

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Ridgeland School District 122, Cook County, Illinois
Held at Kolb Elementary School, Cafetorium
9620 S. Normandy, Oak Lawn, IL 60453**

March 15, 2012

1.) The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:05 p.m.

2.) The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the Mission Statement was read.

3.) Roll Call

Present: President Sodaro, Vice President Landingham, Secretary Werner, Member Niceforo, Member Sawicki, Member Wendt, Member Pulver

Absent: None

Also Present: Tom Smyth, Superintendent

Julie Shellberg, Assistant Superintendent

Eric Trimberger, Assistant Superintendent

4.) Academic Spotlight

The AM and PM Kindergarten students at Kolb recited selections from their poetry books they created in class. Mrs. Sharp pointed out that the use of poetry is essential for developing better reading and writing skills, along with memorization and sound recognition. By the end of the year, the students will have put together a book of about 40 to 45 poems that they were taught in class.

5.) Comments from Visitors Regarding School or Agenda Items and Petitions

No visitors requested to address the Board.

6.) Approval of Consent Agenda (√)

It was moved by Member Niceforo and seconded by Member Pulver that the Board approve the following items as specified in the individual items: √7a.) Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012; √7b.) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012; √8a.) Current Bills; √8b.) Township Treasurer Report; √9a1.) Employment – Carrie Szabla; √9a2.) Employment – Nicole Wisniewski; √9a3.) Employment – Lauren Podgorak; √9a4.) Employment – Amy Rupsch; √9b2.) Leave of Absence – Faten Assria; √9c1.) Resignation – Melita Loya; √11a.) Press PLUS Updates for First Reading; √11b.) School Maintenance Project Grant and √11c.) Creation of 3 Additional Special Education Classrooms for the 2012-2013 School Year.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Niceforo, Pulver, Sawicki, Wendt, Landingham, Sodaro, Werner

NAY: None

Absent: None

The motion carried 7-0-0-0*.

* Member Pulver abstained from item 7a.) Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012

and 7b.) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012.

7.) Approval of Minutes ►

√a.) Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012.

√b.) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2012.

8.) Financial Report and Bills ►

√a.) Current Bills

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the current bills in the amounts of:

\$	737,097.71	in the Education Fund
\$	38,785.36	in the Building Fund
\$	1,522.73	in Debt Services
\$	123,863.29	in the Transportation Fund
\$	15,849.76	in Site Improvement
\$	908,728.32	in Gross Payrolls

√b.) Township Treasurer Report

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the Township Treasurer Report for the Month of February as prepared.

c.) The District 122 Summary Sheet for February – Informational item for the Board.

d.) Building RPA Summaries – Informational item for the Board.

9.) Personnel ►

a.) Employment

√1.) Carrie Szabla

Under the consent agenda the Board employed Carrie Szabla as a Part-Time (.7) Instructional Teacher at Simmons Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year starting at Lane 1, Step 1.

√2.) Nicole Wisniewski

Under the consent agenda the Board employed Nicole Wisniewski as a .6 First Grade Teacher/ .4 Instructional Assistant at Columbus Manor Elementary School for the 2011-2012 school year with a blended salary of \$16,838.28.

√3.) Lauren Podgorak

Under the consent agenda the Board employed Lauren Podgorak as a 7th Grade Math/ Language Arts/ Literature Teacher at Simmons Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year starting at Lane 1, Step 1.

√4.) Amy Rupsch

Under the consent agenda the Board employed Amy Rupsch as a Preschool Instructional Assistant at Harnew Elementary School for the 2011-2012 school year at a rate of \$11.50 per hour pending a TB test and background check.

b.) Leave of Absence

1.) Jill Poetz

Item was moved to closed session. Upon returning, it was moved by Member Pulver and seconded by Member Niceforo that the Board approve a one year extension to the leave of absence for Jill Poetz for the 2012-2013 school year as per Article XIV, Section 2C of the *Agreement between the Board of Education and the Ridgeland Council of Local 943*.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: None

NAY: Pulver, Sawicki, Niceforo, Landingham, Sodaro, Werner

Absent: Wendt

The motion failed 0-6-0-1.

√2.) Faten Assria

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the one week leave of absence for Faten Assria beginning on March 26, 2012 as per Article XIV, Section 8 of the *Agreement between the Board of Education and the Ridgeland Council of Local 943*.

c.) Resignation

√1.) Melita Loya

Under the consent agenda the Board accepted the resignation of Melita Loya effective March 8, 2012.

d.) Resolution 12-011, Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Non-Tenured Teachers Other Than Final-Year Probationary Teachers

Secretary Werner read the resolution aloud.

It was moved by President Sodaro and seconded by Member Pulver that the Board adopt Resolution 12-011, Authorizing Notice of Dismissal to Non-Tenured Teachers Other Than Final-Year Probationary Teachers.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Pulver, Sawicki, Wendt, Landingham, Sodaro

NAY: Wendt, Werner

Absent: None

The motion carried 5-2-0-0.

e.) Resolution 12-012, Authorizing Notice of Honorable Dismissal of Assistant Principal Positions

Secretary Werner read the resolution aloud.

It was moved by President Sodaro and seconded by Member Pulver that the Board adopt Resolution 12-012, Authorizing Notice of Honorable Dismissal of Assistant Principal Positions.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Pulver, Sawicki, Niceforo, Landingham, Sodaro, Werner

NAY: Wendt

Absent: None

The motion carried 6-0-0-1.

f.) Resolution 12-013, Authorizing Reduction in Force of Educational Support Personnel

Secretary Werner read the resolution aloud.

It was moved by President Sodaro and seconded by Member Pulver that the Board adopt Resolution 12-013, Authorizing Reduction in Force of Educational Support Personnel.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Pulver, Sawicki, Wendt, Niceforo, Landingham, Sodaro, Werner

NAY: None

Absent: None

The motion carried 7-0-0-0.

10.) Notices and Communications

a.) Mandatory Board Member Training – Current Board Members are required to complete the Open Meeting Act training provided by the Illinois Attorney General. Further training will be required after the April 2013 election.

b.) Administrative Team Meeting Minutes – Informational item for the Board. Member Wendt brought up the discussion of the grade level centers that were mentioned in both the Administrative Team and Faculty Leader meeting minutes. She asked why the Administration continues to bring up the topic when the majority of the Board feel that the schools should remain as neighborhood schools.

- c.) South Cook Division – Spring Dinner Meeting – Board Members interested should RSVP to Superintendent Smyth.
- d.) Illinois Education Roundtable – 2012 Legislative Priorities and Policy Briefs – Informational item for the Board.
- e.) Website Traffic – The District has seen an increase in visitors to the District and school websites.
- f.) Certificates of Recognition – Informational item for the Board.
- g.) Faculty Leader Minutes – Informational item for the Board.
- h.) Franczek Radelet Law Conference Binder – Informational item for the Board.
- i.) Health/ Life Safety Inspection – Informational item for the Board.

11.) New Business ►

√a.) Press PLUS Updates for First Reading

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the first reading of the following policies as updated and amended: Policy 2:120, Board Member Development (Board of Education); Policy 2:120 E2, Website Listing of Development and Training Completed by Board Members (Board of Education); Delete Policy 2:190, Mailing Lists for Receiving Board Materials (Board of Education); Policy 2:200, Types of Board of Education Meeting (Board of Education); Policy 2:220 E2, Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting (Board of Education) and Policy 2:220 E6, Log of Closed Meeting Minutes (Board of Education).

√b.) School Maintenance Project Grant

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the School Maintenance Project Grant for the Lieb Roofing Project for the Fiscal Year 2012 Application Cycle.

√c.) Creation of 3 Additional Special Education Classrooms for the 2012-2013 School Year

Under the consent agenda the Board approved the creation of 3 additional special education classrooms to house the students currently in the AERO program.

d.) Resolution 12-014, Concerning Proposed Changes to the Funding of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

Secretary Werner read the resolution aloud.

It was moved by Member Pulver and seconded by Member Niceforo that the Board adopt Resolution 12-014, Concerning Proposed Changes to the Funding of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Pulver, Sawicki, Wendt, Niceforo, Landingham, Sodaro, Werner

NAY: None
Absent: None

The motion carried 7-0-0-0.

e.) Resolution 12-015, Abating a Portion of the Tax heretofore Levied for the Year 2011 to Pay Debt Service on Capital Appreciation School Bonds, Series 2000

Secretary Werner read the resolution aloud.

It was moved by Member Pulver and seconded by Member Sawicki that the Board adopt Resolution 12-015, Abating a Portion of the Tax heretofore Levied for the Year 2011 to Pay Debt Service on Capital Appreciation Bonds, Series 2000.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: Pulver, Sawicki, Wendt, Niceforo, Landingham, Sodaro, Werner
NAY: None
Absent: None

The motion carried 7-0-0-0.

Member Wendt left at 8:08 p.m.

12.) Comments from Visitors on New Business

Nancy Havlin, Union President, addressed the Board regarding the grade level centers that were brought up as a topic at the last Faculty Leader meeting. Faculty Leaders were asked what their thoughts were and to help brainstorm ideas for other options that the District may have to help relieve the current classroom sizes and shrinking budget. Other ideas that came up were voluntary transfers, deficit spending, new boundaries, increased class sizes, and K-8 buildings. The main goal of the faculty is putting the kids first.

13.) Comments from Board Members

Member Werner commented on the assemblies that Simmons and Harnew recently had with Staley the Bear, the mascot from the Chicago Bears. The assemblies focused on taking the ISAT for students in 3rd through 8th grade. The assembly for the 1st and 2nd graders focused on the effects of bullying.

Member Niceforo recently attended an awards ceremony for one of our students who attends AERO. Arkell Boyd was presented with the 2012 Outstanding Student Technology Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Great Chicago for the achievements he has made through technology.

The Board thanked the Kindergarten students for their spotlight.

Member Sawicki thanked Kolb for the money they raised for the Make a Wish foundation.

14.) Closed Session Topic(s) Allowed Under the Illinois Open Meetings Act*

It was moved by Secretary Werner and seconded by Member Pulver that the Board enter into

Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity and collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. There being no objection to the motion, all members present voted "AYE". The motion carried 6-0-0-1. The Board entered into Closed Session at 8:14 p.m.

It was moved by President Sodaro and seconded by Member Pulver that the Board return to Open Session. There being no objection to the motion, all members present voted "AYE". The motion carried 6-0-0-1. The Board returned to Open Session at 9:17 p.m.

15.) Possible Action After Closed Session

N/A

16.) Future Business

- 3/5-16 ISAT Testing
- 3/16 Full Day of School – Spring Break Begins
- 4/6 Not In Attendance
- 4/9 Not In Attendance
- 4/19 Board of Education Meeting - Reorganization
- 4/27 Progress Reports Distributed
- 5/18 No Student Attendance: Teacher Institute Day
- 5/28 Legal Holiday - No School – Memorial Day
- 5/31 End of 3rd Trimester/ Report Cards Distributed
Student Last Day – 1 Hour

17.) Adjournment

It was moved by President Sodaro and seconded by Member Pulver that the meeting be adjourned. There being no objection to the motion, all members present voted "AYE". The motion carried 6-0-0-1. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

► Routine business/ action items in these categories will be taken up under the consent agenda unless a member of the Board requests that a particular item(s) be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion and/or to record a dissenting vote.

* A concise Closed Session for topic(s) allowed under the Illinois Open Meetings Act may be held prior to action on the remainder of the agenda. The topic(s) to be discussed will be included in the motion to go into Closed Session. No votes or other business will be discussed while in Closed Session. When the Board comes out of Closed Session, action can and may be taken.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education