

Calumet Public School  
District 132 Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 8, 2007

President Stover called the Regular Board meeting of November 8, 2007 of the Calumet Public School Board of Education to order at **6:02 p.m.**

**Roll call:**

Members present: William Connor, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Members absent: Dominic Ganglely, Karen Ivey and Barbara Thomas.

**Pledge of allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Superintendents Report**

Celebrating Achievement:

Attendance Award

The attendance award for the month of October was as follows:

Burr Oak Academy 91.8% and Burr Oak School 93.9%. The award was presented to Calumet School at 95%.

**Administrative Leadership Academy**

The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to learn about what real leadership is, what the traits of an effective leader are and what you must do and not do. The participants are involved in learning about being a researcher and a practitioner. The participants have been involved in leadership assessment pieces where they have looked at the leadership styles and strengths. The Leadership Academy this year has 25 participants. The following are members of the Leadership Academy for the 2007-2008 school year.

1. Patricia French
2. Samantha Munks
3. Bonnie Smith
4. Beth Barker
5. Katrina Maloian
6. Janet Frinfrock
7. Natashia Harris
8. Latonia Brown
9. Yolanda Sydnor
10. Letty Percifield
11. Virginia Tate

Barbara Thomas arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation by Burr Oak Academy

Bonnie Smith Kindergarten teacher at Burr Oak Academy stated that her classroom knows the Superintendent's word of the day. This has exposed her children to big words. The children are learning from it and they do it in a different way. The children are taught the word of the day by questions asked by a puppet. The children are asked by the puppet to name the word of the day and the meaning of the word. The word of the day was diplomatic. The children also

demonstrated where certain states on a map are located. They pointed out where the wilderness and wetlands were and how to get from one state to another.

### **Board Member Training and Operational Review**

The Board members were involved in a Board retreat on October 27, 2007. The theme was Board Member Team Work. They dealt with long and short term goals. The Board will follow up with additional training. President Stover and Dr. Reynolds have signed an agreement that they will be involved in an 18 month agreement with the State. The title is *Targeting Achievement Through Governance*.

### **Corrective Plan for Noncompliance**

Ms. Burditt stated that the Bilingual handbook was translated and was sent to the State. The handbook will be reviewed for approval.

### **Financial Plan**

The district did end the month of October with a fund balance of 2.3 million dollars. Receiving revenues were \$600,000. The expenditures exceeded 5.1 million dollars. The district will begin to receive the tax break revenues that will be coming in shortly. This has impacted all of the districts. The district up to this date has their fund balances and local revenues. The district will receive their real estate revenues which is representing 30% of the budget.

In passing a levy there is a process and a time line involved. Tonight the Board will pass a resolution that states that the district will publish it in the newspaper to let them know what the district is proposing to levy for the 2007 taxes. The legal notice will be published in the *Star* newspaper on December 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. The districts are required to publish in the newspaper when they are providing a notice that the taxes might exceed 5%. Essentially this states that the district compared last years 2006 taxes and what they extended was 3.5. million dollars. The proposed property taxes to be levied for the next school year would be 3.752 and that it represents under the 5% increase over the previous year. The debt service that the district had to levy last year was \$407,000.00. This year the district will be levying a little under that at \$406,000.00 that's the principal and interest that the district has to pay for that particular year. This is a 2.8% slight decrease, most of that was in the principal and that varies from year to year. The total property taxes that the district extended last year was 4 million and this year it will be about 4.1 this will represent a 3.2% increase over the previous year. At this board meeting the Board is passing a resolution that is going to authorize the Board Secretary to publish this in the newspaper. The district will be having the hearing on December 20, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a number of documents that the board has to approve that will be sent to Cook County. This is how they get the authorization to levy the taxes.

### **Instructional Improvement Plans**

There are school improvement teams at each school that are site specific. The teams are dealing with items such as school change, school climate, instructional improvement, data gathering, analysis, curriculum alignment and community involvement. Next week the teams will be involved in administrative reviews they will be looking at the school improvement plan.

### **Staffing Needs Analysis and Plan**

There are seven vacancies as opposed to 40 in the past and last year 15. There are openings in Special Education, a computer teacher and a Title 1 teacher.

**Facilities Plan**

Last year the district experienced some severe weather conditions with the heating and boiler situation. The district has taken a step to correct that problem. The board did authorize \$90,000.00 for work to be done at Calumet School. There are boiler units, vents and ventilators that will be repaired or replaced. The district is having a number of preventative maintenance work being done in the district. The repairs will adequately maintain the heating levels that this building requires for the winter. The work is about 75% completed.

**Informational Items:****Teaching and Learning Update**

Ms. Burditt stated that the after school tutoring at Saturday Star Academy started November 3, 2007. There were 64 students from Burr Oak Academy in session one and 41 students in session two. There were 94 students in session one and 100 students in session two.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century program at Burr Oak School has started the Zero Hour Spanish class from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. The children in kindergarten attend one day a week and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders attend 2 days per week. The children in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are receiving Spanish lessons in the morning. Open House for the adult ESL and conversational Spanish classes will be held next week.

The *Bilingual parent* meeting and the *Parents Night Out* were combined on November 6, 2007. The topic was Bilingual Education in District 132. Ms. Burditt stated that she basically talked about how the program works in School District 132 for Bilingual Education. She discussed how parents and students have rights to a very good and excellent education. She mentioned that they are working to make that possible for all students in the district. The parents received a handout on parent's rights.

There was training on STI this week at Burr Oak School for selective staff on STI assessment. The District formed library committees. There are library committees at all three schools. The purpose of the committees is to keep the libraries up and running and ongoing improvements can be made to them. The books have been ordered and the district should receive those in the next week.

The expenditures reports that were do the first quarter have been submitted on time. Ms. Burditt is still making adjustments and upward amendments for some of the grants. The amendments have to include those additional funds when there is an increase.

There will be NEW training next Friday. The testing window for that program is open until the end of November. The plan is to have all the children tested at that time.

There was a Technology Committee formed. The first meeting will be held on November 13, 2007. The committee will begin to work on a technology plan for the District. The District has to complete the Technology Plan before they can complete the ERate application which is due at the end of January.

At Burr Oak Academy there are 13 Tutorial and Enrichment Programs which include Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. There are 4 Tutorial Programs at Burr Oak School that involve reading. At Calumet School there are 3 other programs that involve Enrichment, Social

Activities and Healthy Life Styles which include the basketball and soccer teams. Ms. Burditt has brought in over 3 million dollars in grants.

### Public Comments and Questions

Ms. Gosberry asked what are the names of the people being approved tonight?

Dr. Reynolds stated that they will be approving two people tonight. The two candidates are Jeanell Rhein a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher at Calumet School and Adrienne Saverson as a District Consultant. Mrs. Saverson will work on a limited basis and in specific curricular areas. The District is using a different and new format. They are doing a summary of the name rather than put all their information in the Board packets. The names and location are still available. The new hires are placed on a salary schedule according to their experience and degree.

Ms. Gosberry asked how many days was Mrs. Oswald in Boston Massachusetts?

Dr. Reynolds stated that every Administrator has a line item in their budget that deals with Professional Development. Administrators may attend up to 3 sessions a year based on the needs of that person and school. The stipulation is that it must improve the person and the school site. The information must be brought back whether the person is using the approach of training the trainers or having a presentation for the whole staff. In addition, there must be receipts handed in to the business office.

Ms. Gosberry asked why did Mrs. Oswald rent a car to go there?

Dr. Reynolds stated that within that stipulation they are still looking within the budget. The District is saying that they are allowing them to use their best judgment while they plan to attend sessions. The Administrator must come back with an itemized report of the conference and seminar or workshop.

President Stover asked for motion to go into closed session at **6:56 p.m.** to discuss information regarding appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee or officer, contracts, grievances, negotiations, litigation, the sale of real estate, student discipline, Superintendent's evaluation, or Board/Superintendent goals.

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by William Connor.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangle and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Motion carried.

President Stover asked for a motion to reconvene into open session at **7:32 pm.**

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by Barbara Thomas.

Voting aye: William Connor, Barbara Thomas, Grace Wallace, Abe Wilson and Ernestine Stover.

Voting nay: 0

Members absent: Domonic Gangle and Karen Ivey.

Vote: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Motion carried.



**Minutes For November 8, 2007**

**Open Session**

**Regular Board Meeting**

Mayor Porch stated that more information is needed on the nature of the meeting. He is ready to assist the Board only on the Board’s authorization. The Mayor wants to know specifically what kind of answers the District may need and what questions may be asked of him from the Board. He requested to contact someone authorized to establish seek of that unit in the school district. The contact was made with the Regional Directions Office of the United States. They will seek that core and the Captain will prepare the package for this area. Mr. Wilson will present the package when it arrives. The District Board has been invited to view the Christmas tree ceremony. It will be conducted at Navy Pier on December 1, 2007. There will be 500 Christmas trees brought over from Michigan on a Navy ship and distributed to needy families at on cost to them.

**New Business**

**Tax Levy**

Ms. Beck has begun planning the tax levy which is in line and on target.

**Audit Information**

Ms. Beck stated that the District has completed all of the worksheets for the grants. This involves gathering the data and comparing the ISBE to the grants for the ledgers to identifying certain expenditures that were miscoded. Ms. Beck’s staff has completed the 2005-2006 school year. They are currently working on the 2006-2007 school year. The staff has been working diligently in unpacking the archived documents from those past 2 years. They are now at the stage of pulling the actual documentation. Gary Lieder has been working that with the State to ask for a representative to come to access the district’s findings.

Abe Wilson stated that he had a concern. His concern is that he has seen many children embarrassed of their parents. The parents are bringing their children to school looking like they just jumped out of bed and forgot to put on any clothes. Mr. Wilson asked can anything be done?

Gary Lieder stated that the District can include the concern in the weekly notes that are send home to the parents.

**Adjournment**

President Stover asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board meeting of November 8, 2007 at **7:50 p.m.**

It was moved by Abe Wilson and seconded by Grace Wallace.

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved:

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President, Board President

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Secretary, Board Secretary