

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING,
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL
DISTRICT #225, COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, JULY 24, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 225 was held on Monday, July 24, 2006, at approximately 7:35 p.m. at the Glenbrook High Schools Administration Building, pursuant to due notice of all members and the public.

The president called the meeting to order. Upon calling of the roll, the following members answered present: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Matsakis, Shein, Torf. Absent: Jeffrey Also present: Dill-Varga, Freud, Freeman, Hales, Helander-Heiser, Pryma, Ptak, Schilling, and Wegley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING WITH FOLLOWING
MODIFICATION**

Motion by Mrs. Torf, seconded by Mr. Boron to approve the agenda with the modification of reversing the order of agenda item #7 with agenda item #6.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Matsakis, Shein, Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 6-0.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY VISITORS

President Torf invited any community members who wished to address the board to come forward. Twenty-one community members addressed the board on the following issues related to the referendum. Some community visitors asked questions to clarify the need for the referendum. Some asked questions about and objected to the size of proposed tax increase, while others expressed their strong support for the referendum. Several parents spoke in support of the proposed new pool based on safety issues and utilization needs. A suggestion was made to hold some open houses for community members to be able to see firsthand the inadequate and/or aging facilities.

President Torf thanked the community visitors for their comments and indicated that Superintendent Hales would be providing additional information at each of the upcoming meetings. She advised them to stay informed, to attend meetings,

and to access factual information that would help address their questions.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Board member Matsakis indicated that he had attended a meeting with District 34 school officials to show support for a common goal of both districts to support and maintain excellence in education. He pledged to share information with their district as available on issues relative to the referendums at hand.

Board member Hammer provided an update on the facility needs identified at NSSD (North Shore Special Education Districts).

Dr. Hales informed the board that a meeting was held with parent leaders at Glenbrook South and Glenbrook North to brief them on the comprehensive planning process and referendum plans. He stated that the feedback was positive.

President Torf, who had reviewed the vendor bills for this month, spoke to the story they told about the kinds of expenses it takes to run a school district.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.) the resignation of the following educational support staff contained in Mrs. Helander-Heiser's memorandum dated July 19, 2006

RESIGNATIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
Canko, Kathleen	Network Communications Spec.	July 18, 2006	ADM
Downer, Whitney	Technology	June 30, 2006	GBN
Saeks, Randall	Technology	July 12, 2006	GBN

- 2.) the appointment of the following educational support staff contained in Mrs. Helander-Heiser's memorandum dated July 19, 2006.

APPOINTMENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
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<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
Koller, Marina (Repl. J. Costales)	Instructional Assistant	GBS

the appointment of the following certificated staff as recommended by the director of human resources

APPOINTMENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Koller, Marina	English Teacher	7/20/06	GBS	MA, Step 1
Skonie, Danielle R.	Physical Education Teacher	7/20/06	GBN	BA, Step 2
Whalen, Brin E.	Business Education Teacher	7/20/06	GBS	BA+15, Step 1

3.) the issuance of Vendor Checks Nos. 24192 through 240363 in the amount of \$1,229,204.11 as listed on the attached checks register dated July 18, 2006

the issuance of Vendor Checks Nos. 24021 through 24191 in the amount of \$824,290.09 as listed on the attached checks register dated July 10, 2006

the issuance of the electronic wire transfers for credit union, TRS, federal taxes, employee and employer portion of FICA and Medicare taxes and state taxes, and payroll check numbers 46980 through 47144 and 47170 through 47254 and replacement check numbers 47167, 47169 and 47266 thru 47269 totaling \$187,873.24. Vendor Payroll check numbers 47145 through 47168 and 47255 through 47265 totaled \$95,797.96. With employees' Federal, State, and FICA/Medicare withholding taxes of \$1,591,193.52, TRS contributions of \$936,636.92 other deductions of \$707,766.71 and direct deposit of \$6,422,502.10, the gross payroll for the month of June was \$9,846,692.49. TRS employer contribution was \$106,283.99 and employer matching FICA and MED was \$350,367.70.

the reimbursement of the Revolving Fund for Employees for the month of June in the amount of \$74,930.97 represented by checks No. 33826 through 33827, 33845 through 33918, 33935

through 33994, 34113 through 34135, 34234 through 34268, 34279 through 34307.

the reimbursement of the Revolving Fund for Vendors for the month of June in the amount of \$472,182.00 represented by checks No. 33828 through 33844, 33919 through 33934, 33995 through 34112, 34136 through 34233, 34269 through 34278, and 34308 through 34378. Checks issued in June voided in June: No. 34186 and 34232. Check issued in previous months, voided in June: No. 33822, 30681 and 31038.

