

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Feb. 13, 2006
7:30 pm – 10:50 pm

No Carlquist
Public: 300 Staff: 6 Press: 3
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes, student discipline, employment of employee, and collective negotiations.

President DeRonne called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Seating of New Board Member: Peggy Ostojic took the oath of office as the new District 205 School Board member. She was appointed by the current Board to fulfill Penny O'Neill's term (to Spring 2007).

Public Comment: Seven York teachers spoke, about various challenges they have. All supported the referenda. The teacher's Union President expressed concerns that the District should not be run as a business. An elementary school librarian noted that the reference books that are available in her school are out of date. (Science books refer to the 7 moons of Jupiter. There are 63.) A York student complained about conflicting time between Honors Chemistry and Choir at York. A long time Elmhurst resident spoke of his education from District 205 and the hope that his children will be able to receive the same. The PTA Council legislative chair read an action alert from the Illinois PTA on HB 1577 – vouchers.

Laura Kratz, President of the League of Women Voters of Elmhurst, stated that the Elmhurst League endorses both referenda. She read the League's position, which was reached by consensus after a study of the issue.

Superintendent's Communications:

Dr Morris reviewed his career and announced his move to Maine Township. He asked forgiveness from the community. Dr. Morris' priorities for the remainder of his contract (through June 30th) are: the referenda, negotiate union contracts, present the budget and student fees structure, complete a compliance visit, and assist in transition of leadership.

Mrs. DeRonne read a statement about how the Board was "embracing change". She recommended that the District hire an interim Superintendent for the 06-07 school year and do a national search for Dr. Morris' successor. The Board discussed the interim superintendent, with Mrs. Davy and Dr. Lindberg agreeing with Mrs. DeRonne about hiring an interim superintendent. Mr. Spaeth suggested that the Board do a parallel search for an interim and a permanent superintendent. Mr. Thrall agreed and stated that requirements be set for a new leader, using both the model of the referenda passing and of them failing. Mrs. Davy volunteered to contact the three search firms that were recommended by the District's legal counsel. She will ask about the search process and the time limits associated with the process.

A. & B. Expenditure Options and Budget Reduction Options 2006-2007: The Board discussed what would be done if the referenda do not pass. They said that they would want to re-instate some of the cuts that were made. This would require that program be cut. Next year's projected deficit is \$1.6 million dollars. \$600,000 worth of savings in the insurance area would decrease the deficit to \$1 million. *One year* restorations that were agreed upon were:

- \$120,000 for the cost of a double wide portable classroom (for Hawthorne)
- \$300,000 to lower class size in K-2 to promote student achievement.
- \$200,000 for sufficient technology
- \$200,000 for staff development

- \$130,000 for curriculum cycle
- \$100,000 for supplies.

These restorations would amount to about \$2.1 million, which would need to be cut from the budget. The question of taking this amount off of extracurriculars was asked. Even if all athletic extracurriculars were cut, it would only amount to \$1.4 million. The Board discussed raising fees no more than an inflationary amount, not to reduce the number of classes that are offered daily at York, and to enforce boundary changes (e.g. there would no longer be a choice for Field or Jefferson students to attend Sandburg. Field students would attend Churchville middle school and Jefferson students would attend Bryan.) Board members also discussed whether cuts should come from all 3 levels or predominantly from the senior levels. The Board also spoke about union negotiations and whether the cuts announcement should be after the contract negotiations are complete.

Any teacher that would be RIF'd (reduction in force) would need to be notified 60 days prior to the end of school. Dr. Morris will post a meeting for March 22nd, when as many as 20 certified staff and 20 support staff could be RIF'd, if necessary.

More information about possible cuts, should the referenda fail, will be sent home via backpacks and listed on the web site. A public hearing on these cuts will be held before the regularly scheduled board meeting on 2/27 starting at 7:00 pm.

Workshop Discussion Topics:

There will be several different instructional materials, all from the High School level, on display for the next 30 days.

Superintendent's Agenda: The Board approve change order #37 in the amount of \$61,647.12, the majority which was for addition of caisson footage to meet design bearing capacity for the replaced bleachers at York's stadium.

Board Communications:

Mrs. DeRonne explained that if the education rate increase referendum passes, it will NOT be phased in. Although this term implies that it would be better for the taxpayer, it actually would cost the taxpayers more. The District will NOT phase in the educational rate increase if it passes.

Action on Closed Session Items: The Board voted unanimously to expel York Student "E" through the end of school year '05-'06.