

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Feb. 23, 2010**  
**7:30 pm – 11:15 p.m.**

**All Board members present**  
**Staff: 7, Public: 50, Press: 3**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

The Board was in closed session starting at 7:15 to consider employment of employee and approval of closed session minutes from 1/26/10 and 2/09/10.

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

**Public Comment:** A woman who graduated from D205 and had received Spanish instruction from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade spoke about the importance of learning a language early. A teacher from Sandburg encouraged the Board to have a rich curriculum in place and perhaps cut the MAP testing, which costs \$13/student. Two parents spoke against the new “Cohort” program at York High School because it does not include Parent or Teacher input for inclusion in the program. Another parent spoke for the “Cohort” program, which will act as a reading intervention for freshmen students who have scored 15 or less on their Explore test. The last speaker, another Sandburg teacher, encouraged better and more communication among all.

Mrs. DeRonne was compelled to make a statement based on the public input received over the last several weeks. She said that the District is not in this fix because of mismanagement, it is due to the economy. The purchase of the administrative building was necessary to free up space at Madison School for the Early Childhood Program. The School Board does not get paid, so their salaries cannot be cut, and all cuts that will be made will be meaningful.

Mr. Carlquist added that the opportunity for communication at a school board meeting is required by law and may not be the best way for the public to communicate with the Board.

#### **Superintendent’s Communication:**

A. ELL (English Language Learners) Study: Theresa Ulrich, the ELL/Social Studies Coordinator gave a presentation on English Language Learners in D205. Many changes have been made to the laws regarding ELL in the last 5 years. Illinois Law says that:

- All ID’ed ELL students must receive service from English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual teacher.
- Buildings with 20 or more students of the same language require a bilingual teacher.
- Potential ELL students must be ID’ed through a screening process.
- ID’ed ELL students must be assessed annually.
- ID’ed ELL students are entitled to 3 years of service.
- District ELL programs must be supervised by an administrator with the same credentials as ELL teachers.

D205 currently has almost 350 ELL students split among 12 schools, all except Edison. Projections are for increased ELL population growth. Recommendations are:

- Provide at least 8 new ELL teachers (at least 4 of them bilingual in Spanish) in order to align staffing with ELL enrollment. (D205 currently has 4 ELL teachers.)
- Provide professional development for all staff regarding best practice teaching, including ELL strategies. (Develop a relationship with a local University or College.)
- Expand the ELL programming model at York to better meet students needs.
- Develop a district wide system of procedures for ELL program implementation.

B. Fiscal Outlook: Discussion Continuation: An updated financial outlook, specifically concerning state payments was presented by Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Pat Masterton.

- The first scenario for state payments is that they would pay 90% of what was due to D205. This scenario was used in determining the size of cuts at the last meeting. (\$822,250 loss)
- A complete moratorium on General State Aid payments to all school districts under the flat grant or alternate funding formula (Elmhurst is an alternate funding formula school district). This would result in a loss of revenue to D205 by \$3,150,000.
- An overall \$500 General State Aid foundation level decrease and a 20% reduction to all categorical grants. (\$1,307,000 loss)
- An overall \$500 General State Aid foundation level decrease, a 20% reduction to all categorical grants, and the elimination of the Reading Improvement Block Grant and ADA safety Block Grant. (\$1,476,000 loss)
- Funding rolled back to 2007 levels, per the recommendation of the Illinois Civic Federation. (\$1,098,000 loss)

All of these scenarios were uncredited to a source except the last one.

Currently, the state has vouchered \$1.4 million to the District and has not yet paid it. There is about \$4 million that is unvouchered. Dr. Krizic stated that last meeting, a 10% reduction from the state was assumed. With all of the above scenarios a possibility, further reductions were recommended. An additional 4 positions for \$240,000 was considered. This could increase class size in some 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and/or 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. President Ostojic said that D205 needs to be able to live with whatever is decided on. There is also the possibility that these positions could be re-hired if the state predictions aren't as dire as forecasted. Ms. Hirsch suggested that along with these reductions to put the curriculum development back on the table for possible delay of the science curriculum adoption. She also asked about the assistant coaches that were on the original proposed cut list. Most of the other Board members stated that they still wanted to move ahead with the Science curriculum update. No one commented about the assistant coaches. Mr. Collins asked what is the worse possible contingency? Dr. Krizic responded that it was to cut the Grade School world language program. This would save an additional \$476,000. All Board members commented about the highest level of flexibility. Mrs. Conroy asked that Administrative pay freezes go into effect and Ms. Hirsch agreed. Dr. Krizic said this would amount to about \$30,000.

In order to be prepared for the next meeting, Mrs. Ostojic asked for a consensus from the Board. Option 1 would be the cuts discussed last meeting and the state paying 90% of what they owe. Option 2 is Option 1 plus the 4 positions at the elementary school. Option 3 is Option 1 & 2 and the Elementary Spanish program. Collins, Hirsch and Ostojic preferred Option 2. Carlquist, Conroy, Davy and DeRonne preferred Option 3. The administration will prepare resolutions to RIF (reduction in force) the individuals that these cuts would affect for the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Superintendent's Agenda:** The Board approved:

- The minutes from 1/26/10 and 2/9/10 meetings.

The Consent agenda that included:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- Freedom of Information Act requests
- Entering into a contract with Enernoc to manage Elmhurst CUSD 205's participation in the PJM Interconnection Emergency Load Response Program and Economic Load Response Program: The recommended agreement would result in \$235,522 of additional revenue for the district over the next five years. \$76,039 of this revenue would be realized during the coming fiscal year.

- Declaring a surplus of district vehicle: a 1988 Ford Tractor Backloader 655A that was replaced has a potential buyer offering \$1,800.
- A contract for hosted Intranet Site: Setting up a single School Fusion website for internal communications costs \$900 in professional services, and \$1,200 for a hosted website subscription from March 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- A donation to Hawthorne Elementary School: The Hawthorne PTA has offered to donate profits from their Scholastic Book Fair to obtain four SMART Boards through the Scholastic catalog. Each SMART Board is valued at \$1,999 for a total of \$7,996.
- A donation to Edison Elementary School: An Edison family has offered to donate \$4,935.91 to purchase 25 large and 25 small stability ball chairs.
- A Resolution to amend the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED) Articles of Agreement: SASED has worked with their attorneys to revise the language of the SASED Joint Agreement/By Laws to meet new requirements required by the legislature. These need to be ratified by the member district Boards of Education.
- The 2010-2011 facility usage fees
- A donation to Elmhurst CUSD 205 third grade students: The Elmhurst Elks Club #1531 has offered to give each Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 third grade student a dictionary of their own through the "Dictionary Project." The estimated cost of this donation is \$1,130.

Mrs. Ostojic pulled "begin FY11 budget process" from the consent agenda. It was moved and seconded. Ms Hirsch commented that she trusted that this year's budget will be much easier to read and information will be more accessible. The motion carried.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Regularly scheduled School Board meeting are on the calendar for Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Board Communications:** Mr. Carlquist stated that he and his fellow Board members had received many phone calls about the York Cohort program. Dr. Krizic answered that there had been a meeting that afternoon with the High School staff and a new "clarification document" is going out to parents of identified students. Science options now exist, as do additional testing and perhaps a chance to not be in the cohort study hall.

Mrs. Ostojic suggested that all contact their state officials (Representatives, Senators and Governor) about the funding issue.