

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Oct. 22, 2007
7:30 pm – 10:25 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 50 Staff: 7 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 Davy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition: Diana Smith, Principal of York High School introduced the 8 York National Merit Semifinalists (top 1%) and the 17 York National Merit Commended Scholars (top 5%).

Public Comment: Before any one addressed the Board, Dr. Krizic stated that Mrs. Bailey, Conrad Fischer Principal, has been meeting with Parents in order to determine a possible solution for the overcrowding at the school. There are two possible solutions that need further study. A solution is expected to be in place by the start of the second marking period, Nov. 5th. Four parents from Conrad Fischer School expressed concern about the overcrowded classrooms at the school. Two were the same parents that spoke at the last meeting. The other two discussed the disappointment that the two early childhood classes were moved to Fischer. One parent suggested that some or all of the students who live in Bensenville and Addison be bused to other schools.

A fifth person spoke about the possibility of placing all back-up information on the District web site so that anyone who may be listening or watching the School Board meeting as a streaming video could follow the discussion of the Board.

Workshop Discussion Topics:

Discussion of Preliminary Levy Computations: The CPI (Consumer Price Index) for 2007 was 2.5%. New Growth was 3.1% in 2006. EAV (Equalized Assessed Valuation) has averaged 7.3% over the last 10 years. The proposed 2007 tax levy increase (the amount for which the District is asking) is 8.36%, and the estimated 2007 tax levy (what the District will probably receive) is 6%. The Board will conduct a truth in taxation hearing on Nov. 12th. Mr. Spaeth requested further information on how this will impact taxpayers.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Cool Cities Presentation– Jim Babcock from the Sierra Club and Lisa Landreth, from the Elmhurst League of Women Voters presented the Cool Cities Program to the Board and asked that the District become part of the coalition. Dr. Krizic stated that the Board would need to approve a resolution for this to happen. Mrs. DeRonne said joining the coalition is a “no brainer.”

B. 2007 Summer School Report – A report of the Elementary, High School, drivers’ education, instrumental music and athletic camps that were offered this past summer was presented. The balance sheet of these summer program was almost revenue neutral, but due to estimates of utilities, maintenance and custodial costs, a loss of about \$15,000 was reported. Participants included over 1,600 students in various athletic camps, over 1,000 high school students in academic courses, 343 students in the elementary program, 111 in drivers ed, and 212 students in the instrumental music program.

C. Technology Staffing Plan Revisited – The contract with Prescient Technologies (the District’s technology support) originally called for the District to hire a Supervisor starting in May 2008. David Smith, Director of Technology, requested that this be changed to November 2007. The Board did not have a comment on this and other hiring timing changes.

D. Laidlaw/First Student Merger – Laidlaw has been purchased by First Student. All buses will have the name changed to First Student in the future. Parents will be notified of the change.

E. Cabinet Reports

- Curriculum - Dr. McCann’s reported on the mentor’s meeting, grade level meetings and response to intervention meetings. The District’s P.E. teachers continue to collect the required baseline data to evaluate the goals outlined in the PEP grant.
- Finance – Pat Masterton, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, reported that there was the first meeting of the District’s Safety and Security Committee. Mr. Carlquist asked about MRSA precautions and Mr. Thrall asked that this committee consider the crossing in front of York High School. The members were enthusiastic and had good ideas. The food service program is currently running in the black. A waiver for Driver Education fee limitations will be filed. Current state law requires that the drivers ed fee for instruction not exceed \$50. Actual costs are in excess of \$300.
- Student Services – Dr. Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported that this Department will be providing training for Wilson Reading, a multi-sensory approach to reading instruction. The District Social workers, and community-based organizations, hosted a seminar on parenting. It was well attended and the feedback was positive.
- Personnel – The Elmhurst Teacher’s Council and the Board of Education will be sending representatives to a workshop to learn more about interest based bargaining. An insurance request for proposal (RFP) was issued. Proposal will be reviewed the first week in November. Mr. Spaeth asked for the criteria to be used when reviewing the RFP. All teaching and paraprofessional staff have achieved “Highly Qualified” status per Federal standards.
- Community Relations and Publications – AlertNow, the new system for contacting parents and guardians has been used several times both by phone and email notifications.
- Technology – IP Telephony project, infrastructure for new construction, and the upgrading of the four remaining servers from Windows 2000 to 2003 are all in progress. Three new positions have been defined and job descriptions written. The Technology Support Supervisor position has been posted, with the hope of filling the position in November. The Technology Leadership Committee will assist in reviewing the District’s technology plan. Staff development continues in technology.

F. Construction Update: Dr. Krizic announced that the construction should be \$3.3 million under budget. This money can only be spent on capital improvements to the schools that were listed in the referenda. One of the areas that will be done is to air condition Bryan Middle School. It is estimated that there will be \$2.3 to \$2.5 million in interest that can be used for other Capital expenditures, perhaps an addition onto Madison School.

G. Collaborative Effort Acknowledgment: Dr. Krizic acknowledged the work of the PTAs to collect the young children census District wide.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 9/24/07 and 10/09/07

- Consent agenda
 - Personnel report
 - Financial reports
- 2008 Summer School Fees (to remain the same as this past year)
- Estimated amount to be levied for year 2007. (6 yes, Mr. Spaeth voted no because he was not comfortable until he receives more information on how it will impact taxpayers.)
- Strategic Planning Process (\$80,910 including a Board self-assessment and a district curriculum alignment. 6 yes, Mr. Spaeth voted no because the specific researcher had not be identified.)
- Purchase of Skyward financial software package (\$178,549 plus a monthly cost of \$1,875 for remote hosting of software and database through their Application Service Provider. 5 yes, Mr. Carlquist voted present because his employer could supply some of these functions, and Mr. Spaeth voted no because he said the District had not done their due diligence. He asked for assurances of the ability of the ASP and the financial health of Skyward itself.
- Acceptance of donation from Elmhurst Children's Assistance Fund (ECAAF will donate \$6500 to cover cost of taxi service to and from place of employment for the 18 to 21 year old transitional students. 6 yes 1Mrs. Conroy voted present.)

Board Communications: Mrs. DeRonne asked for an update on the Voice over Internet Phone (VoIP) System at the next meeting. Mr. Thrall asked about the facilities and enrollment committee. Dr. Krizic stated that the first meeting of that committee will be 10/29 at 7:00 pm. Mrs. Davy commented that she had spoken to Mayor Marcucci and Dr. Krizic had spoken to Mr. Borchert concerning the York underpass. All felt that this is not the appropriate time to move ahead with this project. Dr. Krizic said that she will be bringing a proposal to the Board for a opportunity to partner with the City at that location. She may be suggesting a patrol officer to direct traffic as well as control pedestrian crossings. Mrs. Davy also stated that since the administration issues the backup information to the Board members in plenty of time, the Board is expected to review this information and ask questions or for more information before the meeting.