION 1: That the fiscal year of this school district be and the same hereby is fixed and declared to be beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009.

SECTION 2: That the following budget containing an estimate of amounts available in each fund, separately, and of expenditures from each, be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of this school district for said fiscal year.

Motion was seconded by Mrs. Bensfield and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None The motion carried.

The following resolution entitled "Resolution Authorizing Certain Payments From Tax Levied" was proposed and read in full as follows by Mr. McCloskey.

RESOLUTION #11851

Resolution Authorizing Certain Payments From Tax Levied

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Township High School District No. 208, County of Cook, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared and adopted a final budget for the 2008-2009 school year and the Secretary of this Board has made this budget conveniently available, and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Revised Statutes 105 ILCS 5/17-7 allows local Boards authority to charge certain facility costs to the Operations and Maintenance Fund until such time as repealed by a successor Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of said District that all costs for custodial salaries, heating fuel and water, the cost of certain custodial supplies and equipment and all fees for architectural and engineering services shall be charged annually against the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Motion was seconded by Mrs. Kleinmeyer and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None The motion carried.

Mr. Herbst thanked everyone involved in the budget process for all their hard work. The President then stated that as the Public Hearing and official action on the Budget have been completed, other business on the Agenda would now proceed.

Before beginning the regular meeting, Mr. Herbst delivered a statement.

Statement Regarding Mr. David Hilpp's Allegations of Board Appointee with Criminal Felony Conviction

At the Board of Education's August 26, 2008, meeting, you asked for, and were provided, time to present policy recommendations to the Board which included development of a policy on appointments to fill a vacancy on the Board. In your presentation on the appointment policy, you stated that in the past seven years the Board of Education had filled a vacancy on the Board by appointing a person who was a convicted felon. When questioned directly by a Board member about this statement, you asserted that the statement was correct. You also stated that Susan Kleinmeyer and I were members of the Board at the time of the appointment of this person. You declined to specifically name the person, but offered after the meeting to work out a process to provide the evidence to support your statement.

The Board has made only three appointments within the past seven years. One of the appointments was Mrs. Kleinmeyer. The other appointments were the same person twice. Neither of these appointees has any felony convictions. In fact, after the Board meeting, you admitted to the Superintendent that the person you were referring to during the meeting had not been appointed to the Board. Additionally, at the Board's September 4, 2008, Policy Committee meeting, you conceded to a Board member that you had "bad" information about this issue.

Falsely stating that a person is a convicted felon is defamatory under Illinois law. In some situations involving public figures, lack of malice or a reckless disregard for the truth is a defense. However, given your demonstrated antagonism toward the Board, your comments would be viewed as malicious or at least made with reckless disregard for the truth.

Your remarks impugn the integrity of not only the appointed Board members, but also the Board as an entity and Susan Kleinmeyer and me personally. Be advised that we are considering all of the legal options which have been presented by your false statements. Also, be advised that anything you present to or about the Board will generate questions about your motivation, judgment, and credibility.

Finally, the public comment time during Board meetings is a time for the Board to receive questions and information, including constructive criticism, from the school community. It is not a time for defamatory remarks such as yours. Without foreclosing possible legal action against you, I trust that in the future you will be mindful of the purpose of the public comment time and more careful and accurate when you address the Board during that time.

Communications/Appearances Before the Board

Written communications received since the regular August 26, 2008, Board meeting were routinely shared with members on a weekly basis.

Student Association Report

The Student Association members introduced themselves. The Open House and freshman elections were held recently. The next major event will be Homecoming and Spirit Week activities. The Board Members and Mr. Baldermann thanked the students for their report.

IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Conference

Mr. Herbst reminded the Board that the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Conference will be held November 21-23, 2008, in Chicago. Registration should be submitted soon. Ms. Hruska stressed the importance of training that is available for Board Members.

Monthly Budget Report

The month-end summary financial statements reflecting year-to-date activity were shared with the Board. Mr. Whelton stated that property taxes are lagging behind the expenditures.

Advanced Placement Results – Summary Presentation

Mr. Baldermann said the AP results were available in August but since that agenda was so large, they will be presented tonight. Mr. Baldermann is very proud of the accomplishments of the students and teachers. The PSAE results are in but will be included in the November testing report. Many positive comments were received from parents of graduates who benefitted from the AP

experience. Discussion followed regarding the merits of AP classes, weighted grades, and AP tests.

Board Committee Reports

Mrs. Kleinmeyer said that a date for a Curriculum Committee meeting will be discussed later. There will be a Finance Committee meeting on September 18, 2008. This will be similar to the meeting held on August 12, 2008. Ms. Hruska reminded the group about the West Cook Division Fall Dinner Meeting on Monday, September 29, 2008. A Policy Committee meeting was held last week to discuss possible revisions to the policy manual draft. A tour highlighting the renovation progress was held prior to this meeting. The company that was supplying the tile for Phases 2 and 3 is going out of business. The second lowest bidder will pick up the work for Phase 2, and Phase 3 tiling will go out to bid again. An Open House will be held on September 29, 2008, to show the progress on the facility.

Visitor Statements

Mr. Hilpp apologized for his partial error in his statement at the August 26, 2008, regular Board meeting regarding the background of a former appointed Board Member. He explained the motivation behind his presentation at the last meeting. Mrs. Shari Bongiorno thanked the administration for the incredible Open House last week. She also commented on the *Landmark* article stating that RBHS is considering the use of an investigation agency to check residency. She appreciates the Board Members' concern about the "Big Brother" aspect, but this process will only help the students that are legally here.

