

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Oct. 9, 2007
7:30 pm – 10:20 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 10 Staff: 7 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”: Employment of employee, actual/potential litigation, and Property Acquisition/Lease/Purchase. President Davy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Three parents from Conrad Fischer School expressed concern about the overcrowded classrooms at the school. As of Oct. 3rd, 8 of the classrooms have more than 24 students. That is 47% of the student population. They questioned the appropriateness of moving two classrooms of early childhood students to this school and complained that they had worked and supported the referenda that had promised less than 24 students per classroom. They do not accept the status quo and have been working with the Principal to find solutions. One parent spoke of concern about non-residents attending the school.

Another Parent addressed the Board about the Industrial Tech presentation last meeting. He said that he thought the presenters were badgered. He asked the Board to make a public commitment to this Program.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Blue Ribbon School Award – Sandburg Middle School – 237 schools will be honored nationally in mid November. The District will put on some kind of celebration to be announced.

B. Construction Update – A discussion of the latest construction update was held. Mrs. Ostojic asked about the financial report to accompany this and was told it would be available for the next meeting. Mrs. Davy asked about wireless capabilities at the middle schools. There were some problems with access. Since the system was tested before the doors were installed, the administration was unaware that the network signal was too weak and could not be accessed. Access points were run into the middle of some of the new room additions.

C. York High School Underpass Update – The Board received copies of a letter received from Tom Borchert, Elmhurst City Manager, addressing questions that the District 205 Board members had. The City answered that this was a proactive response to a safety concern and that there has been no issues with the 4 other underpasses in the City. The City has over \$1.2 million in their current budget for this project as well as \$2.4 million from a federal grant. This grant would require a public hearing, but the City has not set a date for this hearing. School Board members had more questions: What is the accident record for this area? What would it cost for a crossing guard for this area? Mr. Thrall said that the City was throwing a burden on the School Board when the City Council hasn’t voted on it yet. The Board would also like a public hearing before they make their decision. Dr. Krzic will contact Mr. Borchert with these additional concerns.

D. Board/Superintendent Forums – Forums between the staff, the Superintendent and two board members have been established. The dates are:

- Thursday, Oct. 11 at Churchville (3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

- Tuesday, Oct. 23 at Lincoln (3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Monday, Oct. 29 at York (3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday, Feb. 5 at Emerson (3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Bryan (3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Monday, March 3 at York (3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

E. Strategic Planning Progress Update – Dr. Krizic has looked at several facilitator companies. She said that the one that she plans to recommend at the Oct 22nd meeting has a comprehensive plan and also offers an optional curriculum review. \$15,000 was proposed in the budget for these services. This company would charge more (this Observer did not have the information on the company or the cost), but Dr. Krizic stated that it should be looked at as an investment in the future and that it could be broken down to \$3 - \$5/student/year.

Workshop Discussion Topics:

A. FY 07 ISAT/PSAE Report – Dr. McCann, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, gave an overview of the ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Tests) and PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam). ISAT: In grades 3 through 8, 85% of students met or exceeded state standards in reading and 90% of the students met or exceeded the state standards in mathematics. In reading, a large percentage of learners exceed the standards in earlier grades and less are in the "exceeds" category in the later grades. Although writing scores were not specifically reported, the District scored much lower in this subject. PSAE: There was a decline from 2006 to 2007. Before the end of the month, the school report cards will be posted on school websites.

Summary:

- Sustain and expand achievement.
- Set local goals to have more students exceed state standards.
- Pursue data driven efforts at continuous school improvement.
- Learn from high performing districts.
- Refine subject alignment across grade level.
- Integrate and refine writing instruction.

B. Discussion of Preliminary Levy Computations – deferred to Oct. 22nd meeting.

C. Information of Skyward Site Visit and Proposal – A committee looking at a new program for finances within the District visited an Elk Grove Village school district that uses the Skyward software. The results of the visits were very positive. The committee is comfortable with Skyward and some will be going to the annual user group meeting in Peoria. This software will probably be recommended for purchase at the Oct. 22nd meeting.

Superintendent's Agenda: The Board approved:

- Bid #08-06 Food Service Trucks (\$45,354 without the lift gate package.) This bid was awarded to Larry Roesch Chevrolet since the original bidder, Al Piemonte Ford, was unable to complete the transaction.

Board Communications: Mr. Thrall asked Dr. Krizic about the Conrad Fischer

situation. Dr. Krizic gave an explanation (not a rationalization) of the enrollment issue at Fischer. She said that the early childhood sections at Fischer are a short-term situation. Mrs. Ostojic stated that this school has almost half of its student population in classrooms of over 24 students. She asked what the Administration and the Board of Education doing to help the kids in this school since it is an instructional year and a short term situation will affect the immediate term this year. Mrs. Davy asked Dr. Krizic to bring an answer/report to the next Board meeting.