

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101, BATAVIA, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2011

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 Board Members were present:

Cathy Dremel	Joseph Purpura
Jack Hinterlong	Jayne Resek
Gregg Hodge	Kathleen Roberts
Ronald Link	

Also present:            Superintendent Barshinger  
Associate Superintendent Romaneck  
Assistant Superintendent Monn  
Chief Academic Officer Newkirk  
Assistant Director of Student Services Palese  
Assistant Director of Finance O'Connor  
Principal Maciejewski  
Principal Wright  
Principal Webster  
Principal Skomer  
Principal Girmscheid  
Student Ambassador Kelly  
Recording Secretary Walker

VISITORS:              15

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

RECOGNITION  
OF VISITORS

Chris Winkle spoke about the Parent Academy. The academy offers programs for parents and staff on student related issues and is funded by donations from the PTOs and community organizations such as the Mothers' Club. The next presentation is on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Batavia Fine Arts Centre. Rosalind Wiseman, an internationally recognized expert on children, social justice and bullying, will present *Creating a Culture of Respect*. The event is free of charge.

Superintendent Barshinger thanked the J. B. Nelson staff for the note and Valerie Riley for the cupcakes in honor of Board Appreciation Day. He also thanked the students and staff of Storm School for the banner they made in support of Board Members.

Christy Kulczycki, 601 Winnebago Trail: Mrs. Kulczycki asked why the administration is considering dropping the kindergarten After School Enrichment Program. She is confused about the cost and is not sure having smaller programs, such as those for at-risk students, is less costly. She is concerned with fairness issues regarding the specials and noted that she supports the full day program.

Carrie Sebold, 2348 Bird Lane: Mrs. Sebold challenged the Board to change their mindset regarding full day kindergarten and think about academics. Half day kindergarten does not meet students' needs. A number of students are already reading, etc. "Kids need the academic challenge that full day offers. It is a disservice if they go half day."

Chris Hunecke, 850 Ryan Court: Mr. Hunecke discussed information he received from a Freedom of Information request regarding the "specials" curriculum for Visual Arts, Music, P. E. and the 5-day schedules for all kindergarten classes in the district. He added, "The rules keep changing. There is nothing consistent. Wellness is taught in the afternoon making parents pay for it."

REPRESENTATIVES BEA President Tony Malay recognized the Board Members for Board Appreciation Day and thanked them for “their countless hours volunteering to make Batavia a better place; and they do a good job of that.” He added, “The middle school is abuzz with activities.” He also wished the football team good luck, “We’re proud of their fantastic season.” He concluded, “We are preparing for negotiations and are looking forward to a collaborative process.”

BESPA President Denise Ott thanked the Board Members. “Your dedication does not go unnoticed.” The BESPA has also notified the administration of their intent to bargain next year using the interest based bargaining concept.

CONSENT  
AGENDA

Superintendent Barshinger presented the Consent Agenda for Board of Education approval. Moved by Resek and seconded by Roberts the Consent Agenda was approved as presented with the modifications to the minutes of October 25<sup>th</sup> as suggested by Board Member Hinterlong. Ayes: Resek, Purpura, Roberts, Hodge, Hinterlong, Dremel and Link, Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

The Consent Agenda included:

- Approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 25, 2011 and the Special Meetings of October 11, 2011, October 12, 2011 and October 25, 2011.
- Approval of the net payrolls in the amount of \$1,196,419.19 for October 31, 2011 and November 15, 2011 in the amount of \$1,097,197.69.

