

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING,
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL
DISTRICT #225, COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, September 22, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 225 was held on Monday, September 22, 2008 at approximately 7:30 p.m. at the Glenbrook High Schools Administration Building, pursuant to due notice of all members and the public.

The president called the meeting to order. Upon calling of the roll, the following members answered present: Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf. Absent: Berzon. Also present: Dill-Varga, Freeman, Muir, Pryma, Ptak, Riggle, Schilling, Siena, Wegley, and Williamson.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING deleting agenda item #
7(Board Policy 6370)**

Motion by Mr. Boron, seconded by Mr. Hammer to approve the agenda for this meeting with the deletion of agenda item #7 (Board Policy 6370)

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 6-0.

(Mr. Berzon arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO EXCEL

Dr. Craig Schilling, assistant superintendent for business, introduced four individuals ---Michelle Scheinkopf, Joanne Masri, Jessica Roby, and Debbie Whipple---who were instrumental in the successful implementation of the district health promotion program.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY VISITORS

No community visitors asked to be recognized.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Superintendent Riggle commented positively on the smooth operation of each building's parent night, thanks to the

involvement of many staff and faculty. He also informed them that October 19 would be the date for Glenbrook North's interactive facility open house, which would include a ribbon cutting ceremony in the new lobby and a dedication ceremony for the E.J. Duffy Student Center.

Board member Taub informed the Board that he had received a positive report from parents about the cafeteria food service. Board member Hammer expressed his pleasure with the new choral facilities viewed during his participation at parent night.

President Torf provided an update from the Northfield Township Board Presidents' meeting at which there was much discussion about the NSSD construction project. She assured this Board that other boards had similar questions about the past, current, and future process relative to this project. She also reminded board members about the October 20 (Monday night) legislative dinner at the Renaissance Hotel in Northbrook. President Torf also remarked on the IASB (Illinois Association of School Board members) dinner she recently attended with Dr. Riggle, Mrs. Dill-Varga, Mr. Hammer, Mr. Berzon, and Mr. Boron.

Board member Berzon informed the Board that they would be invited to attend a dinner and play at the Northfield Inn hosted at the historical society. He had won the grand prize at their auction and was including the Board in the invitation.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Boron, seconded by Mr. Jeffery to approve the following items on the consent agenda.

1.) the appointment of the following educational support staff contained in Mrs. Helander-Heiser's memorandum dated September 17, 2008.

APPOINTMENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
Ronan, Katherine (Repl. R. Perez)	Instructional Assistant	08/25/08	GBN

2.) no resignations

3.) the salary adjustments for academic attainment as indicated in Mrs. Helander-Heiser's attached consent agenda item #6.3

4.) the issuance of Vendor Checks Nos. 33818 through 34101 in the amount of \$2,629,803.41 as listed on the attached checks register dated September 16, 2008 and ACT transactions in the amount of \$911,233.37 as listed on the ACH Summary for a total amount approved of \$3,541,036.78.

5.) the Open and Closed Session Minutes from the September 8th Regular Board Meeting.

6.) the issuance of the electronic wire transfers for credit union, TRS, federal taxes, employee and employer portion of FICA and Medicare taxes and state taxes, and payroll check numbers 53455 through 53504, 53512 through 53552. Total checks issued were \$56,338.71. Vendor Payroll check numbers 53505 through 53511, and 53553 thru 53560 totaled \$11,126.26. With employees' Federal, State, and FICA/Medicare withholding taxes of \$262,006.47, TRS contributions of \$58,350.28 other deductions of \$92,303.61 and direct deposit of \$879,816.04, the gross payroll for the month of April was \$1,348,815.11. TRS employer contribution was \$16,031.18 and employer matching FICA and MED was \$65,879.41.

7.) the revisions to board policies 7080, 7080PRO, 7090, 8030, 8170, 8170PRO, 8230 and 8230PRO as contained in the attached consent agenda item #6.7

8.) the acceptance of the following gifts:

Gift From	Amount or Item	School	Department
Kathleen Siegel	\$50.00	GBS	MUSIC CHAMBERS # 830195
Robert and Susan McGee	\$5000.00	GBS	SUE MCGEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP #830851
Glenview State Bank	\$2500.00	GBS	STUDENT TO STUDENT #830992

9.) the Board of Education Approval of GBS Orchestra Trip - Feb/March 2009, Orlando, FL -revised as contained in consent agenda Item #6.9

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.
nay: none

Motion carried. 7-0.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: 2008/09 BUDGET ADOPTION

Mrs. Hillarie Siena, Director of Business Affairs, provided the Board with a reassuring overview of relationship between the

current market and interest rates and the long-term health of the district financial situation due to the district's prudent financial management practices. The district's AAA bond rating is secure and in fact, may soon, become an international bond rating.

