

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Feb. 27, 2006**  
**7:00 pm – 9:10 pm**

**No Carlquist**  
**Public: 150 Staff: 5 Press: 3**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

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

President DeRonne called the **Public Hearing** on the proposed effects of failed referenda to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Dr. Morris gave an overview on the chart that went home in backpacks and was posted on the District's web site. The chart explains the impact of the approval or lack of approval of the District 205 referenda.

**Public Comment:** A community member spoke of the need to have trailers at every school campus should the referenda fail. Five teachers spoke of the need to support the referenda, and not cutting any more programs. Two parents spoke of keeping property values high by continuing extracurriculars, fine arts, and vocational education. Another parent, who teaches in Hinsdale spoke of the need to pass the referenda. The York student who has the conflict between Chorus and Chemistry spoke again, requesting a dialogue. He said of himself, "at least I am patient."

**Board Comments:** Mrs. Davy thanked all who attended and spoke. She went on to say that if the referenda do not pass, the Board will cut program, teachers, aides, extracurriculars, and program rooms (music, art and technology centers will be converted to classrooms). Dr. Lindberg stated that the quality of life in Elmhurst is directly related to the quality of education. Mr. Spaeth said that according to the District's latest financial analysis there is a negative outlook because of reserves that have been spent down and the selling of land. The impact of this outlook will be that the District will pay higher interest rates when borrowing money. Mrs. Osotjic commented that although the community wants more specific information on the possible cuts, they should be aware of what has already occurred. For instance, the middle school software cannot be updated on their computers because they are so old. Mr. Thrall said that the Board owes the community the stewardship of the money it is given yearly. He asked each District 205 resident to try to understand the information.

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:15 pm and the regular Board meeting continued.

### **Superintendent's Communications:**

A. Student Fees: Pat Palmere, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, spoke about increasing fees as follows:

- Preschool and kindergarten would go from \$43 to \$46
- Grades 1 to 5 would go from \$115.50 to \$126
- And Middle School would increase from \$143.50 to \$146.50.

This is based on parents paying for 100% of the cost of consumables and 100% of the cost of textbooks calculated on a 6-year cycle. Ms Palmere's recommendation for athletics is to increase to \$109 per season from \$104 per season. There was discussion about allowing payment of K-8 fees with credit cards, but this would cost at least \$12,000. This would require an additional increase in fees for 1.5 to 1.6%. Ms. Palmere needs a Board decision by April.

B. Update on tax anticipation warrants: Ms. Palmere notified the Board that it is likely that the District would need to borrow \$8 million in mid April. The pay back would probably be June 15<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated

that the cost in interest would be \$80,000 to \$86,000. Ms. Palmere will bring a “parameter resolution” to the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

C. Impact Fees – City of Elmhurst: The City of Elmhurst recently re-wrote its subdivision ordinance to increase the “impact fee” amounts for the park district and the school district. The school district’s fee will increase from \$1000 per lot to \$6500 and the park district’s will increase from \$500 to \$1250. Included in the new ordinance is an indemnification clause, which had been in the old ordinance for the school district but not for the park district. The school district’s attorney has written an agreement for the City to sign, which would put the onus of how far to take any litigation on the School District and not the City. The attorneys from the two entities are in discussions.

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

- The minutes from 1/23/06 and 2/13/06.
- The consent agenda which included:
  - Personnel report
  - Financial Reports
  - Policy #3130 – Fund Balances – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading
- The Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee whose purpose is to review the current student discipline policy. Illinois School Code requires this committee.

**Board Communications:**

Mrs. Davy reported that she had phone interviewed three superintendent search firms and the IASB (Illinois School Board Association, which also is involved with Superintendent searches). All four stated that the District should start a search after the successful passage of the referenda. She asked and received permission from the Board to ask for written proposals from all 4 firms. She went on to report that the Board’s legislative committee (she and Mr. Thrall) will be visiting Springfield on Wednesday. Senator Cronin will take them around. They have appointments with Representative Biggins and Senator DeValle (Chair of the Senate Education Committee) and will ask Sen. Cronin to sponsor a bill to take special education out of the tax cap. They will also follow up on legislation that would change the tax cap legislation calculation from the CPI (Consumer Price Index) to the EPI (Employment Price Index) and any TIF legislation.

Mr. Spaeth stated that a new Executive Director, Michael Volpe, has been appointed to the SASSED position.

Mrs. DeRonne said that she presented the referenda information to the Elmhurst City Council last Monday. The Council moved to support both referenda. She also told of the scholarship fund that the family had started to honor Mr. Mendoza, a York world language teacher, who recently passed away.

**Action on Closed Session Items:** The Board approved the appointment of Mr. Brian Graber as assistant Principal at Bryan Middle School.