

Dist. 205 Board of Education
July 23, 2007
7:10 pm – 9:05 pm

No Carlquist, Spaeth
Public: 2 Staff: 10 Press: 0
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”: employment of employee. President Davy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Best Practices Study: This report was issued by the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. Dr. McCann, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, stated that although this paper listed 6 themes (curriculum, staffing, instruction, monitoring student progress, recognition, rewards & interventions, and school climate and culture) he felt that the two clear themes were alignment and collaboration. The Board and administration discussed this research and may have a self-audit as this paper suggests.

B. Facility Use Fee: Pat Masterton, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented a review of current facility rental fee structure as well as other area school districts’ fees. District 205 does not charge Group A, not for profits associated with District 205, any fees. The administration recommends this remain the same. After a discussion, it was decided that the Policy committee should review the Group designation. Ms. Masterton and Dr. Krizic will prepare a draft document for fee increases, possible penalties for reserving a room and not using it, and a timetable in which to implement them.

C. Enrollment Plan: The projected enrollment of each classroom in each building of each elementary school and the enrollment of each grade level of each middle school and York were compared to the Kasarda “B” and “C” scenario. (Dr. Kasarda was the demographer that studied the District before the referenda was proposed. Dr. Kasarda gave 3 scenarios for each classroom. The “B” scenario was the most likely projection; “A” was smaller and “C” larger projections. The referenda used numbers between “B” and “C”.) The following was the administration’s summary:

- Edison – enrollment below Kasarda B projections for ’07-’08.
- Emerson – Kasarda B and C projections exceeded for ’07-’08.
- Field - enrollment falls between Kasarda B & C projections for ’07-’08.
- Fischer - enrollment exceed Kasarda B & C projections for grades 1 & 2 for ’07-’08. Enrollments are expected to exceed B & C projections for the next 2 – 3 years.
- Hawthorne - enrollment slightly below Kasarda B (except grade 2) projections for ’07-’08.
- Jackson - enrollment below Kasarda B projections for ’07-’08.
- Jefferson - enrollment falls between Kasarda B & C projections for ’07-’08.
- Lincoln - Kasarda B and C projections exceeded for ’07-’08.
- Bryan, Sandburg and York - enrollment below Kasarda B projections for ’07-’08.

- Churchville - enrollment very close to Kasarda B projections for '07-'08.

Dr. Krizic indicated that the two schools with the biggest concerns were Emerson and Lincoln. The Board and Dr. Krizic discussed shifting attendance boundaries in order to balance out numbers. Dr. Krizic suggested looking at “natural boundaries” for a long-term solution. The Board and Dr. Krizic decided that a task force would be appropriate to look globally at what the community values. Mrs. Ostojic stated that, in some cases, the Board was not meeting their commitment on having classes at the elementary school under 24 students per classroom.

D. Facilities/Capital Development Plan:

- Estimates of the construction projects show that there is a projected surplus of \$1.2 million and \$1.2 million in earned interest in the Site and Construction fund.
- In the 10 year Capital Projects Plan, \$2.4 million worth of projects have been completed this year, which is slightly lower than projected and included 3 more projects than originally scheduled.
- New issues include:
 - Air conditioning at Bryan, which could cost \$750,000 and would be paid out of the \$2.4 million remaining in the Site and Construction fund. This project is scheduled for next summer.
 - Expand the bandwidth capacity by installing fiber between schools. This is estimated at \$250,000.
 - Increasing enrollment specifically at Emerson and Lincoln needs to be addressed.
 - Early childhood programs that are expanding. Possible solutions include a new administration center at Bryan or Madison (\$5 to \$6 million), lease or purchase an office building (\$400,000), or putting an addition on Madison.
 - Air conditioning at Madison could cost \$850,000.
 - Mr. Thrall suggested that artificial turf be considered for the football field.
 - Mrs. DeRonne stated that there are still no tennis courts at York.
- Through 2016, the District plans on spending \$2.1 to \$3.1 million per year on Capital projects.

E. Early Childhood Programming: This item was discussed with the item (above) concerning housing of the early childhood program and the administration. The early childhood personnel have been busy with evaluations this summer. In 2006, the District started the year with 10 autistic children. In 2007, there will be 18. Dr. Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, suggested that Dr. Kasarda be asked if there was a possibility of projecting early childhood students. Dr. Krizic said that he was out of the country. She will continue to try to reach him. Some Board members suggested that Wight Architects be contacted for other ideas or options for the overcrowded Madison Building.

F. Strategic Planning: Preliminary plans for this will be presented at the August meeting.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Resolution to Declare Equipment as Surplus.
- Bid #08-02 Fencing for Lincoln (\$42,980).
- Contract New Cable Infrastructure for Madison/Early Childhood (not to exceed \$46,241.51).
- Approval of Voice Over IP Telephony Contract (\$173,065 plus peripherals costs – as much as \$85,000 for 1 time costs and \$26,400 annually).

Board Communications: Mrs. Conroy told the Board that she had visited the elementary summer school program and was impressed with what the students were doing. Mrs. Davy stated that she had visited as well. Mrs. DeRonne asked if there was any update from the City on the underpass at York. Dr. Krizic answered that she has not heard from anyone from the City.

Action Taken Out of Closed Session: The Board approved the retirement insurance program for Pam Stack to participate.