Consent Agenda – Action Items

Board approval of the routine items listed in the Consent Agenda was recommended.

RESOLUTION # 11852

Consent Agenda Items

Approval of Minutes
Payment of Bills
Approve Application/Recognition of Schools

Mrs. Bensfield moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, hereby takes the following action on the listed Consent Agenda items:

- A. Approves minutes from the meetings held on August 26, 2008, and September 4, 2008
- B. Approves payment of the bills as presented and listed in Section IX.
- C. Approves the Application/Recognition of Schools as presented in Section IX.
- D. Approves payment to the Courtesy Committee

Mrs. Kleinmeyer seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Old Business – Action Items

Adopt Riverside Brookfield High School Policy Manual

This item was discussed briefly. Mr. Herbst explained that the attorney will draft language on two points. Mrs. Bensfield reiterated that the manual is a work in progress and proposed changes received from the IASB will be reviewed regularly. It is important to have a working document in place. Mr. Baldermann thanked the Board for all the hours they worked to create this manual for RB.

RESOLUTION # 11853

Adopt Riverside Brookfield High School Policy Manual

Mrs. Bensfield moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois hereby rescinds the present Riverside Brookfield High School District 208 Board Policy Manual and adopts the new Board Policy Manual as presented and discussed at the September 9, 2008, Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Kleinmeyer seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibbrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None
and the following were ABSENT: None The motion carried.

Contract for National Investigations, Inc.

Mr. Passarella outlined the changes the attorney made to the contract.

RESOLUTION # 11854 Contract for National Investigations, Inc.

Mrs. Bensfield moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois hereby approves the contract with National Investigations, Inc., as presented and discussed at the September 9, 2008, Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Leibbrandt seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibbrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None
and the following were ABSENT: None The motion carried.

Pillars Contract for Drug and Alcohol Counseling

Mr. Scanlon explained the drug and alcohol counseling services that Pillars will provide to RB.

RESOLUTION # 11855 Pillars Contract for Drug and Alcohol Counseling

Mrs. Kleinmeyer moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, hereby approves the contract with Pillars for substance abuse counseling services as presented and discussed at the September 9, 2008, regular meeting.

Mr. Marciniak seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibbrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None
and the following were ABSENT: None The motion carried.

New /Business

Mr. Herbst reordered the agenda.

Transfer of Funds

Mr. Whelton explained the necessity to transfer funds at this time.

RESOLUTION # 11856 Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Kleinmeyer moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, hereby approves the transfer of funds from the working cash fund as presented in the walk-in item and discussed at the September 9, 2008, regular meeting.

Mrs. Bensfield seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Agreement for Provisional Membership between Metro Suburban Conference Members and Illiana Christian High School of Lansing, and Timothy Christian Schools of Elmhurst

Mr. Baldermann explained that this resolution permits two new schools to join the Metro Suburban Conference. He also described the efforts over the last several years to attract new schools to the conference.

RESOLUTION # 11857

Agreement for Provisional Membership between Metro Suburban Conference Members and Illiana Christian High School of Lansing, and Timothy Christian Schools of Elmhurst

Mrs. Kleinmeyer moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, approves the agreement for provisional membership between Metro Suburban Conference Members, Illiana Christian High School of Lansing, and Timothy Christian Schools of Elmhurst, as presented in the September 9, 2008, Board Agenda Packet.

Mrs. Leibrandt seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Article XII, Section 3.B.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

After an explanation by Mr. Baldermann and a brief discussion by the Board, this item will be moved to Closed Session.

Permission for Jazz Ensemble to Perform at Fitzgerald's Night Club, Berwyn

Mr. James Baum explained the request for permission for the Jazz Ensemble to perform at this venue. Mrs. Bensfield made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Leibrandt. After a short discussion, the Board requested additional information to be presented at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Bensfield rescinded her motion.

Visitors Statements

Mr. Donald Spatney commented on the opportunity for the Jazz Ensemble to be an opening act at Fitzgerald's. He has experience with music festivals and stated that this type of experience is valuable to the students.

Closed Session

A closed session was recommended for the purpose of considering appointment, employment or dismissal of employees, and student disciplinary matters.

RESOLUTION # 11858

Closed Session

Mrs. Kleinmeyer moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, enters closed session for the purpose of considering appointment, employment or dismissal of employees, and student disciplinary matters

Mr. Marciniak seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

The Board entered closed session at 9:17 p.m., reconvened in open session at 11:30 p.m. and took action on items of unfinished business.

Action Following Closed Session

RESOLUTION #11859

Retirement Request from Beverlee Wolf

Mrs. Bensfield moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, hereby approves the retirement request from Beverlee Wolf (June 2009) as presented and discussed during the September 9, 2008, closed session meeting.

Mrs. Kleinmeyer seconded the motion and upon roll call, the following members voted AYE:

Mrs. Bensfield, Ms. Hruska, Mrs. Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Leibrandt, Mr. Marciniak, Mr. McCloskey, and Mr. Herbst

and the following voted NAY: None

and the following were ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #11860

Adjournment

It was moved by Mrs. Bensfield and seconded by Mrs. Leibrandt that the Regular September 9, 2008, Meeting of the Board of Education, Township High School District 208, Cook County, Illinois, be adjourned. All members present voted AYE, and the motion carried.

At 11:35 p.m. the President declared the meeting adjourned.