

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Aug. 28, 2006
7:35 pm – 9:50 pm

All Board members present
Public: 250 Staff: 6 Press: 31
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 6:00 pm “to consider one or more of the following subjects including, but not limited to: collective negotiations, employee appointments, employment, compensation, dismissals, complaints, and imminent litigation.” President DeRonne called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President DeRonne read a statement that said that the Board shares the Union’s goal to get an approved contract as soon as possible. She gave each speaker who had signed up a 2-minute limit and asked that they avoid duplications.

Public Comment: Twenty teachers spoke of the long hours they spend at school helping students before, during and after school, the time spent on lesson plans, and grading. They spoke about treating both sides with respect and the commitment they make to our children. All wanted to settle the contract by balancing fiscal prudence with common sense. Some stressed the fact that the brick and mortar of the buildings are nothing without the gifted teachers. The chief negotiator for the teachers’ union promised that the Union will not be involved in disruption of opening day and that the Board should reconsider the value placed on the certified staff. One teacher brought up the custodial staff’s contract. He has heard that they were threatened with outsourcing their jobs if the custodians did not take a pay cut. This teacher said that he would be embarrassed to say he was a school board member. One parent spoke about the flyer that was being passed saying all of the things that teachers do for the District. She found this flyer an insult. Two other parents encouraged the Board to reach an agreement but also told the teachers that everyone is feeling financial pinches. A fourth parent asked the Board to accept the teachers’ latest offer.

Mrs. DeRonne read another statement that said that the Board would be going back into closed session to discuss negotiations after this meeting.

Superintendent’s Communications:

Green Architecture – Wight and Co.: Wight and Co introduced an expert in “sustainable design” or “green architecture.” This type of design minimizes the negative impact on nature by the buildings/additions that are being planned in Elmhurst. There are 5 major strategies that could be implemented: sustainable site planning, safeguarding water and water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environment quality.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- A foreign exchange student from Japan
- A resolution for the transfer of interest income from the bond and interest fund to the operations and maintenance fund. (\$206,881 primarily for the air conditioning for Bryan middle school)
- Bid #07-04 asphalt paving work at Field, Jefferson, and Lincoln schools (\$126,650)
- Bid #07-05 site utility work at Field Jefferson and Lincoln schools (\$120,100)
- Bid #07-06 concrete work at Field Jefferson and Lincoln schools (\$273,900)
- Bid #07-07 hollow core plank at Field Jefferson and Lincoln schools (\$267,900)
- Bid #07-08 helical piers at Field Jefferson and Lincoln schools (\$68,260)
- Bid #07-23 plumbing at Field Jefferson and Lincoln schools (\$349,900)
- Approval of technology lease plan (\$52,059 annually). At the conclusion of the lease, District 205 will have the option to purchase each computer from MMF at the cost of \$1.00.

Board Communications: Mr. Carlquist thanked Dr. Krizic and her staff for the outstanding opening day, which included a well-attended health fair.

It was moved, seconded and carried to go into closed session for the purpose of contract negotiations.