

BREMEN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF SCHOOLS
REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

January 9, 2012

7:02 P.M.

A Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Trustees of Schools, Township 36 North, Range 13 East, Cook County, Illinois was held at 7:02 p.m. on January 9, 2012 at Tinley Park High School Auditorium, 6111 West 175th Street, Tinley Park, Illinois.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Bertrand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bertrand asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

On roll call the following Officers and Members responded present:

Joseph G. Bertrand, Jr.	President and Member
Michael T. Duggan	Member
Julienne W. Mallory	Secretary and Member
Jason Hedke	Member
Joanne Keilman	Member
Kathy Novak	Member
Dionne Freeman-Cooper	Member
Robert Oostema	Member
Deborah A. Stearns	Member
Joseph J. McDonnell	Treasurer and Ex-Officio Clerk

Ms. Giles was absent.

Mr. Bertrand stated that there was a meeting scheduled for last Friday, January 6, 2012, and that, due to a lack of a quorum of the duly constituted members at that time, he had cancelled the meeting. Mr. Bertrand had asked for someone to explain to him and the other elected Board members as to why the meeting was not cancelled. Mr. Bertrand mentioned that there had to have been a meeting in order to seat the newly appointed Board members. Ms. Stearns explained that there was a quorum of Board members present at that meeting. Ms. Stearns mentioned that, at the moment their individual Boards of Education had appointed them as Trustees on this Board, they became members of the Board of Trustees, per the legislation signed into law by the Governor. Discussion took place regarding the details of Public Act 097-0631.

Ms. Mallory stated that the meeting for Friday, January 6, 2012 was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum and asked why the meeting was held without the elected Trustees present. Mr. Hedke stated that the newly appointed Trustees were members of this Board upon appointment and that they did not have to be officially sworn in at a meeting. Mr. Hedke stated that he received a notice regarding the Special Meeting on January 6th, but did not receive any notice that it was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. Ms. Stearns stated that there was a quorum present at the meeting and that it was not cancelled.

Mr. Bertrand stated that, around 4:00 p.m., he notified Mr. McDonnell to cancel the meeting because there would not be a quorum present. Mr. Bertrand asked Mr. McDonnell if he notified anyone that the meeting was cancelled. Mr. McDonnell stated that he notified Mr. Ray Hauser, attorney for Bremen Community High School District #228, and Mr. Houser stated that there will be a quorum present at the meeting and that the meeting could not be cancelled. Mr. Bertrand asked who Mr. Hauser is. Mr. McDonnell stated that Mr. Hauser is an attorney who represented the appointed Trustees and had contacted Mr. McDonnell several times to notify him that the appointed Trustees would be attending the meeting on January 6th.

Mr. Bertrand stated that he does not want to belabor this issue, but wants to go on record as stating that he has a concern about how this all took place. Mr. John Izzo, a member of the audience, identified himself as an attorney and partner of Mr. Ray Hauser, and stated that he would be willing to further explain their opinion on this matter. Mr. Bertrand mentioned that Mr. Izzo could submit their opinion, in writing, to the Board. Ms. Mallory asked who is paying for Mr. Izzo to attend this meeting. Mr. Izzo stated that he is here on behalf of the Board of Education of Bremen Community High School District 228.

4. Reorganization and Election of Officers as Required Under Public Act 097-0631

Ms. Mallory made a motion to move agenda Item 4 – Reorganization and Election of Officers as Required Under Public Act 097-0631 to after Item 6 – Consideration and action regarding actions taken at Friday, January 6, 2012 special meeting. Ms. Mallory explained that she does not know what occurred at the meeting on January 6th and would like to move the reorganization and election of officers until after the Board discusses Item 6.

Mr. Oostema made a motion for reorganization and election of officers as required under Public Act 097-0631, seconded by Ms. Stearns. There was additional discussion regarding issues pertaining to the special meeting held on January 6th and what is to be considered under agenda Item 6. Roll call vote indicated: Mr. Bertrand – “No”, Mr. Duggan – “Yes”, Ms. Mallory – “No”, Mr. Hedke – “Yes”, Ms. Keilman – “Yes”, Ms. Novak – “Yes”, Ms. Freeman-Cooper – “Yes”, Mr. Oostema – “Yes”, Ms. Stearns – “Yes”. Ms. Giles was absent. Motion Carried.

Ms. Novak made a motion to elect Ms. Stearns as President, seconded by Mr. Hedke. Ms. Mallory made a motion to nominate Mr. Bertrand as President. Mr. Bertrand declined the nomination. Ms. Mallory made a motion to nominate Mr. Duggan as President. Mr. Duggan declined the nomination. Mr. Hedke made a motion to close the nominations for Board President, seconded by Mr. Oostema. Roll call vote indicated: Mr. Bertrand – “Abstain”, Mr. Duggan – “Yes”, Ms. Mallory – “No”, Mr. Hedke – “Yes”, Ms. Keilman – “Yes”, Ms. Novak – “Yes”, Ms. Freeman-Cooper – “Yes”, Mr. Oostema – “Yes”, Ms. Stearns – “Yes”. Ms. Giles

was absent. Motion Carried.

