

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Feb. 26, 2007
7:30 pm – 9:35 pm

No Carlquist, DeRonne
Public: 45 Staff: 4 Press: 2
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 6:30 pm “to consider one or more of the following subjects including, but not limited to”: approval of closed session minutes and employment of employee. Vice President Davy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition: Five York Students were honored for winning a gold medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. One of the students also won an American Vision Gold Key Award, one of 5 presented nationally. Another student was honored for being a semi-finalist in the 2007 Intel Science Talent Search (formerly the Westinghouse Award), which is considered the “Junior Nobel Prize.”

Public Comment: A parent complained that the promotional ceremony for 8th graders from Middle School has been changed from June 4th to June 6th due to the addition of one snow day to the calendar. He asked the Board to reconsider this change.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Character Count Presentation: Hosi Mehta introduced the Character Counts topic and explained what this organization is about. Police Chief Steve Neubauer, as a Character Count Board member discussed some of the programs Character Count has. These include Mayor for a Day Contest and Volunteer Service Awards presentations. He presented the Board with pamphlets that the organization is distributing called “Citizenship in Governance.”

B. Cabinet Reports:

- Curriculum – The January institute day was reviewed and assessed. ISAT (Illinois Student Achievement Tests) preparation has begun in the elementary and middle schools for the tests which will be administered the weeks of March 12th and 19th. There are increased activities concerning the teaching of writing because the 2007 ISAT and PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam) have additional writing components.
- Finance – Last year, \$8 million was borrowed using tax anticipation warrants for cash flow purposes. This year, \$6,000,000 will be needed. Preliminary FY 08 Budget information will be presented to the Board in April. Five different forecasts were presented to the Board using different assumptions. A detailed discussion of these will be conducted at the March 12th meeting.
- Student Services – The District hosted the 3rd annual Parent and Professional Networking Conference for Autism Society of Illinois at York on Saturday. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) rejected the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) drafted new rules for State Special Education due to concerns about higher caseloads and class sizes for students with disabilities. The number of students identified with autism continues to rise, particularly in Early Childhood.
- Personnel – Enrollment projection meetings are being held with Principals to determine staffing needs. Recruitment started on Feb. 22nd with the first of four university job fairs. Positions of a K-12 Instructional Technology Coordinator

and a Director of Technology have been posted.

- Community Relations – The Churchville One Room Schoolhouse program will be re-instituted by the Elmhurst Historical Museum and the City by spring of 2008. Five firms have responded to the RFP for an automated phone calling system for school districts. After review, a recommendation will be submitted to the Board.

C. Construction Update: Jefferson is scheduled for completion in June, while Field, Lincoln, Edison, Emerson, Jackson, Conrad Fischer, as well as all three middle schools are still on target for August 2007 completion. Hawthorne's completion date continues to be August 2008. Mrs. Ostojic asked questions about statements that value engineering was used to move dates and decrease costs at Edison and Hawthorne. No specific answers were received. For further detail see www.elmhurst.k12.il.us/construction/

Superintendent's Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 1/8/07, 1/22/07, 2/5/07 and 2/12/07
- Consent agenda
 - Personnel report
 - Financial reports
 - Freedom of Information request
 - Contract for Photo services at York High School
- Policy #3245 Commemorative Naming of School Buildings and/or Facilities – 2nd reading
- Policy #4120-6 Child Abuse Reporting – 2nd Reading
- Parameters resolution providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$25,000,000 in general obligation refunding school bonds, series 2007B – This could save the tax payers of District 205 \$50,000 per year for a total of \$750,000. The District will not save any money doing this.
- Resolution authorizing an escrow agreement for the general obligation refunding school bonds, Series 2007B (A legal document to coincide with the above action.)
- Resolution abating working cash funds to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. These bonds had been sold earlier and their proceeds will be used for preventative maintenance.
- Bid #07-96 Asbestos abatement at Churchville (\$900)
- Bid #07-53 Landscaping at Field, Jefferson and Lincoln (\$26,346)
- Bids for Group 4 Hawthorne Elementary School
 - #07-89 Excavation (\$478,927);
 - #07-90 Site Utilities (\$163,600)
 - #07-98 Doors, Frames, & Hardware (\$198,897)
 - #07-99 Aluminum windows and doors (\$690,197)
- Change order #1 for Hawthorne asbestos abatement project (\$10,000)
- Bid #07-95 Band/Orchestra Instruments (\$71,012)

Board Communications: Mr. Spaeth asked if a make-up promotion/ 8th grade graduation could be held over the summer. He also asked that the Board discuss the York High School underpass to see where members stand on the issue. Dr. Krizic stated that it was Mrs. DeRonne's intention that the School Board and City Council discuss this face-to-face.