

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING,
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL
DISTRICT #225, COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, NOVEMBER 26, 1990**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 225 was held on Monday, November 26, 1990 at approximately 7:30 p.m. at the Glenbrook High Schools Administration Building, pursuant to due notice to all members.

The president called the meeting to order. Upon calling of the roll, the following members answered present: Baer, McConachie, Morris, Wilson, Zimmerman. Absent: Howland, Winton (Note: Mr. Howland arrived at 7:35 p.m.) Also present: Freeman, Lacivita, McGrew, Pommerenke, Wisner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 1990

Motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 1990, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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

ABC TELEVISION VIDEO RECORDING

Dr. McGrew played a video tape recording of a news broadcast which had recently appeared on the ABC "World News Tonight" national television program reporting on the new mathematics program being implemented at Glenbrook South.

Dr. McGrew reported that the Glenbrook South Master Singers were scheduled to participate in a holiday concert with the Chicago Symphony Choir at Orchestra Hall on Sunday, December 2, 1990 at 7:30 p.m.

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Dr. McGrew also reported that the current edition of the "North Shore" magazine contained an article featuring the district's radio and television programs.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY VISITORS

The president asked if there were any members of the audience who wished to address the Board on a topic which was or was not on the agenda.

Mrs. Bernice Reder, 2104 Valley Lo Lane, Glenview, former Glenbrook Board member read a statement and encouraged the Board to reduce costs. She indicated that taxes are imposing a hardship on taxpayers.

Mr. Art Wulf, 3948 Rutgers, Northbrook, asked if the district was interested in participating in a lawsuit concerning the reorganization of the Deerfield T.I.F. district. Dr. McGrew indicated that the issue had not been reviewed by the Board. When all information was available, the Board would decide on appropriate action.

Mr. Richard Arnold, 2021 Burr Oak Drive, Glenview, asked for a status report of the district's program for asbestos removal. He indicated that a great deal of confusion surrounds the requirements for removing asbestos. Mr. Wisner described the district's efforts to remove asbestos. He also described the regulations involving asbestos in the schools.

Mr. Howland asked the administration to prepare a report indicating the amount of funds expended to date to remove asbestos in the district, an estimate of the portion of those funds which were used to reconstruct the facilities after the asbestos was removed, and an estimate as to the cost of completing the project.

Mr. Howland also suggested and Mr. Morris agreed, that the Board should review the current legal requirements for removing asbestos from schools.

Mr. Frank Baxpheler, 2011 Burr Oak Drive, Glenview, encouraged the Board to hold the line on expenditures in light of the current economic conditions. He encouraged the Board to adopt a levy with a zero percent increase in the levy.

Mr. Malcolm Douglas, 245 Country Lane, Glenview, expressed a concern that last year the Board may have misled the public by not emphasizing that the increase from last year's actual expenses to this year's budget was 14.2%. He indicated that the press had reported an increase of 9.5% from last year's budget to this year's budget.

Mr. Wulf asked how many of the district's teachers are paid between \$20,000 and \$30,000, \$30,000 and \$40,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000, \$50,000 and \$60,000, and \$60,000 and \$70,000. Mr. Howland asked that the administration prepare a report responding to Mr. Wulf's question.

Mr. Arnold urged the Board to freeze taxes and to adopt a levy with a zero increase in the levy.

Mrs. McConachie cited four factors which contribute to our expenditures: large number of senior faculty members, longer school year, more courses taken by students, and a number of special programs for special needs students.

Mr. Howland requested that the Board be given a report indicating the average number of courses taken by Glenbrook graduates.

Mr. William Covert, 2022 Burr Oak Drive, Glenview, asked if there is any evidence that the Board is efficient in expending its funds. Dr. McGrew cited a study conducted by professors at Illinois State University identifying the district as one of eight districts in the state that are highly efficient when comparing cost versus student performance.

Mr. Wulf commented that the major portion of the district's budget is allocated to personnel costs, and therefore, any significant cost savings could only be obtained by reducing personnel costs. He indicated that teachers are unlikely to leave the district and obtain teaching positions elsewhere if salary increases were lowered.

