

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Apr. 24, 2006
7:37 pm – 10:27 pm

Carlquist present by phone
Public: 25 Staff: 5 Press: 3
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 5:15 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.

Public Comment:

- The York student who has been having a conflict between Choir and Chemistry complained about York not allowing open communication.
- Another York student stated that the students were just notified that all athletic waivers for P.E. will be denied for next year. She said that the notification was after all students had registered for next year and asked the Board to re-instate waivers for juniors and seniors.
- A parent encouraged the Board to involve all parts of the community – parents, students, staff, and the community in upcoming issues. His specific interest is technology and volunteered to be on any committee that may be formed.
- A citizen asked the Board to work collaboratively and start moving forward on plans. She also cautioned the Board to go with an interim Superintendent if an appropriate new Superintendent cannot be found and to allow the community to have input on any new Superintendent hired.
- Another parent encouraged the Board to use “green” construction on the school additions and to contact SCARCE, an organization in DuPage County that can help with this endeavor.
- An alderman stated that he had gone over the last 8 years of school report cards and noticed that the enrollment at both Field and Lincoln had increased significantly all of those years, but that Jefferson had decreased slightly and wanted to know why Jefferson was included in the “fast track” schools.
- Another parent encouraged the Board to continue speaking about class sizes.
- A parent, who was on the facilities and resource needs committee, reminded the Board that the committee had encouraged use of volunteer community members for help. He was specifically interested in the use of these volunteers with the planned additions.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Staffing Update 2006-2007:

- At present, there appears to be an additional 3 to 5 staff needed at the Elementary Schools, 3 at the Middle Schools, and 5 new High School positions needed. The administration will stay on top of the enrollment numbers.
- Dr. Morris also discussed the Elementary Room utilization. It appears that both Lincoln and Hawthorne will need a double portable for the upcoming school year ('06-'07). After the upcoming year, the portable at Lincoln will no longer be needed (because of the additional 6 classrooms that will be added), so it will be moved to Hawthorne.
- Jefferson, which is the smallest school in the District with 16 classrooms this year, (next year it will lose a classroom due to construction) will also be receiving 6 new classrooms. Two of these will be kindergarten rooms, which are about twice as large (in square feet) as a “normal” classroom. Mrs. Davy thanked Dr. Morris for addressing inequities between buildings while construction is taking place.

- Mr. Thrall expressed concern that additional classrooms be multi-purpose should enrollment decrease at a later date. Dr. Morris assured him that there would be probable space needs for special needs (specifically autistic students) and early childhood.
- On Tuesday morning, each “fast track” building principal will have the schematics for their building additions and are being encouraged to have as much input as possible during the week. The administration is asking that input be received by the end of the week.
- Mr. Spaeth suggested that the Board consider boundary changes for elementary schools rather than have “mega-schools.” Most of the rest of the Board stated that the District needed to stick with the commitment that had been made during the referenda campaign about making no boundary changes, but thought that annual review of this commitment should be considered.
- Mr. Carlquist asked Dr. Morris what were the top three priorities for his successor to concentrate on in this issue. Dr. Morris listed a constant review of elementary enrollment figures, additional support for those larger schools (e.g. to have more reading recovery teachers for Hawthorne and Lincoln), and to review technology.

B. Structure of Sale of \$41 Million Bonds:

- Pat Palmere, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, requested that the Board decide on the sale of the \$41 million in bonds.
- Ms. Palmere recommended that all \$41 million be sold at one time since some of the District’s current debt was to be restructured, the money could earn as much as \$1.5 to \$1.8 million in interest, and \$6 million in life safety bonds would also be included in this restructuring.
- The Board could have a parameter resolution written to be approved at the May 8th Board meeting or it could ask the Bond house to price the bonds on Friday, May 4th and bring the bond sale to the Board on Monday, May 8th for approval by the Board.
- A parameters resolution would delay the sale of the bonds and interest rates are going up presently, so the Board decided to have the bonds priced on May 4th and have them brought for approval by the Board on May 8th.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 3/13/06, 3/20/06, 3/22/06(with correction by Mr. Spaeth), 3/24/06, and 4/122/06. Mr. Spaeth asked that the minutes from 4/10/06 be deferred until he could write an addendum to them.
- The consent agenda (6 yes and 1 present - Thrall) which included:
 - Personnel report
 - Financial reports
 - Freedom of information request
 - Amended ’05-’06 school year calendar (to remove snow days that were not used)
 - IHSA membership renewal
 - Resolution for Disposal of Surplus Personal Property
 - Bid #06-09 District Nursing Supplies (\$15,732.61)
 - Resolution of appointment of School Treasurer (Adrian Gaerlan)
- Adoption of Reimbursement Resolution for \$41 Million Bond Sale (The District has started to spend money for the additions and has not sold the bonds yet. This will allow for the District to borrow from itself.)
- Agreement for Services for Annual Audit – Mrs. Ostojic stated that she was quite impressed with Gurrie’s credentials. Mr. Spaeth said that the Crowe Chizek bid was the better one because they would do a more thorough job. Ms. Palmere cautioned that the District needed to be on some firms audit schedule. The motion to appoint Gurrie for to a 3 – year contract passed 6 yes to 1 no

(Spaeth).

- 2006-2007 Student Fees - All fees are frozen except for textbook increases for the K-8 students (High School Students purchase their own books.) All parents will have the option of paying fees by credit card and the District will absorb the cost for this transaction. The Board wants to have a history of credit card costs.
- Electric Service Contract – Constellation NewEnergy was approved for a two-year contract as 6.774 cents per kWh for summer and 6.225 cents per kWh for winter.
- Bid #06-07 - Regular Student Transportation – Laidlaw was approved for another 3 years at half the price of the other bidder. It will be approximately 9 to 10% less than last year's cost.
- Engagement of PMA to Perform RFQ Services for Architects and Construction Managers for the District - Reauthorization of action taken on 4/10/06 since this wasn't on that agenda. An amendment to appoint an ad hoc committee to oversee the RFQ process was also included.
- Superintendent Profile - Reauthorization of action taken on 4/10/06 since this wasn't on that agenda.

Board Communications:

Mrs. DeRonne stated that she needed to respond to articles in the local newspapers and information that was on the Superintendent Search community profile that the School Board was a “dysfunctional Board”. She said that any Board that could put together, pass and start to execute the referenda that it did was anything but dysfunctional. She also asked Dr. Morris to research the types of Board meetings – e.g. – Workshop and Business Meetings. She said that there seems to be some confusion with the community about the two types of meetings.

Mrs. Davy stated that almost 70% of all current Superintendent searches are confidential. She said that the Board received some candidates that would not have applied if it were not for the search being kept confidential.

Mr. Thrall asked when was the appropriate time to review the technology plan. Dr. Morris answered that the staff is currently working on it

Action on Closed Session Items: the Board approved Motions of resolutions dismissing certain part time teachers.