

## **Board Meeting Highlights**

### **Regular Meeting**

**January 19, 2011**

At its regular meeting on January 19, 2011, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

#### **Board of Education Recognition of Staff**

Heard from Board Vice President Mark Mirabile who presented a certificate of appreciation to elementary music teacher Eric Woltman for all the hard work, time, and dedication to the students of Pleasantdale. Many students and parents attended the meeting to show their appreciation for Mr. Woltman.

#### **Open Forum**

Heard from Board member Rick Rigley who addressed the editorial that appeared in the January 13 edition of *The Doings* regarding the District's fund balances. Mr. Rigley stated the editorial demonstrated a dangerous level of irresponsibility in their conclusion the district should spend down fund balances in a manner that would create a permanent reduction in revenue. He further pointed out that *The Doings* failed to do their homework as the January 19 Board of Education agenda included a strategy to responsibly provide tax relief without recklessly placing the district in a position where it may need to cut programs or raise additional revenue via a referendum. *The Doings* editorial also failed to note that Pleasantdale's tax rate is by far the lowest among LT feeder districts – almost half the average rate.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of December 15, 2010; closed session meeting minutes of December 15, 2010; payment of December payroll/January warrants; declassify selected closed session minutes and Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies.

#### **Reports and Discussions:**

##### **Hinsdale 181 Withdrawal from LADSE and Revised LADSE Articles of Agreement**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who described the process Hinsdale 181 needs to undergo to withdraw from LADSE. Pam Kazee from Hinsdale 181 was present to answer Board questions. The LADSE Articles of Agreement were amended to hold harmless other member districts from residual expenses incurred by withdrawing districts. The amendments also clarify ownership of LADSE property and a revision schedule for the Articles of Agreement. The revised Articles of Agreement will be placed on the consent agenda for the February Board meeting along with the Resolution approving the Hinsdale withdrawal.

##### **Finance Committee Report on Board Fiscal Policy 4:20**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed Board Policy 4:20 and current fund balances. Fund balances now exceed reserves required for six months of operations. To address the issue, the Finance Committee is recommending that the Board of Education apply \$500,000 of fund balance to abate debt service for the 2010 tax year. This will result in tax relief for district residents. In subsequent years, the Board will review whether to continue this abatement in relation to fund balance. Elizabeth Hennessy of William Blair explained the details of the abatement process. In order for relief to be in place for tax year 2010, the Board will need to approve a resolution at the February Board meeting. For a house valued at \$300,000, the estimated reduction in tax burden would be \$65.76. For a house valued at \$500,000, the estimated reduction would be \$112.40.

##### **Review of Legal Services and Early Retirement Option (ERO) Opinion**

Heard from Board member Karen O'Halloran who reviewed with the Board comparative information about legal fees. Comparisons indicated that fees paid by Pleasantdale were within the range of fees charged by other law firms. Mrs. O'Halloran reviewed the firms currently used by the district and expressed that due diligence was done to research alternative firms and fees. In addition, suggested ERO language from Jim Zeuhl of Franczek Radelet was reviewed. It was agreed that future administrative contracts would contain language protecting the district from ERO penalties.

##### **Curriculum Council Update**

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who shared with the Board the current status of assessment writing and report card revisions. A Parent Advisory committee of about 20 parents has been established. The committee will be advancing recommendations to the Curriculum Council regarding grading and reporting practices. The committee will meet three or four times before the end of the school year. New report cards may be implemented for the 2011-12 school year. Four vendors have presented student information software systems to non-teaching staff, teachers, and parents this past week.

The Software Ad hoc committee will be meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> to determine what the next step will be in reviewing the student information systems. The Software Ad hoc committee is on an aggressive timeline to make a recommendation to the Board by spring break.

#### Town Hall Meeting Planning

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the proposed Town Hall meeting agenda that was developed by the Communication Committee. Topics that were thought to be of interest to parents and other community members include grading and reporting changes, financial status of the district, and internet safety. The Town Hall Meeting could begin with a general session on grading and reporting changes and then two breakout sessions on finance and internet safety. Board member Patti Essig would like to see the topic of internet safety be expanded to include cyber bullying and social networking. After considerable discussion, the Board advised that the main topic should be upcoming changes in grading and reporting with a brief review of district finances. It was determined that internet safety, with a focus on cyber bullying, be held on a separate evening. The Board asked Dr. Fredisdorf to involve the Parent Advisory committee in planning the Town Hall meeting on grading and reporting. Tentatively, the meeting will be scheduled for March 23, 2011.

#### Demographic Report

Heard from Superintendent Mark Fredisdorf who reviewed the demographic projections that were updated by Dr. John Kasarda in 2009-10. The district is currently under the projections for 2010-11 (768 vs. 758). If projections continue to be relatively accurate, the district will peak at 795 students K-8 in 2017-18 and decline slightly thereafter. Given our current and projected enrollments, the district will have sufficient classroom space for the foreseeable future.

#### Action Item

The Board unanimously approved elimination of base registration fees for the 2011-12 school year.

#### Next Agenda

Items for the February Board Meeting: Review FY12 School Calendar; Staffing Recommendations; Approve Hinsdale 181 Withdrawal from LADSE Resolution; Approve Revised LADSE Articles of Agreement; Town Hall Meeting Planning; Review St. John of the Cross Bus Contract; Approve Tax Abatement; and Review Governance and Planning (sec. 1) Board Policies.

#### Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 8:29 to 10:40 p.m. to discuss mid-term review of non-tenured teachers; appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

#### Action Item

The Board unanimously approved the January 2010 Personnel Report as presented.

#### Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 10:43 p.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, February 16, 2011  
7:00 p.m. in the  
District 107 Administration Building**