Mrs. Siena next presented an overview of the final 2008/09 Budget, which was being brought forward for the required board approval. She summarized that:

The estimated ending fund balance in the operating funds is projected to be 51.9%, as compared to the 2006 projection of 49.8%, an increase of 2.1%. This is affected by the fact that 23 certified staff exercised their 2005 option to defer retirement to a later date, in effect deferring \$1M in expense.

As included in the pre-referendum planning, FY2009 expenses in this budget are for purchased service and capital outlay include the technology plan.

FY2009 operations and maintenance expenses include a \$2M transfer to non-operating funds, which is required under new accounting regulations relative to debt service and capital project funding.

She assured the Board that the entire budget, as well as the required state forms regarding the budget would be placed on the district website. This will include a cover letter from Dr. Schilling.

(See agenda item #8)

MOTION TO APPROVE 2008/09 FINAL BUDGET

Motion by Mr. Shein, seconded by Mr. Berzon to approve the final budget for 2008/09

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 7-0.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: UPDATE ON BOOKSTORE AND FOOD SERVICES PROGRAM

Mrs. Kim Ptak, Director of Operations, provided the Board with an update on the bookstore and food service operation. She reminded the Board that the district outsourced the bookstores to Follett in July 2007; a step, which had proven to greatly reduce operation and inventory, costs.

She also reviewed the details of the 5 year "rent based" agreement with Quest, the new food service vendor which has netted the district sizable savings that will help to make the cafeteria self-supporting and able to build a fund to use for replacement of expensive equipment.

Board member Boron requested that Follett be asked if a two-week window could be provided for those who might want to return paperback books they had discovered they had at home.

Board member Taub requested that a summary of this update be provided to our community through the Connections newsletter to better inform them about the successful implementation of promised efficiencies.

(See agenda item #9)

DISCUSSION/ACTION: DASHBOARD REPORTS - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Mrs. Barb Dill-Varga, assistant superintendent for educational services, introduced the dashboard reports by informing the board of some changes in format and timeline for the report. Dashboard reports will be brought forward at times when data is needed to inform decision-making and in February when a comprehensive planning document is produced that merges financial and demographic/achievement data points.

The focus for the evening's dashboard reports is on some general demographic information and student achievement, in light of the soon to be released school report cards and PSAE results. Specific reports brought forward provided insight on: enrollment trends, student ethnicity distribution, limited English proficient student percentages, low income students, attendance and drop out rates, student graduation rates and information about students continuing on to college, credits taken by students and average gpas, ACT scores and PSAE scores. Mrs. Dill-Varga next provided background information on NCLB requirements, the PSAE test and parameters for meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP). Time was taken to discuss the negative impact of the removal of the IMAGE test option for limited English proficient students on this year's PSAE test results. She next reviewed the results of the PSAE and noted that the district would be entering its second year of not making AYP and Glenbrook South would be beginning its first year due to disaggregated groups of Hispanic and low-income student results. These two categories were negatively impacted by the loss of the IMAGE test as an option as many of these second language learners struggled without meaningful accommodations to take the ACT test, a college entrance exam. Mrs. Dill-Varga informed the Board that building and district administrators were gathering and reviewing some additional measures of success that would shed more light on how well the district was doing. This list included viewing data that reflected growth from freshman to senior year, AP test results, and graduation and college bound attendance rates for Hispanic and low income students. She introduced Mr. Cameron Muir, associate principal for curriculum at Glenbrook South, and Dr. Rosanne Williamson, filling similar role at Glenbrook North,

and asked them to review for the Board initiatives that were being implemented to enhance student achievement.