4.) the acceptance of the following gifts:

Gift From	Amount or Item	School	Department
Glenview Optimist Club	\$2000	GBS	SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. & Mrs Ron Kory	\$2000	GBN	SCHOLARSHIP

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Boron, seconded by Mr. Hammer, to approve the consent agenda as contained in item #5.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Matsakis, Shein, Torf.

Nay: none

Motion carried. 6-0.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: TENTATIVE 2007 BUDGET

Mrs. Hillarie Siena, Director of Business Affairs, presented an overview of the tentative 2007 budget. She indicated to the Board that a public hearing will be scheduled for September 11, 2006. At the September 25, 2006 meeting, the budget will be brought back for a vote on its adoption.

She reminded the board that this tentative 2006/07 budget reflects input from staff, administration and the Board of Education. The budget process began August 30, 2004 with the budget and long range planning presentation to the Board. After approval of that long range budget plan, the administrative staff deliberated and presented a 3-year financial plan which the board subsequently approved on November 22, 2004. This plan was reviewed and updated in November 2005.

She reviewed the status on the estimated ending fund balance (39%) and the probable financial impact (approximately \$1.2M in deferred expense) of the 22 certified staff who exercised their option to defer their retirement to a later date.

She reviewed details related to property tax losses and state aid projections, as well as addressing questions from the Board.

MOTION TO APPROVE TENTATIVE 2007 BUDGET

Motion by Mr. Matsakis, seconded by Mr. Shein, to approve the Tentative 2007 Budget as contained in item #7, noting that the budget would be on public display no less than 30 days and that a public hearing would be held at the September 11, 2006 Board Meeting.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Matsakis, Shein, Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 6-0.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: REFERENDUM DECISION

Dr. Hales provided an overview of the steps that had preceded consideration of a referendum decision. He noted the ten-year financial planning projections, information gathered and shared each year regarding property tax appeal board court claims, TIF (tax increment financing) issues, the impact of the property tax cap, and the increase in funding for special education and other mandated state and federal programs.

He reviewed the three-year financial plan embarked on by the district, including numerous efficiencies and cost containment programs which have resulted in \$1.9M in reductions in 2005-06 and \$800,000 annual savings through efficiency initiatives. This was achieved through: audits to identify ways to streamline operations; elimination of 12 non-teaching positions; reduction of 7.1 teaching positions; 10 percent operating budget cuts at each of the high schools and district office; a moratorium on new programs in athletics, academics, and activities; a moratorium on new construction and renovation projects; a restructuring of all major vendor contracts; outsourcing of printing services; and significant increases in student user fees.

He reviewed the progress made during the year on the Board's goal to engage the community in this strategic planning. He reminded the Board of the community survey results which clearly recognize and value the excellence achieved in the district in the areas of academics, athletics, and activities. The community clearly values the fact that nearly 97% of students matriculate

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to college, that 90% of students are involved in activities, and that district average ACT scores are consistently in the top 5% of the nation. He summarized the work of the 55 stakeholders who met for three days in November to identify six objectives, including a desire to "maximize educational opportunities for all students" through the 3 A's (academics, athletics, and activities).

Dr. Hales voiced the district's concern that this vision of "maintaining the excellence" would not be possible without additional funding secured through a successful referendum. He advocated a responsible, long-term solution to stabilize the district for at least the next ten years. He reminded the Board that 1961 was the last time a referendum question had been brought to both communities. This particular tax increase would be under \$200 for an average house in both communities.

He informed the board that the district will continue to monitor its finances and update its three-year budget reduction plan as necessary, but that unless a referendum is passed, the Board will be forced to consider the following options: maintaining out-of-date facilities, making only those improvements that are necessary to maintain life-safety; eliminating an additional 17 teaching positions which will cause the average class size to increase, reducing the numbers of courses that students can take in classes, capping participation and/or instituting a "pay-for-play" policy for extracurricular activities and athletics, and limiting participation in the District's signature programs, such as: Peer Group, the Glenbrook Academy of International Studies, the TEAM program and the nationally-recognized debate and speech programs.

Following Dr. Hales comments, board members summarized reasons for their support for the referendum. Some excerpts follow:

Elias Matsakis: "The proposed referendum addresses a core community value and an essential community need: the preservation of the excellence of our high schools. The simplicity of that statement is complicated by the multi-faceted way in which the referendum protects our schools. Our starting point was to preserve the same educational opportunities across generations, so that my daughter who will be graduating in 2008 and the children she babysits who will be graduating in 2018 will have the same education that my son had who graduated in 1998 and his baby sitter who graduated in 1988 had."

