

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Community Unit School District 201
Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois

December 16, 2008

President Elizabeth Durrani called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Cathy Casey, Patrick Duffy, Elizabeth Durrani, Linda Kelly, and Robert Zapinski.

Members absent: Kathleen Forzley and Kathy Lubeck

Also attending the meeting were Superintendent's Secretary Judy McMahon and Superintendent Steven Baule.

**Public Hearing on
Tentative Tax Levy**

President Durrani called the Public Hearing of the 2008 Tax Levy to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mrs. Lubeck arrived.

Dr. Baule provided the Board of Education with an overview of the Tentative 2008 Tax Levy.

President Durrani asked the members of the Board of Education if they had any questions and/or comments regarding the Tentative 2008 Tax Levy.

Mr. Duffy asked if it was definite that the tax revenue would increase by 6.43 percent.

Dr. Baule responded that it was not 100 percent certain; it would depend upon actual new growth.

President Durrani then asked if there were any public comments and/or questions regarding the Tentative 2008 Tax Levy.

Mr. Jonathan McKay addressed the Board of Education about the recent housing slump and the decline in housing prices and how these factors would affect the school district's future budgets.

Dr. Baule responded that, while the assessed valuation of a house may decline, real estate taxes do not necessarily

decrease; the effective tax rate may increase on that piece of property.

President Durrani then declared the Public Hearing on the 2008 Tax Levy closed at 7:12 p.m.

Approval of Tax Levy

Motion by Mr. Duffy to adopt the resolution setting the 2008 Tax Levy as presented in Attachment No. C-1.

Voting aye: Casey, Duffy, Durrani, Kelly, Lubeck, and Zapinski

Voting nay: None

Motion carried.

**Public Hearing on
Driver Education Waiver**

President Durrani called the Public Hearing of the Driver Education Waiver to order at 7:13 p.m.

Dr. Baule provided the Board of Education with an explanation of the intent of the waiver.

President Durrani asked the Board of Education if they had any questions and/or comments regarding the Driver Education Waiver.

There were none.

President Durrani asked if there were any public comments and/or questions regarding the Driver Education Waiver.

There were none.

President Durrani then declared the Public Hearing on the Driver Education Waiver closed at 7:15 p.m.

**Approval of
Driver Education Waiver**

Motion by Ms. Kelly to approve the Driver Education Waiver as presented in Attachment No. E-1.

Voting aye: Duffy, Durrani, Kelly, Lubeck, Zapinski, and Casey

Voting nay: None

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Durrani informed the Board of Education about the correction on page six of the November 18, 2008, minutes in regard to the motion pertaining to a residency issue.

Motion by Mr. Zapinski to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2008, regular meeting of the Board of Education as amended.

Motion unanimously passed.

Motion by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the closed session of the November 18, 2008, regular meeting of the Board of Education as presented.

Motion unanimously passed.

Public Presentation

No visitors addressed the Board of Education.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Durrani informed the Board of Education that Item No. 1 of the Consent Agenda, Personnel Recommendations, had been amended to include the employment of a substitute for the Food Service Department.

Motion by Ms. Kelly to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

- 1. Personnel Recommendations
- 2. Approval of Copier Lease
- 3. Approval of Payroll Deductions
- 4. Approval of Westmont High School Course Selection Booklet
- 5. Ratification of Regular Payroll

Voting aye: Kelly, Lubeck, Zapinski, Casey, Duffy, and Durrani

Voting nay: None

Motion carried.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Baule reviewed the following discussion items with the Board of Education:

Social Studies CAC

It was reported that the Social Studies CAC (Curriculum Advisory Council) met for the first time on December 11, 2008. The minutes of that meeting were shared with the Board of Education.

Science CAC

The minutes of the December 2, 2008, meeting of the Science CAC were shared with the Board of Education.

WHS Assessment Review

It was reported that a testing consultant had completed a review of the High School's final exams and subsequently had provided feedback on how to improve departmental exams.

WHS Winter Concert

It was reported that the High School's Winter Concert went very well. In addition to showcasing the students' musical skills, it was reported that students' artwork was also displayed in the vestibule outside the auditorium.

Interaction with the Westmont Police

It was reported that a canine training drill had been conducted recently at Westmont High School in conjunction with a lockdown drill and that no drugs had been discovered in the building.

Dr. Baule also reported that he met with the Law Enforcement Accreditation Team on December 16 to discuss school-police cooperation efforts.

Smart Board Pilot

It was reported that three teams representing Manning, Miller, and Westmont High Schools had been selected to pilot smart board systems in their classrooms during the second semester.

Early Childhood Expansion

It was reported that an expansion of the Early Childhood and First Start Programs would be proposed for the 2009-2010 school year. It was also reported that currently the First Start Program has a waiting list.