Education Fund	\$266,534.23
Food Service	\$535.00
Drivers Ed	\$650.66
Foundation	\$3,977.54
Grants/Donations	\$9,832.72
Special Education	\$137,592.88
Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$226,718.64
Debt Service Fund	\$5,679.57
Transportation Fund	\$523,716.72

I.M.R. Fund	\$79,593.14
FICA	\$80,080.90
Site/Construction	\$731,196.63
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$0.00
Total of above:	\$2,066,108.63

- Approval of the October 2011 Treasurer's Report as presented.
- Personnel
  - Resignation-Classified Staff
  - Lisa Cowperthwait
  - Request Leave of Absence
  - Kristen Malone
  - Andrea Schindlbeck
  - Ann Wilson
- Approval of the destruction of the audio tapes of the Closed Session Meetings of May 11, 2010 and May 25, 2010.
- Approval of the following Closed Session Minutes and further recommending these minutes remain closed: October 25, 2011.
- Freedom of Information Act Requests:
  - On October 25, 2011, the district received a request from Chris Hunecke asking for the "specials" curriculum for Visual Arts, Music and P. E. He also requested a copy of the 5-day schedules for all kindergarten classes in the district.
  - On November 1, 2011, the district received a request from Mary Jo Le asking for copies of district information concerning current student transportation policies and procedures for special needs students and the total number of students who take district transportation to and from school.
- Approval of the donation of \$1,500, from the estate of Marilyn Robinson, for the LRCs at Batavia High School, Hoover-Wood School, Louise White School, Alice Gustafson School and J. B. Nelson School.
- Approval of the donation to Louise White School in the amount of \$500 from BP on behalf of the Grizzell family to support the After School Reading Program and approval of the donation in the amount of \$100 from T. Lillian Wickramsekera to be used to create a fund for students in crisis.

- Approval of the donation of a used drum set, given by Kathryn and Ezra Siegel, to the K-5 music classroom.
- Approval of the lease with Sovereign Leasing LLC for four multifunctional activity buses, with an annual lease payment of \$27,392, as presented.

KINDERGARTEN Chief Academic Officer Newkirk discussed the administration's recommendation to authorize the elimination of the After School Enrichment Program (AESP) for the 2012-2013 school year. Given the administration's and Board of Education's goal to increase student achievement of special populations by 5%, the AESP should be discontinued and alternative interventions for students who are at-risk should be put in place.

Mr. Newkirk went on to explain the criteria for students considered to be "At Risk". In Batavia those students are defined as eligible for special education, students with a home language other than English, and those who are significantly delayed in foundational literacy skills. They can also be from low income or homeless families.

Batavia Public Schools tries to serve as many of those students who fall into these categories as possible and are looking to expand these services into full day. School districts within Kane County, who offer a full day program for students who are not at risk, generally fall under a different funding formula than Batavia, which incurs significant costs for the program. Principal Girmscheid discussed the Bilingual and WHEEL programs housed at Hoover-Wood and agreed that at risk children need more "targeted instruction".

Board Members discussed the various options and Superintendent Barshinger clarified that there are two issues. First, the Board needs to authorize the development of a full day kindergarten program for at risk students. Second, the administration is recommending that the district work with other agencies or government bodies to create a partnership which would provide an extended day program for those students wanting to remain in the building all day. Board Member Hinterlong emphasized that these partners should focus on literacy, numerical skills and provide

enrichment. This would not be a time for just play. A majority of the Board Members believed that this option was a good alternative to the current After School Enrichment Program. The administration will also look at reinstating the specials teachers into the kindergarten program.

Moved by Hinterlong and seconded by Purpura to eliminate the After School Enrichment Program for the 2012-2013 school year and direct the administration to look into developing a full day program for At-Risk students. Ayes: Hinterlong, Dremel, Resek, Purpura, Roberts, Hodge, and Link, Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Hinterlong and seconded by Dremel to direct the administration to present a plan for incorporating specials back into the kindergarten program and the associated costs. Ayes: Hinterlong, Dremel, Resek, Purpura, Roberts, Hodge and Link, Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Hinterlong and seconded by Dremel to direct the administration to look into developing a partnership for an After School Enrichment Program. Ayes: Hinterlong, Dremel, Resek, Purpura, Roberts, and Hodge, Six (6). Nays: Link, One (1). Motion carried.