Donna Torf: "One solution is to address the problem with drastic cuts in personnel, delay infrastructure needs yet further, reduce academic offerings to students, increase class sizes beyond levels research informs us are optimal for instruction, eliminate some of the "signature programs" which set the Glenbrooks apart from the typical high school, levy still more fees to student-families for participation in athletics, activities and educational programs, increase the ratio of students to teachers to risk disenfranchising and disconnecting from students who most need adult interaction, reduce such

service personnel as custodians, paraprofessionals and technical support which underpin the smooth running of the schools, reduce professional development opportunities that keep our highly qualified instructors at the top of their game. The result, of course, could well be a very different—and conceivably diminished—educational institution. Alternatively, the board is considering a referendum to infuse the district with funds to address the fiscal concerns. This board has labored in good conscience to reconcile the district's needs and stakeholder expectations with the very real concern for constituents on a limited income or those who claim to have no vested interest in the Glenbrook schools. It needs to be clear that we approach this vote tonight after months and months of exploration, research, initiatives, and discussion. We do not come here lightly, nor without having been duly diligent on behalf of all of our constituents. To be honest, the revenue sought through the referendum will not solve all the problems at once. It certainly will not turn 225 into a Disneyland for high school students. It will simply continue the District 225 effort to educate our students in a consistent and equitable manner according to its traditions and the community's expectations for years onward."

Bob Boron: "We have spent years trying to figure out what else could be done, what does have to be done, and what doesn't have to be done. I've talked about classroom facilities and overcrowding. We have meals being prepared in 50-year-old kitchens. My guess is there are not too many houses that have that today. We have tried to reclaim space by taking an office here, a closet there. Well, you can tinker for a while, but we still have more and more students coming in. The buildings are as large as they are and that's what you have. We have handicapped students who have to go up to the second floor to go to insufficient facilities when they get there. Unfortunately, we are in a state that is 49th out of 50 in funding schools. What do you do when you need that room addition? You take out a home equity loan. Basically this is a home equity loan. We're talking \$194 a year. The need exists. The district needs a home equity loan and we're going to have to do it now or we're going to have to do it later. It's still cheaper to do it now because of the other costs of burning down the reserves. It's time to do it. It's time to make the investment."

Skip Shein: "The music room at North was built for a school of 1600 and now there are 2400 students. It is packed and overcrowded. Swimming is one of the few activities in the school in which every student participates. Once serving 1800 students, the exact same facility now attempts to serve 2700. In addition, it serves through a variety of after school and summer activities, a community that had roughly 22,000 and now numbers over 45,000. We are putting much more load on facilities that haven't appreciably changed. These are your community assets. These facilities are yours and they're mine, as residents of Glenview and Northbrook. We have to decide--we have to determine-- what our values are. So right, wrong, or indifferent, it is simply not the Board. We are opening it up for you to choose and we will all make that choice."

Wayne Berzon: "I can tell you the number of school districts that I interact with on a personal basis throughout the day. There are a lot of districts that will do it for less and their communities get what that pays for. You moved to these two communities because of what these schools meant. One of the first questions you asked the realtor if you didn't inherit your home from your parents was "What are the schools like?" When we did our comprehensive plan, over 91% responded that they tied the real estate value to the quality of the schools. You want less? There are lesser communities out there. We want to address facility needs that will continue the quality of our system which is what you asked us for and what you asked of yourselves when you moved here."

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS

Motion to approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing School Building Bonds to the voters of Township High School District Number 225, Cook County, Illinois, at the general election to be held on the 7th day of November, 2006.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Matsakis, Shein, Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 6-0.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Elias Matsakis requested that a moment of silence be placed on the September 11, 2006 board meeting agenda to remember the tragedy that befell our nation on that day five years ago.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Shein, seconded by Mr. Boron, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:35 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

* Means Berzon, Boron, Hammer, Matsakis, Shein, Torf.

(Mr. Hammer and Mr. Shein left at approximately 10:38 p.m.)

MOTION TO RESCIND ADJOURNMENT AND TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Matsakis, seconded by Mr. Boron, to move into closed session at approximately 10:42 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline performance, or dismissal of specific employees, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, student disciplinary cases and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent (Section 2 (c) (1), (2), (9) and (11) of the Open Meetings Act).

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Matsakis, Torf.

nay: none

Motion carried. 4-0.

ACTION REGARDING MATTERS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

MOTION TO AFFIRM THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MDRC FOR STUDENT #07-1 AS DETERMINED IN CLOSED SESSION.

Motion by Mr. Boron, seconded by Mr. Berzon to uphold the terms and conditions recommended by the MDRC for student #07-1 as determined in closed session.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Berzon, Boron, Matsakis, Torf

nay: none

Motion carried. 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Matsakis, seconded by Mr. Boron, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:00 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

* Means Berzon, Boron, Matsakis, Torf.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

PRESIDENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY - BOARD OF EDUCATION

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

Meetings will be held in the
Board Room (unless otherwise noted) of the
Northfield Township High School District #225
Administration Building,
1835 Landwehr Road,
Glenview, Illinois.

Monday, August 14, 2006	7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2006	7:30 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting