

AURORA, ILLINOIS  
DECEMBER 3, 2007  
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NUMBER 129, KANE COUNTY, AURORA, IL

PRESENT: Ms. Sonni Herget  
Ms. Laurie Hoffman  
Mr. Neal Ormond  
Ms. Angela Smith  
Mr. James Toynton  
Mr. Jonathan Wood  
Mr. Alan Rhea, President  
Mr. Daniel Flaherty, Student Board Member

ABSENT: None

PRESENT: Dr. James Rydland, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Peter Kerl, Assistant Supt. – Operations  
Ms. Vickie Nissen, Assistant Superintendent for Finance  
Ms. Rosemary Pinnick, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning  
Ms. Cynthia Latimer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services  
Mr. Mike Chapin, Community/Alumni Relations  
Mr. Mark Engen, Transportation Director  
Ms. Randi Ochsenschlager, Secretary to the Board  
Mr. Tom Kraus, President, AEAW  
Media  
Members of West High School, Hope Wall, SCAC, Partnership School, AEAW, Fearn  
School, Aurora Division of Sea Cadets

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Rhea called the December 3, 2007 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at West High School, 1201 W. New York St., Aurora. The following Board of Education members were present: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, Rhea, and Flaherty.

### **COLOR GUARDS**

The Aurora Area Sea Cadets performed the color guard ceremony to open the December 3, 2007 meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Education conducted a public hearing on the proposed tax levies. The hearing is necessary if the levy request is in an amount in excess of five percent increase.

A member of the audience asked for clarification of the levy and how it would affect their tax payment. Vickie Nissen, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, provided background on the levy process and the amount being requested.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

President Rhea recognized visitors from West High, AEAW, Hope Wall, SCAC, Transportation, Fearn Elementary School, Partnership School, Aurora Division of Sea Cadets.

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

The Board of Education recognized four general contractors for their work on the Hope Wall "Hope in Motion" project. Those recognized were Asta Dzeveckaite, Evergreen Landscaping; Joe Madden, Abbey Paving; Mark Baum, R.C. Wegman and Erick Oleson, Recreation Concepts/Gametime. Special recognition was also given to Sandy Lowder, project coordinator and Hope Wall Teacher, for her leadership on this project.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Herget moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions approving the tax levies to be filed with the Kane County Clerk's Office by December 30, 2007.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, School District 129, Kane County, State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: That for the ensuing year, the County Clerk of Kane County is hereby authorized and directed to extend the following special taxes on behalf of this School District:

- A. The sum of \$1,270,001.45 to be levied as a special tax for Social Security purposes; and
- B. The sum of \$1,015,994.20 to be levied as a special tax for Special Education purposes.

Section 2: That the following amounts of money, as indicated on the Certificate of Tax Levy hereto attached and made a part hereof, shall be raised by special tax for the various purposes indicated for the next ensuing year.

- A. The sum of \$47,403,683.53 be levied for Education levy, and
- B. The sum of \$16,100,000 be levied for the Operations, Building and Maintenance levy, and
- C. The sum of \$1,473,207.26 be levied for the Transportation levy, and
- D. The sum of \$-0- be levied for the Working Cash levy, and
- E. The sum of \$-0- be levied for the TORT Immunity levy.

Section 3. That the President and Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to sign said certificate and file this certificate with the County Clerk of Kane County on or before the last day of December of this year.

Ms. Hoffman seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, Rhea

NAYES: None

Ms. Herget moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-171 (b) of The Pension Code, the Board of Education of West Aurora School District No. 129, Kane County, Illinois, is authorized and empowered to levy a tax not to exceed the amount required for school district employer contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund; and

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-132 of The Pension Code, school districts are subject to the provisions of said code; and WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 173.2 of The Pension Code, the Board of Education is not authorized to levy a tax for the employees' contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund which are picked up by the employer School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of West Aurora School District No. 129, Kane County, Illinois as follows:

Section 1: That \$1,270,001.45 be levied as a special tax for the contributions of the employer School District to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund in accordance with the provisions of Section 7-171 (b) of The Pension Code.

Section 2: That the funds so levied shall be used only for payment of the employer contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and may not be used for payment of any employee contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund that are picked up by the employer school district.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its passage.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, Rhea

NAYES: None

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Jack Meyer presented the most recent Treasurer's Report to the Board. Mr. Meyer reviewed revenues and expenditures, indicating the difficulty with budgeting when the State money has not been received. It was also mentioned that the implications of not receiving these dollars are the budget forecasting, the loss of interest income. The dollars received are based on the 2007 foundation level.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Toynton moved that the Board of Education approve the items contained in the Consent Agenda, items A-I, for December 3, 2007.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, Rhea

NAYES: None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held December 3, 2007 be approved.

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve and accept bill listings in the amount of \$4,491,184.34; and Hope Wall bill listings in the amount of \$210,304.69 for the period ending December 3, 2007.

Total Regular Bill Listing	\$ 643,517.66
Total (Net) Payroll	<u>3,847,666.68</u>
Total for Approval	\$4,491,184.34

Total Hope Wall Regular Bill Listing	\$ 15,394.78
Total Hope Wall (Net) Payroll	<u>194,909.91</u>
Total Hope Wall for Approval	\$ 210,304.69

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve and accept the Personnel Report for December 3, 2007, including the resignations of Lluvia Moreno-Gomez, Paraprofessional @ Todd; Caren Arrocena, Paraprofessional @ Fearn; Patricia Skeels, Grants Coordinator, Administration; Ruth Kramer, Head Bookkeeper, Administration. ***The Board offered special thanks and appreciation to both Pat and Ruth for their work with the district and wished them both the best in their retirement***

**APPOINTMENTS – CERTIFIED PROBATIONARY – FULL TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointments of the following full-time Certified Probationary Personnel:

Darlene DeWitz, English @ West High

**APPOINTMENTS – CERTIFIED PROBATIONARY – PART TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following part-time Certified Probationary – Part-Time Employees:

Matthew Johnson, Alternative Education @ West

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL – FULL TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following part-time Educational Support Personnel subject to the conditions set forth in the backup material:

Lindsey Shortness, Paraprofessional @ Hope Wall

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL – PART TIME**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following part-time Educational Support Personnel subject to the conditions set forth in the backup material:

## **APPROVAL OF 14 PASSENGER ACTIVITY BUS BID**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approve the low responsible bid submitted by Southern Bus Mobility in the amount of \$80,170 for two 14-passenger activity buses to be delivered April of 2008.

## **APPROVAL OF 71 PASSENGER BUS BID**

Ms. Smith moved that the Board of Education approve the low responsible bid from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$721,290 for ten 71-passenger school buses, including the trade-in of six buses to be delivered in March of 2008, and the purchase of ten additional buses to be delivered in July of 2008 from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$736,290.

Ms. Wood seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:	Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, Rhea
NAYES:	None

## **VISION 129**

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

#### **Special Education Department Evaluation**

Crysta Morrissey, Director of Special Education, provided the first of two reports on the Special Education Department evaluation. She reviewed the assessment process, the filtering techniques, the proposed changes and discipline data.

#### **Proposed K-5 Science Program**

Mike Runge and Ann Butcher presented information on the proposed new K-5 science text and related support materials. They shared the names of those involved in the process, the frequently asked questions and the science text and support materials being recommended. They shared the process used to determine which materials would be recommended. Further information will be presented at the January 7, 2008 meeting, with costs provided. The material will be put on 30-day review, with approval at the February 4, 2008 meeting. The Board expressed appreciation for the time devoted to this process.

#### **Illinois Math and Science Partnership Masters Cohort**

The Board received a listing of staff being recommended to participate in the four Illinois Math and Science Partnership masters Degree cohorts through Aurora University and Northern Illinois University.

#### **District Improvement Plan**

The District Improvement Plan will be presented for review to the Board on January 7, 2008.

### **SAFE SECURE FACILITIES**

#### **Bid Tabulation for Bus Mounted Video Recording System**

The Board received material on the bid tabulation for bus mounted digital video recording systems.

## **Recycling**

Dan Flaherty, Student Board Member, provided information about discussions he has held regarding the district's program of recycling. He indicated that containers will be provided to buildings so that a more indepth process can be developed. Dan will be working with the Environmental Club at West to review how the recycling process is handled throughout the district.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 24-January 4	Winter Break
January 7, 2008	Board Meeting
January 15, 2008	A+ Illinois Forum
January 22, 2008	Board of Education Meeting
January 28, 2008	School Improvement Plans Presentation

Ms. Hoffman moved that the December 3, 2007 meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Herget, Hoffman, Ormond, Smith, Toynton, Wood, Rhea

NAYES: None

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Randy Ochsenschlager, Secretary

A True Record

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ALLAN RHEA, PRESIDENT