Mr. Baer suggested that as the Board begins the process of developing its long range strategic plan and involving the community in planning committees, individuals representing the points of view expressed in the meeting should be included in the planning committees.

DISCUSSION - 1990 TAX LEVY

Board members had received additional materials in their packets concerning the 1990 tax levy. Mr. Wisner proceeded to explain the materials. He indicated that he had prepared five options for the Board's consideration.

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Option #1 provided for a 4.9% increase in the levy for 1990. The levy would produce an estimated reserve balance on June 30, 1992 of 31.4% of the subsequent year's estimated budget. Mr. Wisner indicated that the projected estimated levy increases for 1992 and 1993 would be 8.3% and 8.2% producing estimated reserves of 26.5% in 1993 and 22.3% in 1994.

Option #2 would provide for a 4.9% levy increase in 1990, an estimated 11.8% levy increase in 1991, and an estimated 9.9% levy increase in 1992. Option #2 would result in a projected estimated 31.4% reserve in 1992 and a 30% reserve in 1993 and 1994.

Option #3 would provide for a 8.2% levy increase in 1990, an estimated 8.2% levy increase in 1991, and an estimated 8.3% levy increase in 1992. Option #3 would result in a projected estimated 34.8% reserve in 1992, a 32.0% reserve in 1993, and a 30.0% reserve in 1994.

Option #4 would provide for a 6.5% levy increase in 1990, an estimated 9.2% levy increase in 1991, and a 10.6% levy increase in 1992. Option #4 would result in a projected estimated 33.0% reserve in 1992, a 30.0% reserve in 1993 and 1994.

Option #5 would provide for a levy increase of 7.5% for 1990, 1991, and 1992, and an estimated reserve of 34.0% in 1992, 30.0% in 1993, and 26.2% in 1994.

Mr. Wisner reported that the administration was recommending a 4.9% increase in the levy for 1990.

Mr. Wilson stated that he was troubled by the Board's practice of maintaining the reserves at 30%. He suggested that the reserves are excessive and could be reduced to perhaps one half the current amount. He indicated that he favored leaving the funds with the taxpayers instead of maintaining larger reserves. Mr. Wilson also indicated he had difficulty supporting a levy increase which exceeded increases in the cost of living. The proposed 4.9% increase is within the range of increases he could support. Mr. Wilson indicated that the three year projections were uncertain because they are based on unknown circumstances.

Mrs. McConachie stated several reasons why the reserves at the current level were necessary. She indicated that taxes have been distributed late in the past by the state and the district needed the reserves to avoid issuing expensive tax warrants. She stated that the interest earned on the reserves help support our programs, and without the reserves, additional funds would have to be levied. The reserves also serve as a protection against unforeseen emergencies. She reported that 30% is not excessive when compared with other school districts. Mrs. McConachie indicated she favored maintaining the reserves at 30%.

Mrs. Zimmerman indicated that she supported the 30% amount, especially in light of the lawsuit recently filed challenging the method of financing schools in Illinois and state legislation being considered on the same topic.

Mr. Baer indicated that he supported maintaining the reserves at 30%. He indicated that varying the reserves from year to year detracts from the real issue of determining reasonable expense levels.

Mr. Baer indicated that the Board should examine the assumptions contained in Mr. Wisner's expense projections, and if the assumptions are reasonable, levy sufficient funds to satisfy the expenses.

Mrs. McConachie stated that she could support a 4.9% increase in the levy, but preferred a 6.0% increase in order to avoid possibly larger increases in future years. She indicated that she desired to avoid large variations in the levy increases from year to year. She also stated that a 6.0% increase would be consistent with the expected increase in the cost of living.

Mrs. Zimmerman stated that she could support a 4.9% increase in the levy, but she favored a somewhat larger increase to balance the levy over the next three years. She also indicated future budgets may be reduced through the cost containment efforts the Board is planning to pursue.

Mr. Morris indicated that he supported maintaining the reserves at 30%. He stated that he could support a levy increase of 4.9%, but would also support maintaining a balanced levy from year to year. Mr. Morris noted that some building projects are not always completed in the year for which they are budgeted, and therefore, the levy increases will most likely be lower than projected in Mr. Wisner's options.