Bilingual Kindergarten

It was reported that a full day kindergarten program for bilingual (Spanish) students would also be proposed for the upcoming school year. In addition to attending the regular kindergarten session in the morning, these students would attend an instructional session in their native language in the afternoon.

Ms. Casey asked when the full day program would begin.

Dr. Baule responded in the fall of 2009.

Ms. Kelly asked if this new position would be posted.

Dr. Baule responded yes.

Standardized Test Scores

An article by Todd Farley, which appeared in a recent issue of *Education Week*, was shared with the Board of Education. The article focused on the potential problems of heavy reliance on standardized test scores.

Ms. Jones arrived at 7:30 p.m.

IMRF Rate Increases

It was reported that the school district's rate of payment to the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) pension fund would be increased due to the decline in the IMRF's investment returns. It was also reported that CUSD 201's current rate of payment was 8.5 percent.

Library Automation

It was reported that Nancy Battaglia, CUSD 201 director of technology, and the library media specialists had narrowed their choices of a library circulation/catalog system to three. As soon as each company's final proposal was reviewed, a recommendation to the Board of Education would be forthcoming.

Village of Westmont

It was reported that Village of Westmont officials withdrew their request for a meeting with the CUSD 201 Board of Education for the purpose of discussing the relationship between the two entities after CUSD 201 agreed in principle to meet.

Franczek Law Conference

Information regarding the annual Franczek Radelet & Rose School Law Conference was shared with the Board of Education.

Calendars

The Board of Education was informed that paper copies of each school's monthly calendar would no longer be

included in the Board Book packet, since more up-to-date calendars are available on the CUSD 201 website.

Other

A discussion ensued regarding the recognition of Illinois State Scholars at the January 13, 2009, meeting of the Board of Education. It was generally agreed that due to conflicts with the High School's athletic schedule these students would be recognized at the January 27, 2009, Board meeting and that the meeting would be begin at 6:30 p.m.

Facilities Committee Report

Ms. Jones provided the Board of Education with a status report on the Facilities Usage Committee, which was formed in January 2008 for the purpose of analyzing the school district's physical buildings and grounds. Ms. Jones reported that the Committee would continue to meet throughout the spring of 2009 and would present the Board of Education with a Master Facilities Plan by the end of the current school year.

Mr. Zapinski, a member of the Facilities Committee, remarked that the Committee had a huge volume of information to review and, therefore, it was taking longer than originally anticipated. He added that budget issues had not yet been addressed regarding any of the Committee's recommendations.

Board Reports

Ms. Casey commented on the sessions she attended at the Tri-I Conference held the weekend of November 21 through 23, 2008, in Chicago. She referenced the handouts distributed at these sessions, and requested that they be copied and shared with the other Board members.

Special Education

Mr. Duffy, the Board of Education's representative to the SASSED Board of Control, reported that no contract agreement had been reached with the SASSED teaching assistants. He also reported that multi-year, administrative contracts had been approved.

Non-Personnel Statements

The Non-Personnel Statements were presented to the Board of Education.

Fund Balance Reports

The Fund Asset, Fund Liability, and Fund Balance Reports were presented to the Board of Education.

2008-2009 Budget Evaluation

A report comparing the current percentage of revenues and expenditures for the 2008-2009 school year

with the averages of actual percentages for the prior three school years was presented to the Board of Education.

Dr. Baule reported that the state of Illinois was experiencing significant budget issues and was currently 64 days behind in paying its bills. He stated that there was a strong possibility that general state aid would begin to be pro-rated.

Expense Report

Mr. Duffy asked about the payment to Sportsfields in the amount of \$24,927.

Ms. Jones responded that the payment was for the major reconstruction of the Junior High School's softball field and the High School's softball and baseball fields.

Motion by Mr. Duffy to approve the bills for the month of December 2008 as presented in Attachment No. J-4 in the amount of \$727,362.41.

Voting aye: Kelly, Lubeck, Zapinski, Duffy, and Durrani

Voting nay: None

Abstaining: Casey

Motion carried.

Property Tax Rate Objections

Ms. Jones indicated that in the future only Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) assessment appeals will be shared with the Board.

Closed Session

Motion by Mr. Duffy to enter closed session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing confidential student issues, confidential personnel issues, and pending litigation.

Voting aye: Lubeck, Zapinski, Casey, Duffy, Durrani, and Kelly

Voting nay: None

Motion carried.

The Board of Education returned from closed session at 8:28 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Duffy to terminate the employment of Employee No. TJ112100.

Voting aye: Casey, Duffy, Durrani, Kelly, Lubeck, and Zapinski

Voting nay: None

Motion carried.

Mrs. Lubeck asked about this year's holiday greeting card.

Dr. Baule stated that the cards were sent out this week.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Kelly to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed.

Elizabeth J. Durrani
President, Board of Education
Community Unit School District 201
Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois

Robert P. Zapinski
Secretary, Board of Education
Community Unit School District 201
Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois