

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 – 10:32 p.m. December 16, 2009

Members Present:

Leandra Sedlack, Presiding Officer
 Patti Essig
 Lisa Houk
 Mark Mirabile
 Karen O'Halloran
 Rick Rigley
 Beth Tegtmeier

ROLL CALL AND
VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf were staff members Erika Sawosko, Meg Pokorny, Catherine Chang, Kim Freislinger, Matt Vandercar, Jeanne Williamson, Joanne Histed, Lisa Penrod, Denise Rende, and Kristi Vervack; Robert Horstman of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause; and residents Michael Rak and Gina Nelson.

STAFF
RECOGNITION

Board members Patti Essig and Rick Rigley presented certificates of recognition to our school nurses, Lisa Penrod and Denise Rende, for their care and dedication to the students and staff of Pleasantdale.

STUDENT
RECOGNITION

Board members Patti Essig and Rick Rigley presented certificates of appreciation to the gold award winner in the STR Partners Holiday Card Competition; winners of the IMEA competition and the 1st place 7th grade and 3rd place 8th grade teams in the Montini Catholic High School Math Competition in addition to individual winners in the Montini Catholic High School Math Competition.

MOTION NO. 26

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by O'Halloran, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing open at 7:12 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

In her presentation to the Board, Business Manager Catherine Chang stated that based on the 2009 CPI figures, residents can expect an average 0.1% increase in property taxes assessed for District 107 school operations.

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by O'Halloran, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing closed at 7:18 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

ACTION NO. 27

Tax Levy Adoption

Motion by Essig, seconded by O'Halloran, that the Board of Education adopts the 2009 tax levy as presented in the public hearing and authorizes the President and Secretary of the Board to sign all appropriate documents. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, O'Halloran, Rigley, Sedlack, Tegtmeier.)

ACTION NO. 28

Tax Levy Resolution

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by O'Halloran, that the Board of Education adopts a Resolution approving reducing the following funds where the levy exceeds the tax cap limitations: Working Cash (no less than \$0) and Transportation (no less than \$600,000) Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, O'Halloran, Rigley, Sedlack, Tegtmeier.)

ACTION NO. 29

Consent Agenda

Motion by Rigley, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2009; and payment of November payroll/December warrants. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile O'Halloran, Rigley, Sedlack, and Tegtmeier).

REPORTS AND
DISCUSSION ITEMS*Town Hall Meeting Planning:*

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf presented a draft of the proposed agenda for the Town Hall meeting on February 3rd beginning at 7:00 p.m. Individual student learning improvement profile (ISLIP's) will be the focus of the discussion for the Town Hall meeting. Student testimonials regarding the ISLIP's will be incorporated in the presentation. A Promethean board will be used as part of the discussion to demonstrate its uses to parents. Child care will be provided.

Options for Auditing Procedures:

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf discussed options available to address the material weakness that school districts routinely receive as a result of new auditing procedures. Robert Horstman, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, explained the material weakness is a result of not having audit reports written externally or separate from the actual audit. To alleviate this weakness, he suggested two options. One, the district could have the reports prepared by an outside firm other than Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krause. Two, the reports could be written by an internal employee who preferably was a certified public accountant. Mr. Horstman was unaware of any districts that have acted on either option to avoid the material weakness. It was the decision of the Board to explore further options on preparing the financial statements and audit. The Board will revisit the issue in January to determine which options to pursue if any.

Review of Fee Based Programs:

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf provided historical information and recommendations regarding fees for Summer Academy, Bright Beginnings and Extended Day Kindergarten. No changes in the Summer Academy were recommended. Dr. Fredisdorf recommended an incremental fee structure for Bright Beginnings and extended day kindergarten. He suggested that the Finance Committee develop a prototype fee structure for Board consideration. The Finance Committee will develop the prototype and also investigate cost comparisons with other public schools.

Preliminary Review of District Contracts:

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf reviewed our existing contracts that the District may want to bid. At the current time, none of our contracts will go out to bid. The district will continue with our current selection of vendors.

Mid-term Superintendent Review:

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf provided a verbal update on progress in achieving 2009-10 goals. The Communication Survey results have been forwarded to the Action Team leaders for further analysis. Curriculum action plan timelines will be provided to the Board after the January institute day. The district will begin negotiations with the Teacher's Association of Pleasantdale in spring 2010. The finance committee is operational and their role is still in the development process.

Review Community Relations (sec.8) Board Policies

Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf presented the minor changes in policy 8:30 and 8:100. The changes are to be approved at the January Board meeting.

Board Protocols and Communication:

Board President Leandra Sedlack reviewed Board protocols regarding communication. The Board's personal and/or work email addresses were included in the PTA directory. This information was not provided by administration. The concern was raised that having personal and work emails of Board members listed in the PTA directory would run counter to the current procedure of stakeholders using the designated board@d107.org address. The purpose of a single Board email address is to ensure that all Board members receive the emails. It was the agreement of the Board that any emails related to Board business received via personal or business emails would be sent to the superintendent for distribution to all Board members. Another concern raised about Board communication by President Leandra Sedlack was the confidentiality of information contained in weekly updates provided by the superintendent. Board President Sedlack questioned the Board on their feelings of confidentiality regarding this information. It was the agreement of the Board that all information included in the weekly update was privileged and for Board member use only.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the January 2010 agenda include:
Mid-Year review of Non-tenured teachers, Town Hall Meeting Planning, Appoint FOIA and OMA Agents; Approve Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; Declassify Selected Closed Session Minutes; Review of Fee Based Programs; and Options for Auditing Procedures.

OPEN FORUM

Gina Nelson made negative statements about the quality of the Bright Beginnings preschool program. She would like to see the district explore the curriculum used in other programs.

ACTION NO. 30

Closed Session

Motion by Essig, seconded by Houk, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 9:18 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call of 7 ayes (Essig, Houk, Mirabile, O'Halloran, Rigley, Sedlack, and Tegtmeier)

The Board came out of closed session at 10:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

App. ___ President

Leandra M. Sedlack

Secretary

Dea Houk