

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 101, BATAVIA, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD ON MARCH 9, 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:

Kristin Behmer Joseph Purpura
Jack Hinterlong Kathleen Roberts
Ronald Link Matthew Winkle

Absent: Jayne Resek

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 Technology Seawall
Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning Drexler
Literacy Coordinator Scheffert
Principal Hichens
Principal Ralston
Recording Secretary Walker

VISITORS 26

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

**RECOGNITION
OF VISITORS**

Bill Marzano, Assistant Vice President of Community Development for Waubensee Community College announced that the college is seeing unprecedented enrollment. The fall of 09 was the first time in history that the enrollment at W.C.C. topped 12,000 students. The school originally began with a population of 1,000 students. Waubensee's 2020 College Master Plan was launched eight years ago to accommodate growth. Mr. Marzano noted that the new science building is completed on the Sugar Grove campus and the Plano campus is due to open a year from now. The downtown Aurora campus will open in the fall of 2011.

Waubensee offers students an opportunity to get an early start on their college courses. They also run a dual credit program with Batavia High School where students receive both high school and college credit for courses. Out of the 491 graduates last year from Batavia High school, 96 enrolled at Waubensee Community College. Mr. Marzano also mentioned that Waubensee offers five Gustafson Scholarships to deserving Batavia students.

Dan Shanahan, 1125 Woodland Hills Road: Mr. Shanahan did a demonstration showing the impact of program cuts across the district. He congratulated the BEA for their give back of \$2.3 million but stated that cuts begin at the top and should be equal to the percentage of the whole district. "Otherwise it is selfish and hypocritical."

Jane Reid, 714 Hartfield, North Aurora: Mrs. Reid felt that the fee based program for the afternoon enrichment for kindergarten students is a fair solution. However, she feels that more information is needed about the program. Given that students who are identified as at-risk will be guaranteed a spot in the program, she is concerned that the "average" student will not get the attention that s/he deserves.

Rob Sherman, P.O. Box 7410, Buffalo Grove, IL: Mr. Sherman wanted to make sure the district is aware of the factors before implementing a fee for tuition for All-Day Kindergarten. He believes that the Illinois Constitution states that education in public schools shall be free. Parents can be required to pay for

materials but the constitution prohibits public schools from charging tuition for “instruction in the subjects taught”.

Mr. Sherman is concerned that a parent will place his/her child in the afternoon tuition-based kindergarten but will later realize that it is unconstitutional and sue for the return of their tuition fee. It would be a hardship for the district to come up with the money to return all the tuition fees. He also stated that the General Assembly has an infrastructure bill that provides over \$2 billion in donations to religious organizations. “That is your money. Tell legislators that the money going to parochial schools should be given to private schools.”

REPRESENTATIVES BEA President Tony Malay stated that he moved to Batavia seven years ago so his children could attend Batavia Schools because of the excellent education it provides its students. Mr. Malay has been an employee of the district for 12 years and President of the BEA for the last four years. He added that the BEA is committed to a quality education for the students in Batavia; in fact 55% of the district’s staff lives in Batavia. The recession has created a lot of difficulties and the state legislature is not doing anything to relieve the financial burden districts are facing so “we have to take matters into our own hands”. He thanked President Link for his leadership and the common goal of putting children first. “Those who are in the best position when the recession is over are those who invest now.”

President Link offered his thanks and congratulations “to every member of the BEA who was supportive of this agreement. It is a milestone in the state. We are one of the first districts that are able to have an agreement with their unions. I want to thank the BEA on behalf of the students and the community.”

Board Member Hinterlong expressed his gratitude to the BEA for working collaboratively with the Board and the administration to maintain quality educational programs. “It’s a win-win for the association, Board and students for maintaining the quality of programs we have.”

Board Member Winkle stated that it was really remarkable that our partners stepped up with an offer. He noted that he had some issues with the mechanics, “but that does not diminish my appreciation. We are one of the first if not the first district in the state to show real commitment.”

Board Members Roberts added, “I am incredibly grateful. The BEA is one of the few if not the only teacher group to come forward voluntarily. When Batavia teachers come to work they don’t just show up they come as role models with good character, generosity of spirit and commitment. Batavia teachers walk the talk.”

Board Member Purpura said, “This boils down to trust. I commend the association and the administration on developing that level of trust over the last four years. I only see good things happening going forward based on that trust. We are not out of the woods yet, it is a long term problem based on the economy. We need to keep the collaborative effort going. It is a heck of a start.”

Board Member Behmer noted that she has had three children go through the district and “this doesn’t surprise me that the staff and teachers came to this resolution. I applaud the BEA and the administration for continuing to put students first”.

President Link thanked all the BEA members for their continued support of the community.

BESPA President Denise Ott introduced Cindy Rodriguez, Special Ed Paraprofessional at H. C. Storm who authored the book *I Was Born on 9/11* and Joyce Elliott, special education teacher at Louise White School, who illustrated the book.

