

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Mar. 19, 2007
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

No Spaeth
Public: 5 Staff: 10 Press: 1
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”: approval of closed session minutes, employment of employee and actual/potential litigation. President DeRonne called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: A retired teacher asserted there are loose tiles and leaky roofs at York High School, and he gave photos to the board as evidence. He also stated York is sinking.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. 2006 School Report Card: The individual school report cards are posted on the district’s web site (www.elmhurst.k12.il.us) per school. The actual results were received from the state about a week ago. Dr. McCann, the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, said that the grade 3 through 8 results showed strong performances and all schools but York made adequate yearly progress (AYP). York’s subgroup of those with active IEPs (individual education plans) did not meet the AYP requirement.

B. Textbooks on Display: Dr. McCann passed out a sheet that gave examples of how the new texts would impact 6 theoretical students. Their book costs ranged from a low of \$313.75 to a high of \$592.25 for books only.

C. Proposed 18-21 Transition Program: Dr. Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, presented information on possible transition programs for students with disabilities in the age range of 18 to 21 years old. Downers Grove South, Glenbard School Districts, SASSED, Leyden Transition program and Elmhurst College ELSA (Elmhurst Life Skills Academy) programs were visited. Dr. Powell would like to further investigate this type of program in District 205. This may include moving this program from the High School to a location closer to the center of town for incorporation into the job market in town and better access to public transportation. Board members encouraged her to do so.

D. Enrollment Plan: Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Pat Palmere, calculated the number of classrooms needed (and subsequently, staff) for the ’07-’08 school year based on enrollment projections as of today. At the elementary level, Hawthorne has 4 grades that could be in need of additional classrooms. All other elementary schools combined net out to no increase. The middle schools net out to an additional 1 teacher. At York, the increase is 0.8 for the “regular” classrooms and an increase of 6.8 certified staff for special education needs. The budget forecast was calculated at an additional 4 certified staff.

E. Cabinet Reports:

- Curriculum – On March 2nd, the County held a day long Administrators’ Academy at York High School. Many District 205 administrators attended. ISAT testing started on March 13th and should have been completed by the 16th.
- Finance – Ms. Palmere held a mandatory pre-bid meeting on the food service management bid. District 205 food service will also present a bid. Negotiations have started with the paraprofessionals union.

- Student Services – Last week, the Illinois State Board of Education visited the District’s early childhood at risk program for compliance. Planning is continuing for the Illinois Experiential Program for Autism Training, which will be held at York High School this summer.
- Personnel – Dr. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, attended a workshop on new Principal mentoring. A Teacher Performance Evaluation Committee is meeting to review and update the current evaluation procedure. There are 28 applications for the Director of Technology position. The closing date for this posting is March 22nd.
- Community Relations – About 20 Edison teachers worked with the District webmaster and others to create web sites for their classrooms. Spring Break is their goal to have their pages ready to link. The volunteer appreciation luncheon will be Thursday, May 10th.

F. Construction Update: Jefferson’s addition has been certified for occupancy. The classes from the kindergarten renovation area as well as the 2 classes in the mobile classrooms will be moved into the new addition over Spring Break. All other elementary buildings except Hawthorne and all three middle schools are on track to be completed by August 2007.

G. Student Fees: More information was given to the Board concerning student fees. A decision will need to be made in April.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 2/26/07
- Consent agenda
 - Personnel report
 - Financial reports
 - Freedom of Information request
 - Approval of Agreement with Color Portraits, Inc. for K-8 School Pictures
- The 2006 State School Report Card
- The Thiems Instructional Grants
- Bid #07-100 - Emergency Notification System – Mrs. Ostojic stated that she was concerned about the cost of this (about \$17,100 annually - \$2.25 per student per year). Other Board members said they thought that this was a good communications tool and would be a safety tool. It was approved 5 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.

Board Communications: None

Action Taken Out of Closed Session: The Board approved the appointment of Val Baxter as the Assistant Elementary Principal (for Hawthorne and Lincoln) and Charlotte Kulla as the K-12 literacy coordinator.