Mr. Bertrand asked for a roll call vote to elect Ms. Stearns as Board President. Roll call vote indicated: Mr. Bertrand – “No”, Mr. Duggan – “Yes”, Ms. Mallory – “No”, Mr. Hedke – “Yes”, Ms. Keilman – “Yes”, Ms. Novak – “Yes”, Ms. Freeman-Cooper – “Yes”, Mr. Oostema – “Yes”, Ms. Stearns – “Yes”. Ms. Giles was absent. Motion Carried.

Ms. Stearns nominated Ms. Novak as Secretary, seconded by Ms. Mallory. Mr. Oostema made a motion to close nominations for Board Secretary, seconded by Mr. Duggan. Motion carried all “Ayes”. Ms. Giles was absent.

Mr. Bertrand asked for a roll call vote on electing Ms. Novak as Board Secretary. Motion carried all “Ayes”. Ms. Giles was absent.

Ms. Novak made a motion to close the reorganization and election of officers as required under Public Act 097-0631, seconded by Ms. Keilman. Motion carried all “Ayes”. Ms. Giles was absent.

Ms. Stearns presided over the meeting as Board President.

5. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Mallory made a motion to approve the open session minutes, seconded by Mr. Bertrand. Mr. Hedke made a motion to table any action on the minutes until all minutes have been provided, seconded by Mr. Oostema. There was discussion regarding the preparation of minutes and availability of audio recordings. Roll call vote indicated: Mr. Bertrand – “Abstain”, Mr. Duggan – “Yes”, Ms. Mallory – “No Vote”, Mr. Hedke – “Yes”, Ms. Keilman – “Yes”, Ms. Novak – “Yes”, Ms. Freeman-Cooper – “Yes”, Mr. Oostema – “Yes”, Ms. Stearns – “Yes”. Ms. Giles was absent. Motion Carried.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding Actions Taken at Friday, January 6, 2012 Special Meeting

Ms. Freeman-Cooper asked if there are any policies that govern the Board of Trustees. Mr. McDonnell stated that there are written roles and responsibilities of the Trustees, which had been taken directly from Section 5 of the Illinois School Code that established the Township Trustees of Schools. Mr. McDonnell mentioned that he would provide a copy of the written roles and responsibilities to all Board members.

Ms. Mallory left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Ms. Novak made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Special Meeting held on Friday, January 6, 2012, seconded by Mr. Hedke. Mr. Bertrand stated, for the record, that he had sent Mr. McDonnell an email to cancel that meeting, based on what he understood to be a lack of a quorum. Mr. Bertrand stated that he has some concerns with any actions taken regarding that meeting. Roll call vote indicated: Mr. Bertrand – “No”, Mr. Duggan – “Abstain”, Mr. Hedke – “Yes”, Ms. Keilman – “Yes”, Ms. Novak – “Yes”, Ms. Freeman-Cooper – “Yes”, Mr. Oostema –

“Yes”, Ms. Stearns – “Yes”. Ms. Mallory and Ms. Giles were absent. Motion Carried.

7. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. McDonnell presented to the Board for approval the bank cash balances, investment details by type of investment and a detailed listing of all investments in the portfolio as of September 30, 2011, October 31, 2011 and November 30, 2011. Mr. McDonnell also presented to the Board for approval the Treasurers’ Office Statement of Expenditures for the period ending September 30, 2011, October 31, 2011 and November 30, 2011.

Ms. Mallory returned to the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. McDonnell explained each of the monthly reports being presented. Mr. Duggan asked who decides on the investments of the pooled funds. Mr. McDonnell stated that the pooled funds are the funds of the School Districts that are managed by the Treasurer.

Under District communications, Mr. McDonnell stated that the Treasurer’s Office and School Districts began training on the new financial and human resources system conversion, which will take place effective July 1, 2012. Mr. McDonnell provided each Trustee with a copy of the training schedule to take place over the next six months. Ms. Mallory asked why there were only test payrolls scheduled for some of the School Districts. Mr. McDonnell mentioned that he only handed out the training schedule for one of the training groups. The other School Districts are listed on the other training schedule, which basically covers the same training schedule. Mr. Hedke asked if the new financial system will be more efficient by streamlining the entire process. Mr. McDonnell stated that was correct, in addition to efficiencies to be gained in the reporting of financial results.

Mr. Duggan made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s reports as presented, seconded by Ms. Stearns. Motion carried all “Ayes”. Ms. Giles was absent.

8. Approval of Surety Bond #0021611 Renewal for School District #144 and Reduction of Surety bond Amount from \$413,000 to \$367,000

Mr. Bertrand made a motion to approve the renewal of Life Safety Surety Bond #0021611 for School District #144 with a reduction of surety bond amount from \$413,000 to \$367,000, seconded by Ms. Novak. Mr. McDonnell explained the circumstances regarding the need for a surety bond and the reason for reducing the amount of this particular surety bond. Motion carried all “Ayes”. Ms. Giles was absent.

