

Note: The Observer was not present at this meeting. Observer took notes from the cable re-broadcast of this meeting.

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Apr. 23, 2007
About 3 hours long

All Bd Members Present
Public: ? Staff: 8 Press: 2
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 collective negotiations. President DeRonne called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: A Sandburg math teacher stated that she had just received the printed form of the Middle school Study. She is a member of the Middle School Study and wanted the Board to know that the Middle School teachers had requested the additional class time per period, which would amount to about 8 additional days over the period of the school year. She also said that the teacher support period issue needs to be examined closely.

Recognition:

- The York Chess Team was recognized for coming in 38th out of 124 teams at State.
- Dr. David Lindberg was recognized for his 16 years of service to the children of District 205. Dr. Lindberg’s term is completed tonight and he chose not to run for re-election.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Organizational Health Inventory: Dr. Gerald Hill, Superintendent of the Glenview School District, presented information on a diagnostic tool for school districts, which would improve leadership and organizational effectiveness. It assesses adult working relationships within an organization’s ability to:

- Function effectively
- Cope adequately
- Change appropriately
- Grow from within

This group starts with a survey of all staff and presents a District’s organizational health profile. Each school’s profile would be confidential within the school’s staff and Principal. The staff and Principal would determine how they would increase their health profile scores. Research from Organizational Health: Diagnostic and Development Corporation shows that the level of organizational health has a statistically significant relationship to student performance. Dr. Krizic stated that she will have a recommendation on May 14th to hire this firm. No prices were quoted.

B. Cabinet Reports:

- Curriculum - Dr. McCann’s report stated that leadership from the Elmhurst Teachers’ Council and the administration are working on revisions for the Certified Staff Performance Evaluation Program. Plans for staff development for ’07-’08 are proceeding. A summer workshop on “Teaching of Writing” will be

offered again this year. Since the fifth grade will no longer be departmentalized, it is expected that these teachers may be taking this class. Industrial Arts Teachers are starting their curriculum study.

- Finance – The auditors have started gathering information. A parameters resolution for issuing tax anticipation warrants will be voted on at this Board meeting. The warrants are needed to provide funds for the May 5th payroll. Continuing problems with the District phone system (especially at Churchville and Conrad Fischer) may be solved by using the same technology that was installed at York.
- Student Services – Interviews for the High School Special Education Supervisor and a District Psychologist are proceeding. An *Overview of Autism*, presented at to the Sandburg and Bryan staff, was well received and will be made available to the rest of the District.
- Personnel – Hiring of about 30 additional teachers is anticipated for the '07-'08 school year. Principals are screening and interviewing candidates. Interviews for the Instructional Technology Coordinator and Director of Technology are progressing. K-12 Math and Science Coordinator posting has closed and applications will be reviewed.
- Community Relations and Publications – Training for the emergency notification system is in place. Website development continues. 135 TEAM 205 volunteers were invited to the appreciation luncheon that will be held in May.
- Technology – Cataloging of elementary library materials continues. PowerSchool improvements are also continuing. Many projects have been completed (Storage migration at York, Domain upgrade, updates of Middle School labs, York's business lab, and laptops at York.)

C. Construction Report: Field, Jefferson, Lincoln, Edison, Emerson, Jackson, Bryan and Sandburg additions will be completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Churchville will be completed on schedule and under budget. Hawthorne is an addition of 12 classrooms and a complete renovation of the existing building. Construction is scheduled to proceed through the summer of 2007, continue through the 2007-2008 school year and be completed and ready for staff and students by the end of August 2008.

Construction is currently \$1.6 million under budget from the Board's approved \$41,842,492 budget. Air conditioning for Bryan seems to be a possibility using these funds. Dr. Krizic met with the Bryan PTA and told them that the AC would be completed by the start of school in 2008. Any remaining funds would need to be used on capital expenditures in the Elementary or Middle Schools.

