

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Jan. 7, 2010**  
**7:05 pm – 7:50 pm**

**No DeRonne**  
**Public: 1 Staff: 7 Press: 0**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

President Ostojic called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:** None

**Superintendent's Communications/Agenda:**

A. Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding

The Race to the Top is a federally funded program - \$4.35 billion. The State of Illinois will be requesting \$400 million, 50%, or \$200 million will be used by the state to set up the program. Another \$100 million will be committed to Chicago Public Schools, and the remaining \$100 million will be divided among the remaining school districts that have signed the memo of understanding and written a plan for implementation. The money will be assessed based on 2008 poverty level and Title 1 monies awarded to each school districts. District 205 has estimated that they would receive about \$94,000 or \$95,000. This is a four-year grant period.

The state would hear in the spring if there were awarded their request and then will determine what local school district would have to submit as their plan. Submission period for the local school district plan would be 90 days.

The key components to this are:

- Support the transition to enhanced standards and high quality assessments.
- Fully implement a statewide longitudinal data system, which involves:
  - Cooperating with the Illinois State Board of Education with this task.
  - Rely on a state-generated system or establish a local one.
- Work to further improve teacher and leader effectiveness – This is the most controversial part of this program. It states that at least 50% of the compensation that Principals and Teachers receive will be determined by student achievement. (Implementation for fiscal year 2012.)
- Turning around lowest-achieving schools.

Although only a Superintendent's signature is needed for the memo of understanding, additional credence will be given to states that can include school board support and teacher bargaining units support. Superintendent Krizic spoke with the Teacher Union President who responded that the IFT (Illinois Federation of Teachers) does not recommend any local union signing off on this memo due to the lack of specificity of the teacher compensation portion of the memo.

All Board members present spoke about how, in principle, they agreed with this program. Their biggest concerns were working with the bargaining units to meet the requirements as well as concern about the cost of implementation of the program. There will be an "opt-out" choice should the requirements the state will place on the local school district be too onerous.

The Board voted to have the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education sign the memo of understanding and once the requirements for the plan are known, for the administration to report back to the Board for further discussion/decision-making.

**Board Communications:** President Ostojic stated that several Board members have attended PTA meetings to discuss the facilities use referendum. She stated that she will contact those PTAs that were unable to schedule a school board member previously about possible having a board member attend in the near future.