

Dist. 205 Board of Education
May 22, 2006
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

All Board members present
Public: 150 Staff: 6 Press: 3
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of approval of minutes, pending litigation, employment of employee, and collective negotiations.

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

Recognition: York Senior, David Montgomery, was recognized for being selected to the IHSA All-State Academic Team. Four York students were recognized for winning the Junior Achievement Regional Titan Award, which involved running a virtual manufacturing company. Ten York students received awards for the Skills USA competition in automotive, graphic arts, wood working, and drafting/CAD. Twenty-six York students were recognized for various awards through the Family Career and Community Leaders of America. Many people present left after these recognitions.

Public Comment:

- The brother of the York student who has been having a conflict between Choir and Chemistry stated that his brother had been suspended for being too sweaty after P.E. He also said that this was calculated so that his brother would not be able to come to the school board meeting. (Suspended students are not allowed on District property.)
- A Lincoln parent asked that the Board consider “un-linking” the building of additions at Lincoln, Jefferson and Field, since the Lincoln community is happy with the addition plans and don’t want to wait until the meetings are done at Jefferson and Field.
- A Hawthorne parent, who participated in the referenda campaign, said that the Hawthorne precincts had the highest voter turnout and yet Hawthorne school seems to be the last on the schedule – phase 4. She said that it is wrong that the neediest should be last.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Construction Update:

A meeting was held at Lincoln on the 18th, which included the architects, construction managers, school administration, and about 20 – 25 parents. The meeting with the Field community is scheduled for the 25th and for Jefferson is scheduled for May 30th. Once these meetings are complete, the projects will be re-started. Board members asked about the two parent concerns brought up during Public Comment. Dr. Morris stated that the three projects need to be tied together for bidding and construction purposes to reduce costs. Dr. Morris also said that although the Hawthorne project is being called phase 4, it should be moving at the same time as other projects.

B. *Newsweek’s* top 1000 schools:

Dr. Morris also addressed the new *Newsweek* list of the top 1000 schools in the country. This list did not contain York High School and was based on the number of advanced placement classes offered and AP tests taken by students. This will be addressed at York by offering AP classes in Social Studies as well as the others the school currently offers (science, math, English, foreign language, etc).

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 4/10/06, 4/24/06, and 5/8/06.
- The consent agenda:
 - Personnel report

- Financial reports
- Freedom of information request
- Purchase of automated external defibrillators
- Bank Depositories
- Resolution ascertaining prevailing wages
- Transfer of Working Cash funds to the Operations and Maintenance fund (\$100,000)
- Foreign exchange student “A” (from Brazil)
- Foreign exchange student “B” (from Sweden)
- Rejection of network Service Bids. The bids were:
 - Sentinel Technologies - \$563,00 for 1st year of 3 year proposal would assign 3 staff members to District 205
 - Briger - \$588,000 for 1st year of a 3 year proposal would assign 7 staff members to District 205
 - Prescient Development - \$690,000 for 1st year of a 3 year proposal would assign 9 staff members to District 205.
- The technology committee recommended that a long-term decision to assign network services should be made by the new superintendent and a one year contract with the current vendor (Prescient) should be negotiated. Mr. Spaeth was concerned about the different service levels that the 3 firms offered and thought that it should be re-bid with more defined service levels. He said that there was an opportunity for the District to save \$100,000 to \$130,000. Mr. Thrall, who was present at the committee meeting when the bids were opened, stated that the firms were aware of the District’s service requirements and that the vendors had many different interpretations of the requirements. The Board voted 6 yes and 1 no (Spaeth) to accept the committee recommendation.
- The District 205 technology plan.
- Modification of the current health insurance program:
 - Increased choice of plan by adding a PPO and modifying an HMO.
 - Changing all prescription drug programs to a 3 – tier benefit with increased employee co-pay
 - Remaining with Blue Cross/Blue Shield as the plan administrator.
 Mr. Spaeth was concerned that there was more money to save by changing the plan administrator to Great West. Dr. Morris stated that no change can be made without insurance committee approval. Vote was 5 yes, 1 no (Spaeth), 1 present (Thrall).
- Resolution authorizing the use of health/life safety funds for repair of school paving.

Board Communications:

Mr. Carlquist asked Dr. Morris if there has been any discussion intergovernmentally concerning the construction at Hawthorne. Dr. Morris said that there had been some.

Mr. Carlquist asked Mrs. DeRonne, “At what stage are we in the Superintendent Search?” She replied that they were in the middle of the process and moving along as quickly as possible.

Mrs. DeRonne asked if Dr. Morris could move the June 12th meeting to York High School. He replied that it would be there.

The Board moved to return to closed session for the purpose of employment of employee and collective negotiation. The motion carried. It was stated that there would be action taken out of closed session. The Observer stayed another hour, but the Board still had not returned to open session.