

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Mar. 13, 2006
7:35 pm – 9:15 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 7 Staff: 6 Press: 2
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes, employment of employee, and collective negotiations.

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

Recognition: The Churchville Principal, Matthew Haug, introduced Manu Edakara, 8th grade student who was the first place winner for DuPage County for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Manu made it through 11 rounds and will next participate in the Chicagoland competition.

Public Comment: None

Superintendent's Communications:

A. Services to Private/Parochial Special Education Students: The policy committee recently received a report from Assistant Superintendent, Joyce Powell. They decided, for the rest of this school year, to continue using I.E.P.'s (individual education plans) for all special education students. At the end of this school year ('05-'06), costs will be analyzed and a decision will be made for the future. New federal legislation requires that the public school district in which the private school is located will serve private school students who are in need of special education services. This legislation also allows for a special education service plan approach rather than an I.E.P. approach. Mrs. Davy applauded the use of I.E.P. rather than service plans.

B. Impact Fee Ordinance: The School District's legal counsel has been in communication with the City of Elmhurst legal counsel on this issue, specifically the indemnification portion. Dr. Morris stated that City Manager Borchert and Mayor Marcucci would like to meet with representatives from the School District and the Park District. The Board welcomed this meeting.

C. Middle School Graduations: Sandburg and Bryan Middles Schools have outgrown their facilities for graduation ceremonies. Both these middle schools, as well as Churchville, will hold their graduations on Monday, June 5, 2006. Churchville's will be in their building, but Sandburg's will be in the York Field House and Bryan will be in the York Green and White Gym. The District will run shuttle buses from their respective schools to York for the ceremonies (due to parking constraints).

D. Tax Rate Increase/Amended Levy: If the rate increase referendum passes, District 205 will need to file an amended levy and amended budget. There will be no "phasing-in" of the rate increase and Pat Palmere will not be moving money from fund to fund. Currently, the education fund rate is \$2.44 and will be raised to \$2.74, if the referendum passes.

E. Appraisal of Art Work – York: In 2001, before the old parts of York High School were razed, an appraisal of all art work at York was conducted by volunteer members of the Elmhurst Art Museum. There are a few pieces which are worth a couple of thousands of dollars. In York's library, there is a York archive, which holds a catalog of all artwork at the school. The volunteer appraisal saved the District several thousands dollars.

Workshop Discussion Topics:

A. Presentation – Tax Anticipation Warrants: Two representatives from Hutchinson, Shockey, and Erley and a bond counsel from Chapman and Cutler, attended this meeting to discuss issuance of tax anticipation warrants with the School Board. Tax anticipation warrants have a legal requirement that

states that they are payable solely by taxes. In order for the Board to have as much flexibility as possible, it is recommended that the Board pass a “parameter resolution”. This will allow a set group of people (for instance, the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board) who decides when to issue the warrants. There will be a “trigger” (e.g. when the ed fund drops below \$1,000,000) that would be included in the resolution. There is about a 1.5% spread between tax exempt and taxing warrants. Hutchinson, Shockey and Erley will try to work with local banks. The cost of borrowing this money depends on interest rates and if Hutchinson, Shockey, and Erley will be holding the warrants (cost of funds) or if they will be offered to the general public (need to pay a sales commission). Chapman and Cutter will also need to be paid a fee for issuing an opinion on the warrants.

B. Report from Legislative Committee: Mrs. Davy reported that she and Mr. Thrall went to Springfield on March 1st, for an invigorating and productive day. They did lots of networking and sat in Senate seats and were introduced as “education leaders”. They met with Peg Agnos (lobbyist for LEND – legislative education network of DuPage), Sandy Pihos (Representative who is chairing a task force on special education), and Peter Roskam. When Mr. Roskam was asked about No Child Left Behind legislation, his answer was “Reform!” When they met with Senator Kim Lightford, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, they asked what could be done to highlight education. Senator Lightford said to encourage the re-introduction of SB 750. They met with local legislators, Representative Biggins and Senator Pankau. When these two legislators were asked to support the District 205 referenda, both answered that they do not get involved in local issues. Representative Daniels was unable to meet with them because they did not have appointments. They met with Senator Cronin, who is supporting the referenda and saw DuPage County President Schillerstrom, who is also supporting the referenda.

Mrs. Davy said that when they asked legislators about a bill to remove Special Education from the tax cap (“piercing the tax cap”), they were told that there would be rampant abuse by school districts. She expressed the need to send representatives down to Springfield every session. Mr. Thrall added that the perception in Springfield is that Illinois is not the 49th worst education-funded state, but more along the lines of 9th. He continued by saying that revision of the tax cap legislation is divided along party lines.

Board Communications:

Mrs. DeRonne and Mr. Carlquist praised the referenda committee for their work thus far on the campaign. The Board discussed the need for issuing requests for proposals for architects and construction managers, should the building bonds referendum pass. Dr. Morris suggested that, given Whyte and Co.’s and McHugh’s knowledge of the District, an RFP should not be issued and authority should be given to the administration to start the process should the referenda pass. If both or either referenda fail, there will need to be a special school board meeting on March 22nd for reduction in force (rif) or other plans to discuss.