CONSENT
AGENDA

Moved by Roberts and seconded by Purpura the Consent Agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: Roberts, Winkle, Purpura, Behmer, Hinterlong and Link, Six (6). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

The Consent Agenda included:

- Approval to dispose of surplus property as presented.
- Approval of the Batavia High School's Key Club field trip to Decatur, Illinois from April 9–11, 2010.
- Approval to accept the voluntary offer of Tony Inglese, District Treasurer, to forego compensation for services as Treasurer effective April 1, 2010 and to conduct a salary review of the Chief Information Officer's salary.
- Approval for offering only a half-day kindergarten program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

FEES

Assistant Superintendent Monn presented the proposed Student Participation fees for the 2010-2011 school year. Co-curricular participation fees at Rotolo Middle School and Batavia High School only cover 30% or \$120 of the \$417.58 budgeted cost per student. While it was never the intention for the students to cover all the costs, in light of the current financial situation, Mr. Monn is proposing to increase the participation fee for athletic teams by \$45.00. The district is also considering expanding the athletic offerings at RMS. The expected cost of the expansion is \$39,000. This would equate to an additional fee of \$21.00. The proposed fee for athletics with the expansion would be \$139.00 at the middle school and \$154.00 at the high school.

Mr. Monn is recommending increasing the fees for music and high school drama by \$45.00, reducing the cost of running those programs from \$32,000 to \$14,000. He is also suggesting adding a basic participation fee for elementary students of \$25.00. This would add another \$9,000 for the district to help offset stipends.

In previous years, student clubs and middle school drama productions have been free of charge to students. However, the administration is currently recommending a nominal fee of \$25.00 be charged for programs that are not service oriented. Service oriented clubs such as the RMS Service Club, BHS Key Club and National Honor Society will not be charged.

The Paid Busing Fee will be set at \$395.00. Beginning in 2010-2011, parents will be offered the option of paying the bus fee for a full year or just for the second and third quarters; essentially the winter months. That fee will be \$200.00.

The parking fee for 2009-10 was established at \$216.00. However, a number of the parking spaces were never sold. Mr. Monn is recommending the fee be reduced to \$175.00, which comes out to be a dollar a day. If the district is able to sell the additional parking spaces, it should increase the revenue by \$18,000. The Board will continue to maintain the Driver's Education Fee at \$250.00.

Mr. Monn is also recommending amending the high school registration fees to include the cost of accessing databases and software licenses that help with college readiness, etc. This would be an additional \$8.50.

Currently, students are charged \$2.00 for all sporting events. The administration is proposing a Student Activity Fee of \$15.00 which would include admission to all sporting events and plays. The addition of the previous two fees would bring the high school registration fee to \$113.50.

Board Members discussed whether raising fees at this time is appropriate. President Link said, "I am not supportive of nickel and diming fees, but the district is hurting and the rules have changed." Board Members were also concerned that raising fees could limit the number of students able to participate in programs.

Board Member Hinterlong stated that the concept of free public education applies to academic learning. Students who participate in the activities should pay; the cost should not be charged back to the taxpayers. He feels that students participating in athletics should pay 50% of the cost and that the Booster Club is amenable to giving scholarships to students who don't meet the fee waiver criteria but could use extra financial support.

Board Member Purpura feels, “teaching goes on in extra-curricular activities and has a lasting impact”. Students who participate in these activities should not be asked to pick up all of the cost; a percentage would be more equable. Board Member Winkle agreed but cautioned the Board on what was considered a normal or extra fee. Board Member Roberts added, “Right now we have our backs pushed against the wall” and suggested that we know the cost of every program.

Board Member Behmer agreed that a student’s education goes along with extra-curricular activities and that the district has the responsibility to pay for some of the expenses. If fees are raised a lot of students won’t be able to participate. “This is a hardship for families who are middle of the road. Batavia is known for having wonderful extra-curricular activities.”

President Link directed Assistant Superintendent Monn to develop a spreadsheet that lists each program and what the student’s cost would be if they paid 25% of the total cost, 50% of the total cost, etc. Board Member Purpura wondered if it was best to agree on one percentage for all sports that the district thinks is appropriate.

AGREEMENT The Memorandum of Agreement was deleted from the agenda.

STUDENT Student Ambassador McHenry stated that the Art Club placed
 AMBASSADORS third this past weekend in the Western Sun Art Competition. Batavia students placed first in textiles and dark room photography. Some of their work is now on display in the atrium. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble are having late winter concerts and the Orchestra Concert is next Thursday. The Night of Jazz Dinner will be held on March 19th.

Student Ambassador Agyen congratulated the six students who participated in the Illinois Drafting Contest. She highlighted the Music Honor Society which enriches both students and citizens through music. The club raises money to help local music programs as well and programs globally. They also help set up for concerts and donate to *VHI Saves the Music*. She also spoke about the benefit last week for the people of Haiti. The event raised over \$1,600.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS There were no Superintendent's Comments this evening.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS There were no President's Comments this evening

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS There were no Board Member Comments this evening.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION Moved by Roberts and seconded by Behmer to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:27 p.m. to hear information on Personnel
Ayes: Roberts, Winkle, Purpura, Behmer, Hinterlong and Link, Six (6). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION Moved by Roberts and seconded by Purpura to return to Open Session at 9:00 p.m. Ayes: Roberts, Winkle, Purpura, Behmer, Hinterlong and Link, Six (6). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

ADJOURN Moved by Behmer and seconded by Roberts to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Education at 9:01p.m.

Jack K. Barshinger
Secretary

Ronald A. Link
President