## SCHOOL REPORT CARD

Chief Academic Officer Newkirk discussed the student performance data for 2011 and compared it to local and national benchmarks. When comparing Batavia with local benchmark districts, including Naperville 203, Indian Prairie 204, Barrington 220, St. Charles 303, Wheaton 200, Elmhurst 205 and Geneva 304, the overall composite scores among the districts show very little variance. In the ACT composite, Batavia has shown a steady increase since 2007. However, Batavia did not score as high in the percent of students considered “College Ready” on the ACT. Mr. Newkirk noted that over 20% of 2011 BHS grads attend Waubensee. Other top favorites are Aurora University, Illinois State, University of Illinois, Northern Illinois, Iowa State and North Central College. Mr. Newkirk concluded that the number of AP tests and AP courses offered at BHS since 2008 has steadily increased.

## 2011 LEVY

Assistant Superintendent Monn discussed the proposed 2011 Levy. Each year the Board of Education must certify to the County Clerk the amount of money required for operations and activities of the district by each individual fund. The proposed levy calls for a 4.83% increase over the 2010 extension, which is below the 5% threshold for the Truth in Taxation Act.

Mr. Monn explained that the district always asks for more money than it anticipates receiving. This assures that the district will receive the maximum amount of local revenue to which it is entitled. Final numbers will not be known until the EAV is established in March. Realistically, Superintendent Barshinger stated that the actual revenue increase may come in around 1.67%. Mr. Monn reviewed the recommended levy amounts for each fund. A vote on the 2011 Levy will be held at the December meeting.

IASB  
RESOLUTIONS  
REVIEW/  
EVALUATION

Board Members had reviewed the IASB resolutions and provided input to the IASB Delegate Jack Hinterlong. They also discussed the need for a Board Self-Evaluation. The last one was done in 2008. Board Member Hinterlong felt hiring an outside facilitator was not a significant cost to the district. Board Members agreed to engage the Illinois Association of School Boards to facilitate the process.

Moved by Hinterlong and seconded by Purpura to engage the Illinois Association of School Boards to facilitate the Board Self Evaluation Process. Ayes: Hinterlong, Dremel, Resek, Purpura, Roberts, Hodge and Link, Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

STUDENT  
AMBASSADOR  
COMMENTS

Student Ambassador Kelly reported that the football team is 12 and 0 and will play Prairie Ridge this Saturday. If they win they will go to State. He encouraged the public to go to NBC 5 and vote for Batavia for the "Game of the Week". He also noted that it was *Yellow Ribbon Week* at BHS which focused on suicide prevention. He also thanked Board Members for their work on behalf of the students.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS** Superintendent Barshinger reminded the public that Board Members receive no compensation for their work. He also noted that all of the district's sports team had great seasons.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** President Link thanked the Board Members for their work on the Board of Education. "It has been a privilege and an honor to preside and lead the current members of the Board. Everybody tries to do what is best for the kids and the community. It is difficult to make the best decisions in these difficult financial times when cost effectiveness has to be one of the top priorities." He also congratulated the cast of the *Beauty and the Beast* on their great performance.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** Board Member Hinterlong noted that the bill on teachers' retirement that is before the legislature in Springfield did not get called. He is concerned with how this will affect young educators coming into the profession. He also noted that Regional Superintendents will now be paid but for only one year. The state is looking at consolidating services.

Board Member Hodge thanked Louise White staff and students for hosting the Veteran's Day program. "It was phenomenal, a tear jerker for everybody". There was also a vet from World War II in attendance.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION** Moved by Dremel and seconded by Hodge to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:09 p.m. to hear information on Collective Bargaining and Personnel. Ayes: Dremel, Resek, Purpura, Roberts, Hodge, Hinterlong and Link, Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** Moved by Hinterlong and seconded by Resek to return to Open Session at 10:40 p.m. Ayes: Hinterlong, Dremel, Resek, Purpura, Roberts, Hodge and Link, Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Moved by Dremel and seconded by Hodge to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Education at 10:41 p.m.

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Jack K. Barshinger  
Secretary

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Ronald A. Link  
President