D. Food Service: Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Pat Palmere, explained that a committee reviewed the bids from the companies that applied for the Food Service Management. All three companies, ARAMARK, Arbor, and Chartwells, were found to meet the criteria. Chartwells was the lowest bidder of this group, but the committee next reviewed the in-house program. The committee unanimously agreed that all the outside bids should be rejected and the in-house bid should be accepted. Ms Palmere and the committee said that they felt the in-house program would provide more flexibility and quality. Even with the in-house program purchasing \$80,000 worth of equipment from ARAMARK, the in-house program is expected to bring in a profit of \$14,000 to \$20,000.

E. Middle School Task force Recommendations: The Principals from Churchville and Sandburg presented the 12 recommendations of the Task Force. The last 5 will need

further evaluation.

- Professional Development Meetings – Meetings of individual staff or all middle school staff should take place twice monthly. It is recommended that this be accomplished by late start or early dismissal days for students.
- Remove the 5-minute “Seminar” period every morning and add 5 minutes to the first period for attendance taking and announcements. This will reduce distraction by removing a passing period.
- Eliminate the modified block schedule. Teachers of each subject need to see students daily.
- Two days per week, every period would be shortened to provide for a 30-minute seminar period. One of these would be a “true seminar” period, the other a student assistance day.
- Period lengths would increase from 41 minutes to 45 minutes. School would start 20 minutes earlier.
- Grading periods would go from trimesters to quarters.
- Eliminate study hall – transition it out over three years.

The next 5 recommendations will be considered “Study Items” for the next school year:

- Have all students take foreign language? What to do with students entering from other Districts? What is the best model of delivery?
- Most students have the language arts/reading block taught by the same teacher in concurrent periods. Some students do not. Should the same teacher teach this block in concurrent periods?
- Different staff members use this period differently. Define the teacher support period.
- The PLUS program (for at risk reading and/or math students) has evolved differently at all 3 schools. Refinement of the PLUS program.
- All students currently take all 6 unified arts subjects each year. Should the choices be broadened? Does each student have to take each subject?

The Board will discuss these recommendations further at a later date.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 3/9/07, 3/12/07, 4/9/07
- Consent agenda
 - Personnel report
 - Financial reports
 - Appointment of School Treasurer
 - Amended ’06-’07 School Year Calendar
 - Bid #07-135 York Orchestra Instruments (\$41,485)
 - IHSA Membership renewal
- Bid #07-129 District Nursing Supplies (\$16,578.66) Mr. Thrall voted present.
- Parameters Resolution for the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Warrants
- 2007-2008 Student Fee
- Authorization to Reject Bid #07-127 - Food Service Management
- District Operated Food Service Program
- Adoption of Instructional Materials

- Foreign Exchange Student A (Thailand), B (Norway), and C (the Netherlands)
- Approval of Copier Lease Agreement (\$311,000 annually - \$64,000 less than budgeted, 60 month lease)
- Bids for Group #3 – Middle Schools
 - #07-97 Curtainwall (\$258,000)
 - #07-128 Lift Stations (\$212,000)
- Bids for Hawthorne
 - #07-121 Building Automation (\$207,363)
 - #07-131 Asbestos Abatement (\$105,000)
- Bid for New Additions' Furniture and Supplies for Groups 1, 2, and 3 (\$394,239.04, \$4,905, \$1,718.77)
- Grant of Easement for ComEd at Hawthorne
- Approval to Contract with ComEd to Convert Service at Hawthorne

Board Communications: Mr. Thrall asked Dr. Krizic about answers to questions from a meeting with the Teacher's Union. Dr. Krizic said that she will email some of the answers later that night.

Action Taken Out of Closed Session: The Board approved

- Dismissal 1 year grant-funded teachers
- Dismissal of part-time and some full time probationary teachers

The recommendations for administrative and exempt salaries were approved with Mr. Spaeth voting "nay" because he said that some were outside the budget parameters.