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Mr. Howland stated that he has voted against every tax levy. He indicated that he could not support the 4.9% increase, even though it was less than the increase in inflation because the levy increase for the following year is projected to be 11.9%. Mr. Howland indicated that he voted against the last three years because the increases were significantly above the increase in inflation for those years. He indicated that during the last nine years the levies have increased 8.5% per year. Mr. Howland stated that there's no question the community does get a quality education in our schools. Our schools are among the very best in the country. But Mr. Howland asked, "Where are the cost/benefit trade-offs?" Public education in this country is in trouble and District 225 shares some of the same symptoms. Mr. Howland stated that the driving force behind our expenses is the union contract and that's where savings must be obtained. He stated that he was concerned that our tax rate in our educational fund may reach our maximum authorized amount. Mr. Howland reported that for these and other reasons he could not support the proposed 4.9% increase in the tax levy.

Mrs. McConachie moved that the Board adopt a levy increase of 6%. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman. Mr. Baer, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Morris indicated they could not support the motion. Mrs. McConachie and Mrs. Zimmerman withdrew their motion.

MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE 1990 TAX LEVY

Motion by Mrs. McConachie, seconded by Mr. Baer, to establish the 1990 levy increase at 4.9%. The amount of the levy would be \$36,268,000.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Baer, McConachie, Morris, Wilson, Zimmerman

nay: Howland

Motion carried.

REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Howland requested that items #2, 3, 4, and 5 be removed from the consent agenda for the purpose of further discussion.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mrs. McConachie, to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1.) to authorize the acceptance of a gift of a non-operable ONTRONA portable computer from Mrs. Beverly Lavitt of Northbrook, to be used for parts by the Glenbrook South electronics program.

6.) to authorize the filing of the Illinois State Library Grant Application.

7.) to ratify the issuance of payroll checks No. 82916 through 83587, No. 83590 through 83623, No. 83957 through 84260 and No. 84863 through 84865 inclusive totalling \$2,255,517.88 with adjustments of \$254.13 the gross payroll is \$2,255,772.01.

8.) to approve the reimbursement of the Revolving Fund disbursements for the month of October, 1990, in the amount of \$69,788.80 represented by Checks No. 043784 through 044380 excluding the voided checks on the attached list dated November 16, 1990 and including canceled check 043485.

9.) to approve the issuance of vendor Check Nos. 047449 through 048067 in the amount of \$2,477,992.64 as listed on the attached check list dated November 26, 1990.

10.) to ratify the canceling of checks, to approve the reissuing of replacement checks and to ratify the issuance of advance checks all totalling \$654,302.71, less canceled checks totalling \$550.50, for a net of \$653,752.21, all as shown on the attached Supplemental Bill List dated November 20, 1990.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Howland, McConachie, Morris, Wilson, Zimmerman, Baer

nay: none

Motion carried.

NOTE: See Attached

DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO ITEMS #2, 3, 4 AND 5 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Howland asked what the budget estimate was for the roof structure bid. Mr. Wisner reported that the budget estimate was \$32,000.

Mr. Howland stated that he appreciated the budget transfer recommendation made by Mr. Fuller in regard to the Glenbrook North grading and seeding bid.

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MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS #2, 3, 4 AND 5 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Baer, to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

2.) to award the bid for providing the roof structural system for the Glenbrook building trades house to Charles E. Schwall, Inc., 1530 Orchard Lane, Northbrook, IL at a total cost of \$39,655.00.

3.) to award the bid for grading and seeding the fieldhouse area and installing a softball field with drainage at Glenbrook North to Arlington Turf Landscaping Contractors, 305 W. Old Plum Grove Road, Palatine, IL for a total price of \$33,436.00 and approving a transfer of \$9,605.00 from the board contingency fund to complete the softball field and landscaping of the fieldhouse area.

4.) to award the bid for providing a boiler room catwalk at Glenbrook North to Port-A-Weld Contracting Ltd. for a total budget of \$11,125.00.

