

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101, BATAVIA, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2010

REGULAR MEETING The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Batavia Public Schools was held at the Rosalie M. Jones Administration Center, 335 W. Wilson Street, Batavia, Illinois, and was called to order by President Link at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL On roll call the following members were present:

Jack Hinterlong	Jayne Resek
Ron Link	Kathleen Roberts
Joseph Purpura	Matthew Winkle

Absent: Kristin Behmer

Also present: Superintendent Barshinger
Associate Superintendent Romanek
Associate Superintendent Wright
Assistant Superintendent Monn
Chief Information Officer Inglese
Director of Buildings and Grounds Browne
Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds Swanquist
Assistant Director of Technology Seawall
Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning Drexler
Literacy Coordinator Scheffert
Principal Hichens
Associate Principal Hickman
Principal Maciejewski
Principal Girmscheid
Principal Webster
Principal Ralston
Student Ambassador Agyen
Student Ambassador McHenry
Recording Secretary Walker

VISITORS 49

MOMENT OF SILENCE President Link offered his condolences and called for a moment of silence for Batavia City Council Member Linnea Miller who passed away today.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE President Link asked Student Ambassador McHenry to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS John Robinson, 1201 Landfield Road: Mr. Robinson thanked the Board for this opportunity to share his opinion and that he was here for the benefit of the community.

He stated that in October of 2009, RMS Principal Steve Maciejewski posted a message stating, “The Board of Education developed an expansion plan for Rotolo Middle School co-curricular activities and clubs to allow more students to enter the programs. The expansion plan is in its third year. Unfortunately, the expansion planned for 2009-10 has been delayed due to budget cuts and it will not get any better for the upcoming 2010-11 school year.”

Mr. Robinson cited studies that show there is an extremely positive correlation between extra-curricular activities and student achievement. The increased achievement is not in just grades, but in self-esteem, lower levels of depression, drop-out rates, less risky behavior, etc.

He realizes that the current economic climate has affected everyone and serious decisions need to be made. The citizens of Batavia have always stepped up for their town and they want to see the extra-curricular activities continue, especially at the middle school. A citizens committee was formed 3 ½ years ago to address the RMS extra-curricular and athletic opportunities for students.

Mr. Robinson asked Board Members and the administration that before they make any cuts they should let parents and students provide feedback to see if they want the program to continue. Parents are also willing to pay increased fees for the programs if necessary. “Don’t make decisions to cut programs before we have a chance to decide for ourselves.” He added that the Batavia

Sports Boosters and clubs for youth basketball and football may have resources to help. “You have a lot on your plate and this is one of the most important ones that need attention. We will be here to support you financially during this difficult time.”

President Link invited that audience to stay for the presentation on the District’s Financial Projections.

FINANCIAL PROGRAM PROJECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent Monn discussed the District’s Financial Projections for 2010-2012 that were finalized in late December. The first draft was presented to the Finance Committee on Monday. Mr. Monn began, “Districts throughout the area are struggling as state revenue is eroding in front of our eyes.”

Mr. Monn discussed the major assumptions used in making the projections. On the Revenue side the assumptions are:

- CPI of 2.7% for 2009
- EAV stable, the small increases
- Federal funding stable, less ARRA funds
- State funding decreasing

Expenditures

- Salaries, Benefits will increase per contracts
- Core services will increase by 4%
- All other services and supplies will be stable
- Tuition will go up by 7%

Mr. Monn stated that enrollment is fairly stable, but there are some additional expenses with the addition to the high school.

Mr. Monn discussed the lack of state funding. The original budget assumed there would be four categorical payments from the state. The most recent estimate reduces that in half, which lowers that revenue by \$2 million. In the projections for 2010-2011, the amount the district would receive from General State Aid has dropped by over \$6 million. Any remaining funds would go toward Special Education payments. Most other state categorical funds are eliminated. Total revenue from the state is

budgeted at \$7,012,074. However, Mr. Monn said, “There is no assurance of what we will receive from the state.”

