

**INDIAN HILL EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
Special Meeting of April 14, 2009**

A special meeting of the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Indian Hill High School Multipurpose Room, 6865 Drake Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243 in accordance with notices sent to each member. Roll call showed the following members as present:

Mrs. Barber  
Mrs. Johnston

Mrs. Hopewell  
Mr. Sharp

Mr. Jaroszewicz

Also present were Dr. Knudson, Mrs. Toth, Mark Ault, Lisa Huey, Nancy Striebich, Kim Miller, Chris Heybruch, Melissa Stewart, Sandra Harte, Arline Pique, Martha Stephen, Katy Ping, T.J. Ackermann, Nancy Aichholtz, Jim Becker, Marci Blachman, Lynne Calloway, David Devine, Dan Feigelson, Lyle Fiore, Julie Fleischmann, Stephen GInn, Louise Head, Lori Klinedinst, Hilary Kremchek, Kim Lewis, Amy Magenheim, William Sloneker, Gerri Strauss, Tony Strike, Jeff Weedman, Lance White, Sourushe Zandvakili, Paul Zinnecker, Eric Lutz, Anne Jaroszewicz, and others.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (040901)** Mr. Jaroszewicz moved, seconded by Mrs. Johnston, to move into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Barber, aye  
Mrs. Johnston, aye

Mrs. Hopewell, aye  
Mr. Sharp, aye

Mr. Jaroszewicz, aye

The Board resumed its special meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Dr. Knudson led those in attendance in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hopewell, Board President, opened the Forum to express the intention of the Board to hear citizen concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding the district's financial future. Dr. Knudson provided an overview of the District's educational objectives in providing a full range of academic and extra- and co-curricular opportunities for students to expand their talents and develop their interests beginning at the Primary School. Our budget reflects the District's commitment to students and the process of learning for both students and staff. Our facilities are exceptional.

Mr. Jaroszewicz also presented an overview of the legislative possibilities concerning the state funding formula and local commercial and residential factors given the current economic climate. Twenty-five percent of households in the Indian Hill District have school children; 20% of school-age households have chosen nonpublic and private education for their students.

The Forum was a lively discussion of wide-ranging topics, including the ability of the District to reward high performers under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA); services to special education students versus gifted students; evaluation of staffing ratios (e.g., teachers to nonteaching staff); possibilities of raising additional revenue (e.g. operating levy, parent organization fundraisers, designating inside millage to fund capital and permanent improvement expenses, income levy, facilities usage as self-funding or additional revenue, and grants); the flexibility of health and fringe benefit costs; and enrollment patterns.

The Board's decision to pre-pay the last year of the bond issue (2006) was funded in small part from the General Revenue Fund, but it was a benefit to the taxpayers resulting in a smaller levy necessary to repay the remaining debt. Some expressed that designating a small amount of inside millage (now) to fund capital and permanent improvement expenses would minimize the request (when necessary) of an operating levy by stretching our operating funds for the foreseeable future. Prudence would suggest the combination of using operating reserves for school purposes and inside millage for capital purposes as appropriate. The Board has demonstrated its stewardship of the public's tax dollars in other financial decisions, including other financial forums (1998 and 2005), bond levy for capital improvements and new buildings (1999), bond refinancings (2005 and 2006).

The impending State biennial budget portends some drastic changes to school operations and school funding that will likely not be beneficial to the financial stability of the Indian Hill District. Frequent communication and education for residents will be especially important as the impact of the Governor's proposed budget becomes clearer. Using focus groups, holding open houses, and engaging seniors will be helpful in understanding our community's needs and expectations of its schools. Good schools are critical in maintaining high property values, but the current state of the economy has many feeling the pinch of high property taxes; the length of time a house is on the market is longer than in previous years.

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Because of many uncertainties, it is not the Board's intent to request an operating levy at this time. Rather, it will continue to explore other ways to increase revenue or reduce costs, based upon the discussions and topics from the financial forum.

**ADJOURNMENT (040902)** Mrs. Johnston moved, seconded by Mr. Sharp, to adjourn the April 14, 2009 special meeting of the Indian Hill Board of Education at 9:40 p.m. Roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Barber, aye  
Mrs. Johnston, aye

Mrs. Hopewell, aye  
Mr. Sharp, aye

Mr. Jaroszewicz, aye

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**Board President**

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**Treasurer**