9. Approval of Surety Bond #LSM0360798 for School District #142 in the Amount of \$525,000

Ms. Keilman made a motion to approve the Working Cash Surety Bond #LSM0360798 for School District #142, seconded by Mr. Duggan. Mr. McDonnell explained that this is a new surety bond needed for a bond closing in February. Motion carried all “Ayes”. Ms. Giles was absent.

10. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Midlothian Park District

Mr. McDonnell explained the services provided to the Midlothian Park District under the intergovernmental agreement for the period January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012. Ms. Freeman-Cooper asked why we are providing these services to the park district. Mr. McDonnell explained that they have the same taxpayer base as the school districts we service and that this agreement allows the park district to benefit from the same type of consolidated services provided to the school districts. Ms. Novak made a motion to approve the Midlothian Park District Intergovernmental Agreement for the period January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012, seconded by Mr. Oostema. Motion carried all "Ayes". Ms. Giles was absent.

11. Old Business

Mr. McDonnell mentioned that discussion regarding an annual budget policy has been on the agenda for the past few meetings. Mr. McDonnell stated that the Board had expressed concerns over receiving the budget at the Regular Quarterly Meeting in July and that there should be more time for review. The Board previously made a suggestion to have the budget review moved to the April meeting. There was discussion regarding the budget process followed by the individual school districts and their use of tentative budgets. The Board suggested the presentation of a tentative budget at the Regular Quarterly Meeting in April.

Ms. Mallory made a note for the record that there was also an item that should have been under old business regarding the Performance Evaluation Policy to be used for the Treasurer's Office staff and Treasurer. Ms. Stearns stated that item is not on the current agenda and has been noted.

12. New Business

Discussion and/or Appointment of Legal Counsel for Board of Trustees

There was discussion regarding whether the Board should have legal counsel on retainer or on an as needed basis. Additional discussion took place regarding prior legal counsel that had represented the Board. Consensus was not to have legal counsel on retainer and that one could be hired on an as needed basis.

Discussion and Action Regarding the Creation of the Office of Vice President

There was discussion regarding the creation of the Office of Vice President, which is similar to how the School Districts Boards of Education are organized. Mr. Oostema made a motion to create the Office of Vice President, seconded by Ms. Keilman. Roll call vote indicated: Mr. Bertrand – "Abstain", Mr. Duggan – "Yes", Ms. Mallory – "No Vote", Mr. Hedke – "Yes", Ms. Keilman – "Yes", Ms. Novak – "Yes", Ms. Freeman-Cooper – "Yes", Mr. Oostema – "Yes", Ms. Stearns – "Yes". Ms. Giles was absent. Motion Carried.

Nominations and Election of Office of Vice President

Ms. Stearns nominated Ms. Giles for the Office of Vice President, seconded by Mr. Oostema. Motion carried all "Ayes". Ms. Giles was absent.

Discussion Regarding Recording of Minutes

There was discussion regarding the current and past procedure for preparing meeting minutes. Suggestions were made that Mr. McDonnell be responsible for preparing the meeting minutes and that each Board member will have the opportunity to request changes to the prepared minutes at the Board meeting when the minutes are presented for approval. It was also suggested that any Board member will be provided a copy of the audio recording upon request only. Ms. Mallory stated for the record that she would like a copy of the audio recording along with the prepared minutes.

Discussion Regarding Moving the Recognition of Public to an Earlier Point on the Agenda

Consensus was to move the recognition of public to an earlier agenda item, so that the public would not have to wait to be heard until the end of the meeting.

Discussion Regarding Meeting Locations

Discussion took place with respect to having one specific location which would be spacious enough to accommodate all the Trustees and members of the public. Mr. McDonnell mentioned that he would check with the Tinley Park High School to determine if there were any conflicts with having the auditorium available for Regular Quarterly Meetings.

13. Recognition of Public

Ms. Stearns asked if there were any members of the public that would like to address the Board. Ms. Gleason, Executive Director for the Midlothian Park District, thanked the Board for approving the intergovernmental agreement and that it has been tremendously beneficial to the park district. Ms. Gleason mentioned that the services provided by the Treasurer's Office are invaluable and appreciated.

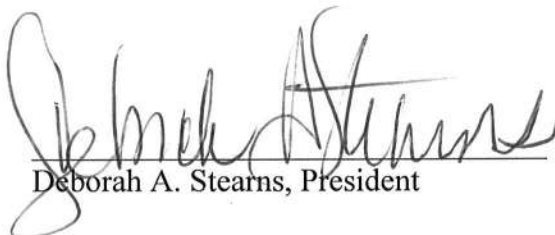
14. Board Member Comments

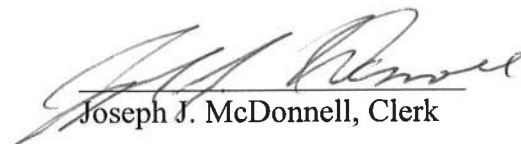
Ms. Stearns asked if there were any Board members who would like to make any comments at this time. There were no comments by any Board members.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Novak, seconded by Ms. Keilman. Motion carried all "Ayes". Ms. Giles was absent.

Ms. Stearns declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Deborah A. Stearns, President


Joseph J. McDonnell, Clerk