Total revenue for FY2010 with the levy and federal and state aid payments is expected to be \$62,688,060. This may be reduced to \$61,519,849 in FY 2011. Revenues are expected to rise in FY2012. When comparing revenues with expenditures the projected year-end fund balance for FY2010 is \$15,687,572. In FY2011 it is \$7,756,996 and in FY2012 it is a negative (-\$247,183).

President Link stated, “We were supposed to receive \$7 million from the state and now it looks like \$2-3 million. Next year we have no idea if they will send anything. We don’t get a notice, it just doesn’t arrive. Over 10% of our revenue is from state sources and now they are in jeopardy.”

President Link encouraged the audience to write or email state legislators asking them to fund their obligation to education. “The State of Illinois is over \$5 billion behind in past due bills. We are 50th in the nation in funding education, we have surpassed California in total debt. It is getting to a catastrophic level. If the state does not live up to its obligations opportunities for children will go by the wayside.”

Board Member Winkle stated, “The state money won’t solve all our problems, but it would help us solve some of them if we had predictability.” Associate Superintendent Monn responded that through the fall the district assumed the deficit would be from the local level; only in the past month has the state’s situation become clear.

BREAK

At 7:50 President Link called for a 10 minute break.

REPRESENTATIVES BEA President Tony Malay stated that last week Superintendent Barshinger, Assistant Superintendent Monn, Chief Information Officer Inglese and he met with Representative Mike Fortner. The IEA is campaigning to contact every legislator “to address the catastrophic failure of the State of Illinois”. All districts are feeling the pinch while the state revenues are

decreasing. Governor Quinn will give an address tomorrow at noon. You cannot be complacent. I moved to Batavia seven years ago for the schools. Become involved and committed to preserve the excellent education in Batavia. If we stand back, the worse will happen.”

BESPA Vice President Bohler thanked the Board for the opportunity to work on the BEPR Reports. “It was good experience and I learned a lot. All the facts and figures were out in the open.”

CONSENT
AGENDA

Moved by Roberts and seconded by Resek to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda included:

- Approve the bills payable as presented.
- Accept the resignation of Leah Swanquist, Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds, effective February 1, 2010.

President Link and Superintendent Barshinger thanked Leah for her excellent service to the district and wished her well in her new position.

POWERSCHOOL Chief Information Officer Inglese demonstrated the Parent Portal, which will become available this month to middle and high school parents. Parents will have real-time access to their student’s information via the web, including their child’s schedule, grades, assignments, and attendance information. The program also allows for teacher’s comments.

PEARSON

Associate Superintendent Wright spoke about the Pearson Inform proposal. The program works in conjunction with PowerSchool and provides assessment data for every student in one place.

Parents will be able to see their student’s scores for ISAT, MAP, and the Prairie State Achievement Exam and other assessment data. Putting all of the information in one place makes for better planning for district improvement and program evaluations. The proposal includes software, hardware, training services and a one-

year teacher on special assignment to complete the implementation for a total cost of \$169,618.

Board Member Hinterlong said, “This is a wonderful opportunity for the district and moves toward data driven decisions.” He also suggested employing an Assessment Coordinator at the Central Office to help the district look at assessments.

SURVEILLANCE Chief Information Officer Inglese reviewed the Surveillance and Access Control proposal for all district schools as part of the 2007 Referendum. The proposal would integrate video surveillance on all major doors throughout the district and provide controlled access to district buildings.

Video feeds would provide a record of everyone who enters the buildings and may also be shared with the police and fire departments. Mr. Inglese stated that the district would move away from traditional keys to electronic control cards with pin identification.

An RFP was sent out last January and Pentegra Systems ranked highest in the reviews and assessments. They have had successful experience with K-12 schools of similar size and location. Total cost of this phase of the project will be \$800,000 which includes roughly 170 cameras and nearly 100 card readers. A recommendation for approval will be brought to the meeting on January 26th.

