

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Feb. 9, 2010**  
**7:45 pm – 10:55 pm**

**All Board members present**  
**Staff: 7, Press: 3, Public: ca 80**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

The Board was in closed session from 6:30 pm to consider the employment of employee and the matter of student residency.

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

### **Workshop Discussion:**

#### **A. Fiscal Outlook: Discussion Continuation**

Board President, Peggy Ostojic said that the Board and administration had received input from over 500 people based on emails received and the web site tool for input.

Dr. Krizic read a statement and lectured on the presentation of the rationale for new expenditures, revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions previously available as a spreadsheet list of options.

Revenue enhancements include adding a technology fee of \$35/student to the elementary and middle school levels, eliminate the early registration discount, increasing the cost of instrumental and vocal music at the elementary and middle schools, adding a fee for extra-curricular clubs and increasing the facility rental fees for fiscal year 2010. The projected new revenue is \$541,270 for FY11.

After explaining the revenue enhancements, Dr. Krizic discussed the rationale for some of the more controversial expenditure reductions.

- She showed a table of class sizes comparing District 205 and other key benchmark districts. D205 had the smallest average class sizes in grades 1-8 of the other 7 districts (Barrington 200, Batavia 101, Geneva 304, Indian Prairie 204, Naperville 203, St. Charles 303, and Wheaton 200). She stated that D205 did not have the best test scores of all these districts.
- She also compared D205 with these districts as far as foreign language. Only Batavia provided world language at the elementary level. There is no data to determine impact of elementary Spanish program in D205.
- She called the removal of all health aides to be replaced by RNs as a restructuring of health services, to model York. This cost savings would diminish over time, but apparently increase Medicaid reimbursements and “address some increasing complex health issues.”
- The Superintendent’s plan to “restructure guidance” (remove the guidance class and cut two counselors from the middle schools) was explained as a way to create an equitable staff-student ratio for middle school counselors. It also would increase time for each unified arts course in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Dr. Krizic next suggested an education fund reduction option, which would amount to almost \$1.4 million:

- Eliminate the Occupational Health survey
- Reduce contribution to the Foundation
- Reduce the sub-calling cost (0.5 staff)
- “Austere” compensation
- Reduce professional development for administrators
- Eliminate elementary assistant principal
- Reduce 1.5 exempt positions

- Defer hiring of Director of research position
- Reduce energy conservation position by 50%
- Eliminate paper paychecks
- Restructure curriculum stipends
- Decrease technology budget for FY11
- Eliminate mapping software
- Eliminate Reading Recovery member costs
- Reduce summer curriculum writing
- Restructure network support
- Reduce 1 (vs 2) library aides at York
- Reduce 2 (vs 3.5) positions at York
- Reduce athletic scouting costs
- Reduce extra supervision stipends at York
- Delay purchase of uniforms
- Reduce cafeteria supervision
- Reduce paper copying at York
- Reduce OLSAT costs
- Restructure support of English Language Learners (ELL)

She suggested an additional \$78,500 from the Operations and Maintenance fund that would bring the total reductions and revenue enhancements to \$2,106,332, which is about \$50,000 more than the Board voted to “aim for” for the fiscal year 2011 budget.

The Board asked some questions after Dr. Krizic’s presentation. Some focused on the deferring the hiring of a Director of Research and Assessment. Dr. Krizic was hesitant to consider hiring a Director of research and Assessment if the District will be back next year for more budget cuts. Ms. Hirsch proposed that an educational review process be put into place. This would include putting an evaluation system in place for the elementary Spanish program and to look at the possibility of restructuring the program.

Mr. Carlquist suggested, “improve communication based on the community’s lack of understanding of some simple facts.”

**Public Comment on the fiscal outlook possibilities:** The District’s Energy Conservation employee spoke about some additional possible savings. A parent asked the Board to “dig a little deeper” into the class size issue. A teacher from Sandburg asked to have a direct conversation between the teachers and the Board. An 8<sup>th</sup> grade Churchville student spoke about concern for the late buses at the middle schools and high school. A District health aide expressed confusion on whether the suggestion to cut the health aides was still on the table. Another parent stated that although the instrumental music program was not slated as a possible cut, the “legs would be cut from the program” if the early buses were cut.

**B. Facility Fees Discussion:** Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Pat Masterton, presented the administration’s proposed fee increases for its facilities. Rental rates are based on 4 groupings.

- Group A – D205 affiliated groups and educational organizations (PTAs, Booster Groups)
- Group B – Elmhurst Not for Profit Groups – YMCA, Kiwanis, Elmhurst Airborne
- Group C – Educational organizations not affiliated with D205 – C.O.D., Kindercastle, DuPage Dance Academy
- Group D – For profit groups or groups outside of Elmhurst

Group A has always been free and will continue to be. Group B had a daily rate of \$5, which is proposed to increase to \$20/day. Group C rates will increase from between 100% and 300%, while Group D rates will increase between 50% and 200%. Some groups will be “redefined.” This should bring in a net increase of \$168,200 per year.

Public Comment on the facility fee overview: One person stated that “We asked for you to find another way and you did.” (Apparently aimed at the previous discussion?) Another asked if some of the Groups had been shown these possible increases. Ms. Masterton answered no, and if one group walked away, another would fill its place.

**Public Comment:**

Two people were concerned about the energy manager position cut. One of these individuals also complained of the last hour they were relegated to for their public comments. (It was approximately 10:30 p.m.) A third individual spoke about disagreeing with the Board’s handling of the Board Norms that were approved at the Jan 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated that no other legislative body in local or County government had to sign off on “norms.”

**Upcoming Meetings:**

The Board discussed whether it was necessary for them to meet next Tuesday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. Consensus among Board members was that a meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> with this same topic to discuss was not necessary.

**Action on Closed Session Items:** The Board upheld the administrative recommendation to disenroll students JR and SR because they are not residents of District 205. Their parents are obligated to pay \$6,129 for each student to reimburse the District.

**Board Communications:** Mrs. Ostojic thanked the community members who worked on passing the referendum and all those who voted for it.