The Board asked a few questions and thanked presenters for their comprehensive presentation.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: NORTH SHORE ACADEMY CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Superintendent Riggle introduced the discussion on the North Shore Academy (NSA) construction plans by providing them with a summary of key points. He informed them that the consortium of school districts either faced a \$16.1 M expenditure for a new NSA building and Life Safety work on the existing Administrative building or \$4.86 M for Life Safety work only which would not address educational concerns or current and future needs of NSA or current overcrowding of office areas. His recent discussions with Northfield Township superintendents affirmed that they all anticipate approving the projects in large part because they could not replicate current services for the same price. He acknowledged the board's concerns about the process and the rate at which the project had moved forward, but reminded the Board of the extremely strong and positive relationship with NSSSED and their employees and the value of this program to our special education students and their families. He proposed that the board approve the \$2.17 million to address the educational needs and concerns of NSA and to give it a strong presence for the future.

Board member Berzon stated that while he did not question NSSSED's value as an educational service agency, he had many concerns about the financial management of this project and wondered whether they had under projected their true need.

Board member Hammer, the board's representative to the NSA board of control, agreed that while an executive oversight committee with representation from Northfield Township school districts would be a valuable idea, he believed NSA did have experience with project management. He stated that NSA had clearly stated that if the projected numbers would become over \$16.1 M, NSA had committed to hold the line and go back and make cuts in their first set of plans to keep the project under budget.

Board member Boron suggested that there were two questions: 1) Is the district pulling out from NSSSED? versus 2) Is the district willing to support the project at this time? He voiced his concerns about a timeline, which had brought these issues for full board discussion only 30 days ago. He urged that they not just depend on an architectural estimate of the job, but seek, an estimate from a construction manager.

Dr. Schilling agreed that the process should have started at least one year earlier. He also supported the board's interest in some type of shared township oversight for the project. He also suggested: 1) that some language be included that would assure the district receive an equitable share of the asset if it were ever sold in the future, 2) any interest income be returned

to us and 3) some language be crafted to cover a potentially changing situation if market conditions prevented the realistic completion of the project for \$16.1 M.

Board member Taub agreed that the process could have been improved but argued that because practically speaking the services could not be duplicated for less than our share of the construction project, district 225 should approve the motion to approve the NSA project as Dr. Riggle proposed.

Board member Shein expressed concerns about the accuracy of the cost per square foot estimates from NSA administrators.

The Board was faced with three votes: 1) to approve the facility project as proposed, 2) to approve the district either providing payment in a lump sum or paying the assessment over time, and 3) approving a one-time variation in article of agreement to allow the NSA board to pass an amendment with only a 2/3 majority to amend the bylaws for the purpose of changing the method of allocation regarding EAV.

After much discussion, the board agreed to vote on these 3 items.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NORTH SHORE ACADEMY CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

Motion by Mr. Berzon, seconded by Mr. Taub, to approve the North Shore Academy construction proposal contingent on the district having representation on the oversight committee.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE A SINGLE LUMP SUM PAYMENT TO NORTH SHORE ACADEMY TO SUPPORT ITS CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

Motion by Mr. Jeffery, seconded by Mr. Hammer, to approve a single lump sum payment for the NNSA construction proposal

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 7-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME VARIATION IN THE NSA ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE NSA BOARD TO PASS AN AMENDMENT TO IST BYLAWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE METHOD OF ALLOCATION REGARDING EAV

Motion by Mr. Hammer, seconded by Mr. Shein to approve a one-time variation in article of agreement to allow the NSA board to pass an amendment with only a 2/3 majority to amend the bylaws for the purpose of changing the method of allocation regarding EAV.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 7-0.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Boron, seconded by Mr. Berzon, to move into closed session at approximately 11:25 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline performance, or dismissal of specific employees, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, student disciplinary cases and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, other matters relating to an individual student, namely a determination of a student's residency within the district (Section 2 (c) (1), (2), (9), (10) and (11) of the Open Meetings Act).

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 7-0.

The Board returned to open session at 12:19 a.m.

ACTION REGARDING MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

No action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Boron, seconded by Mr. Taub, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:20 a.m.

Upon call for a vote on the motion, all present voted aye.*

Motion carried. 7-0.

* means Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Jeffery, Shein, Taub, and Torf.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

PRESIDENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY - BOARD OF EDUCATION

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

Meetings will be held in the
Board Room (unless otherwise noted) of the
Northfield Township High School District #225
Administration Building,
1835 Landwehr Road,
Glenview, Illinois.

Monday, October 27, 2008	7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2008	7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting