

**Palos Heights School District 128
Minutes of Truth in Taxation Hearing
December 10, 2014**

The Truth in Taxation hearing for the Palos Heights School District 128 Levy for 2014 was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dr. Edward T. Rancic Administrative Center, 12809 S. McVicker, Palos Heights, Illinois.

The public hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Deb Yerkes. Mrs. Yerkes called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Lachowicz, Lynch, Bylut, Lahart, Josh Haberkorn, Joseph Haberkorn, Yerkes,

Absent: None

Truth in Taxation Hearing

Mrs. Yerkes entertained comments, questions, or objections from the audience to the proposed 2014 School District 128 tax levy. There being no questions or objections to the proposed School District 128 2014 tax levy as presented, it was moved by Mr. Joseph Haberkorn and seconded by Dr. Lynch to adjourn the Truth in Taxation Hearing. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**Palos Heights School District 128
Minutes of Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education Palos Heights School District 128 was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at the Dr. Edward T. Rancic Administrative Center, 12809 S. McVicker, Palos Heights, Illinois.

Visitors

Kevin Kirk, Sharon Herman, Mary Lynn Duffy, Cathy Leslie, Lynn Adamonis, Amanda Graunder, Andrew Janotta, Vivian Smuksta, John Meier, Pam Koutras, Greg Urdal, Corey Breyne, Carrie Hoban, Betsy Noort, Nancy Bruton, Trudy Walta, Mike Maholland, Kendall Bruton, Deborah Swanson, Nanci Kamholz, Terry Ellison, Jill Curtin, Ann O'Brien, Nikki and Tom Cleary

Audience Participation

None.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Casey presented the tentative 2015-2016 school calendar for Board review and consideration. The Board and Superintendent discussed the proposed calendar. Dr. Casey will ask the Board to approve the calendar at the January Board meeting.

Dr. Casey reported on the recent Health/Life Safety Inspection from the SCISC/ROE. Dr. Casey thanked Curt Poepsel, the building principals and building custodians for their efforts. Only a few minor issues were pointed out, and all have been addressed since the inspection and report. There are no violations, and the district is in good standing with the Regional Office.

Several staff members were recognized by their principals. Sharon Herman recognized John Meier, Navajo Heights custodian, for his dedication and hard work.

Kevin Kirk recognized Trudy Walta, Independence school secretary, who goes “above and beyond” every day in assisting teachers and students.

Cathy Leslie recognized Carrie Hoban, teacher at Indian Hill School. Carrie is known for her commitment to her students and co-workers and works with responsibility and enthusiasm toward students and staff.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

It was moved by Dr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Joseph Haberkorn that the Board approves the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on November 12, 2014; approval of the December, 2014 bills payable and gross November, 2014 payroll, TRS and IMRF Fund in the amount of \$608,437.33 (copy of same to be appended to and become a part of the minutes of this meeting); reviews and approves the activity accounts of the District schools; approves the 2014 Tax Levy; approves the resignation of Cindy Baldwin, paraprofessional at Navajo Heights School, as of January 30, 2015, the retirement request made by Kim Kurtz for the end of the 2017-2018 school year, and the retirement request from Kathy Keogh, paraprofessional at Chippewa School.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Yerkes, Josh Haberkorn, Bylut, Lahart, Joseph Haberkorn, Lynch, Lachowicz

Nays: None

Motion carried.

New Business

Dr. Casey acknowledged concerns from some parents and staff regarding holiday celebrations. She read a Board policy stating “the school district’s curriculum may include the study of religions...shall give neither derogatory nor preferential treatment to any single religious belief...shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or any practice of religion”. Dr. Casey further explained the District’s main concern is the children and their comfort with participating in holiday celebrations. Discussion continued among Board members, and several audience members expressed their opinions on the issue.

Mrs. Lachowicz announced the NSBA National Conference will be held in Nashville in

March.

Old Business

None.

Audience Participation

None.

Closed Session

It was moved by Dr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Joseph Haberkorn that the Board enter into Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment or dismissal of personnel and to review Closed Session minutes.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Bylut, Joseph Haberkorn, Lachowicz, Lynch, Josh Haberkorn, Yerkes,
Lahart

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:50 p.m.

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 8:25 p.m.

The Board elaborated on the discussion of Board policy regarding holiday celebrations. It was felt more guidance and further discussion is needed, possibly to form a committee in the future.

Joseph Haberkorn made a motion to buy a Christmas tree for each of the school buildings, not to exceed \$1,200 per tree. Josh Haberkorn seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Yerkes, Lachowicz, Bylut, Lahart, Josh Haberkorn, Lynch, Joseph Haberkorn

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mrs. Lachowicz moved and Mrs. Yerkes seconded to approve and open the Closed Session Minutes of November 12, 2014. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, it was moved by Mr. Joseph Haberkorn and seconded by Mr. Josh Haberkorn to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent. The Board President, Mrs. Yerkes, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

President

Secretary