

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Apr. 10, 2006
7:30 pm – 10:55 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 50 Staff: 6 Press: 3
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes, employment of employee, collective negotiations and pending litigation.

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

Recognition: The York Principal, Diana Smith:

- Reported that the National Association of School Counselors had chosen Sheila Fleming, York Student Council Advisor for the last 11 years, as the advisor of the year. Ms. Fleming had another commitment and could not attend tonight's meeting.
- Introduced the 4 sophomore students (2 boys and 2 girls) who had been picked for the J. K. Braid Leadership award. These 4 students will attend leadership training this summer.
- Announced that Molly Sullivan and David Montgomery were IHSA All-State Academic team. Molly was acknowledged tonight and David will be acknowledged at a May Board meeting.

Election of Officers: Mrs. Davy nominated Mrs. DeRonne for President of the Board and Mr. Spaeth nominated Mr. Thrall. Mr. Thrall declined the nomination by stating that he would be supporting Mrs. DeRonne. Mrs. DeRonne was declared the President after a voice vote. Mr. Carlquist was nominated and elected as Board Secretary and Mrs. Davy was nominated and elected as Vice President of the Board.

Public Comment: A citizen spoke of her concern that there would be no public input in the interviewing process for a new Superintendent. She stated that she feels the Board decided that the interview process should be confidential. Another citizen was concerned with managing maintenance of the District's buildings and believes that there is incomplete due diligence. The third speaker was the Director of the Citizen's Advocacy Center who was concerned about the procurement issue from the March 22nd meeting (awarding contracts without bid process for architects and construction management firm). She stated that she is aware that both these are considered professional services so that it can be "single sourced." The last speaker suggested that the gravel parking lot at Bryan Middle School be converted to green space. She is concerned that too much green space is being eaten up by additions at the District's buildings.

Mrs. DeRonne asked for the Board's indulgence to move the presentation by the District 205 Foundation Board from the Superintendent's Agenda. Nancy Ruprecht, President of the Foundation Board, stated that the Foundation was able to fund 45 Thiems Grants for a total of \$97,000. The Board accepted the gift, but kept the list confidential so that the Foundation Board could surprise recipients.

Superintendent's Communications:

A. Construction Update – Field, Jefferson, and Lincoln Elementary Schools: Stakeholder meetings were held which included 2 parents, 2 staff and the Principal from each school. Suggestions from the group impacted on the location and/or size of the addition. Initially, this small group was/will be consulted, but eventually, the larger community will become involved. Ideally, groundbreaking will be in June. The Board had a long discussion of the enrollments of these 3 "fast-tracked" schools. The administration is putting a report together with enrollment numbers and possible classroom configurations for each building. The administration is also calculating whether portable classrooms will be needed for the upcoming year. Mr. Spaeth expressed dismay that Jefferson was included in the fast-track scenario rather

than Sandburg. He also said that redistricting needed to be done for the elementary schools. Mrs. Davy stated that the Board had promised the community that boundary changes would not be done if the referenda passed and that she would not be a party to making any boundary changes. During this discussion, Mrs. DeRonne asked for a Board member to make the motion (which was listed under Superintendent's agenda) to appoint Wight and Co. as the architects for this part of the construction ("phase 1"), which Mrs. Davy did. During discussion on this motion, Mr. Thrall asked Dr. Morris to explain the professional service bidding process. Dr. Morris explained Public Act 85-8-54, for professional services (which the architects and the construction management for the upcoming additions may fall) states that a RFQ (request for qualifications) would be issued. The RFQ would contain the qualifications for which the District is looking and would be advertised. Any firm would be able to submit their qualifications and an initial round of evaluating qualifications and interviews would be conducted. Once the interviewers had established a list, the top three could be asked to bid on a job. Appointment of a specific professional service provider does not need to go to the lowest bidder. Mr. Spaeth expressed further concern about approving architects "that were embroiled in a law suit based on faulty delivery of York High School." The vote was taken – 5 yes (Carlquist, Davy, DeRonne, Lindberg and Thrall) and 2 no (Ostojic and Spaeth). The motion for McHugh to be the construction managers for Phase 1 (also from the Superintendent's agenda section of the agenda) was made. Mr. Spaeth said that there was some sort of conflict of interest concerning McHugh. When Dr. Morris was asked if he was aware of one, he stated "no." While Mr. Spaeth was expressing his distress over a possible conflict, Mrs. DeRonne warned him about this being a matter from closed session. The motion to have McHugh as the construction managers for phase 1 passed 6 to 1 (with Mr. Spaeth voting against).

B. Process of Selection of Architects and Construction Management Firm: Dr. Morris again explained the process and, when asked by Mr. Carlquist, answered that there was no one currently at the Board office that was available to take on this project. He did say that another option would be to have PMA write up the list of qualifications, advertise, and do the first round of interviews for \$7500 for an RFQ for architects and another \$7500 for an RFQ for construction managers. Mrs. Davy moved that the District contract PMA to execute the RFQs for both the professional services. The motion was seconded. During discussion, Mr. Spaeth asked if this was appropriate since it was not listed on the agenda. Mr. Carlquist answered that since Mr. Spaeth seemed to be uncomfortable with using Wight and McHugh, it seemed appropriate to start an RFQ to relieve his concerns. Mr. Thrall was uncomfortable doing this before a new superintendent was hired and wanted to see enrollment figures before making this decision. Mr. Spaeth agreed and asked for information on PMA. Mrs. Ostojic had similar concerns about information on PMA. The motion passed with 4 yes (Carlquist, Davy, DeRonne, and Lindberg) and 3 no (Ostojic, Spaeth, and Thrall).

Workshop Discussion Topics:

A. School Improvement Plan: Dr. McCann, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, outlined the school improvement process:

- Establish a team and outline a process.
- Produce a vision statement
- Collect and analyze data.
- Produce an action plan.
- Provide for formative and summative assessments.

Chuck Frieberger, Principal at Hawthorne School, reviewed his school's School Improvement Plan Process. This was used as an example of the school improvement initiative.

Superintendent's Agenda: The Board approved:

- Proposed Board of education meeting dates

Board Communications:

Mrs. DeRonne stated that since this was the first Board meeting that was being carried by cable TV, she wanted to thank the community deeply for its support of the referenda.

Mrs. DeRonne also said that she received the profile from the Superintendent Search team. There were 7 items listed as desirable attributes for a Superintendent. Mrs. Davy wanted to add, "Will oversee Board policies and direct the District in this regard." A motion was made to accept these 8 attributes so that the Search group could continue its search. The motion carried.

Mr. Spaeth asked how much Senator Obama's visit to York High School for his town hall meeting would cost the District. Dr. Morris stated that the District would probably have to spend about \$400 for shuttle bus service. Mr. Spaeth asked about security at the building and safety of the students. Dr. Morris said that a staff member would man each door to the building and that security was being supplied by the Elmhurst Police Department at no charge.

Action on Closed Session Items: the Board approved Motions of resolutions dismissing first year grant-funded teachers and certain part time and full time teachers.

Mr. Thrall moved to return to closed session for the purpose of employment of employee. The motion failed due to lack of a second.