5.) to reject the bid from Morton Buildings, Inc. in the amount of \$16,407.00 for the construction of a salt shed at Glenbrook South.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: McConachie, Morris, Wilson, Zimmerman, Baer, Howland

nay: none

Motion carried.

NOTE: See Attached

DISCUSSION REGARDING MINORITY RECRUITMENT BOARD POLICY

Mr. Howland made several suggestions concerning the proposed policy. Dr. Pommerenke reported that the policy had been prepared by our attorneys in such a manner to avoid litigation. After further discussion, the Board took the following action.

MOTION TO APPROVE BOARD POLICY RELATIVE TO MINORITY RECRUITMENT

Motion by Mrs. McConachie, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman, to approve the minority recruitment Board policy as submitted.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Morris, Wilson, Zimmerman, Baer, McConachie

nay: Howland

Motion carried.

NOTE: See Attached

MOTION TO RESCHEDULE THE DECEMBER 24, 1990 BOARD MEETING TO DECEMBER 17, 1990

Motion by Mrs. McConachie, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman to reschedule the Board's December 24, 1990 meeting to December 17, 1990.

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

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES TO DEVELOP LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN

The discussion of procedures to develop the long range strategic plan was rescheduled to the regular Board meeting of December 10, 1990.

REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TASK FORCE

Board members had received materials in their Board packets concerning the establishment of an educational foundation. Mr. Baer and Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed the purposes and operations of the proposed foundation.

The Board discussed various ways to begin organizing the foundation. Mr. Howland indicated he would be willing to chair a steering committee consisting of one member of the parents' association from each school to work with the attorneys to develop the appropriate documents. After further discussion, the Board took the following action.

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MOTION TO ENGAGE THE FIRM OF VEDDER, PRICE TO ASSIST THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Motion by Mr. Howland, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to engage the legal firm of Vedder, Price to assist the steering committee to create an educational foundation to be separate from, but affiliated with District #225.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Wilson, Zimmerman, Baer, Howland, McConachie, Morris

nay: none

Motion carried.

REVIEW OF ED-RED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman, to approve the ED-RED intergovernmental agreement as presented by Mrs. McConachie.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Zimmerman, Baer, Howland, McConachie, Morris, Wilson

nay: none

Motion carried.

MOTION TO REINSTATE THE COMPUTER TRAINING POSITION AT GLENBROOK NORTH

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman, to reinstate the computer training position at Glenbrook North.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Baer, Howland, McConachie, Morris, Wilson. Zimmerman

nay: none

Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. McConachie reported on the discussions at a recent ED-RED meeting concerning the lawsuit involving financing public education in Illinois. She outlined possible options for ED-RED to pursue.

Mrs. McConachie indicated that State Superintendent Robert Leininger will be at the ED-RED meeting Wednesday evening, December 5, 1990.

Mrs. McConachie stated that ED-RED will be considering school-to-school partnerships in the near future.

Mrs. Zimmerman agreed to speak at the evening school graduation Friday evening, January 18, 1991.

Mr. Morris distributed a list of parent and faculty meetings for December, 1990 and encouraged members to consider attending these meetings.

Mr. Morris reported that NSSED had recently reached a salary agreement with its teachers calling for 7.0% and 7.5% salary schedule increases for the next two years.

Mr. Howland asked that the Board be provided copies of the higher education high school feedback reports.

Mrs. McConachie reported on a panel on planning for technology she, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Lacivita participated in at the ISBA state convention and a presentation Mrs. Zimmerman made at the convention. She said that Mrs. Zimmerman's presentation and the panel were well received.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. McGrew reported that he recently spoke at the National Civic League Council meeting in Boston.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Baer, seconded by Mrs. McConachie, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:35 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

* Means Baer, McConachie, Morris, Wilson, and Zimmerman all voted aye.

** Means Baer, Howland, McConachie, Morris, Wilson, and Zimmerman all voted aye.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

PRESIDENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY - BOARD OF EDUCATION

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: DECEMBER 10, 1990 Glenbrook Administration Center
7:30 P.M. 1835 Landwehr Road
Glenview, Illinois