BEPR Associate Superintendent Monn discussed the Batavia Educational Program Review (BEPR). Administrators and staff members identified 27 program areas to evaluate the programs’ effectiveness, cost, outcomes and effect on the community. Approximately 125 district employees were asked to join teams and provide input. The teams were asked to identify the effect of three funding scenarios: stable funding, a 10% reduction and a 25% reduction. Teams were then asked to identify the best way to deliver the program at each level of funding. Costs for the program included the number of staff, salary, benefits, non personnel costs and any specific program revenue to offset costs.

The reports will be available on the district's website on January 13th. None of the funding scenarios should be mistaken for program recommendations. The Board will have the opportunity to give final direction on program priorities. The final list will be used as the basis for building the 2010-2011 Budget. Mr. Monn mentioned that 74% of the BEPR participants were satisfied or very satisfied with the BEPR process.

**STUDENT
AMBASSADORS** Student Ambassador Agyen noted that a wrestling tournament will be held this Saturday; 16 teams will participate. Boys' basketball will play against Yorkville this Friday. Other events this week include a gymnastics meet. A Sadie Hawkins Dance will be held next week.

Student Ambassador McHenry highlighted the International Club. "It's a good environment to learn about other countries. Mrs. Donat is the sponsor. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the rest of the world. It welcomes foreign exchange students and spotlights countries foods and festivals.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
COMMENTS** Superintendent Barshinger spoke about the federal grant opportunity *Race to the Top* grant. The district signed a memorandum of understanding to keep options open during the next 90 days. We need to keep abreast of the financial picture and where the state will use federal dollars.

A new Board of Education tab has been created on the district's website, bps101.net. Board reports and power point presentations will be available at that site.

**PRESIDENT'S
COMMENTS** President Link thanked everyone who came out this evening. "These are difficult financial issues and it is important to work with everyone involved." He thanked the staff who participated in the BEPR process. He also thanked Tony Malay for his commitment to the students of Batavia and again offered his condolences to the family of Linnea Miller.

BOARD
MEMBER
COMMENTS

Board Member Purpura stated that the Board spent a lot of time looking at the reports. He thanked the administration for their initiative to bring the project to the Board. "There is a lot of good information. I applaud the staff for the time they spent putting this together. It prompted me to go back to state statutes to see the core responsibilities for the Board. I see what a rich and complicated program we give to students."

Board Member Winkle said, "I'm grateful for the people who want to be part of the solution and for people stepping up to do their part." He also said "Hi" to his niece Margaret Gosselin who was running the camera.

Board Member Roberts stated that she has been thinking about the BEPR reports the last few days and stated "that was a large amount of information to be distilled." She added that she appreciated the format and it was easy to understand.

Board Member Hinterlong spoke about the Batavia Interschool Council Meeting held last Saturday. Assistant Superintendent Monn presented a construction update and also offered insight on the property tax levy and tax bills as well as the district's financial situation. Board Member Hinterlong also encouraged the audience to get in touch with the state's legislators.

Board Member Resek also noted that the BEPR reports were a lot of information "but it was a great process and gave us a tool to efficiently evaluate programs. It should help for many years to come." She also thanked members of the public who agreed to be part of the solution.

ADJOURN
TO CLOSED
SESSION

Moved by Winkle and seconded by Roberts to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:04 p.m. to hear information on Personnel. Ayes: Winkle, Purpura, Resek, Hinterlong, Roberts and Link, Six (6). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RETURN
TO OPEN
SESSION

Moved by Roberts and seconded by Hinterlong to return to Open Session at 9:24 p.m. Ayes: Roberts, Winkle, Purpura, Resek, Hinterlong and Link, Six (6). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Moved by Roberts and seconded by Resek to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Education at 9:25 p.m.

Jack K. Barshinger
Secretary

Ronald A. Link
President