

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Nov. 12, 2007
7:25 pm – 9:45 pm

No Conroy or Spaeth
Public: 10 Staff: 5 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board had been in closed session since 6:30 pm “to consider one or more of the following subjects including, but not limited to”: approval of closed session minutes and actual/potential litigation. President Davy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Drivers Education Waiver Public Hearing: District 205 currently has a waiver for charging more than the state cap of \$50 for behind the wheel Drivers education. This waiver will expire at the end of this school year. A new five year waiver will be requested asking that the District be allowed to charge a “reasonable cost,” which will be the actual cost, currently about \$250. There was a short discussion by the Board and no public comments before this hearing was adjourned.

Adoption of 2007 Certificate of Levy Public Hearing: Pat Masterton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, gave a brief overview of the levy request. There were no changes from the tentative levy request and no comments from the Board or the public before this public hearing was declared adjourned.

Public Comment: Four parents of students who are in the 18 to 21 year old transitional program spoke about the cancellation of their students’ attendance at College of DuPage programs. This cancellation was received by memo to the parents. All who spoke said that their students thrived in these classes and were unhappy with the way they were notified. They would like these classes to be reconsidered by the District.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. School District Library Grant Program FY 2008 – The library grant is an entitlement grant, based on student enrollment. The District will receive about \$5821 to be used for books and audio visual aids.

B. Financial Projections – Under the current estimated scenario, the District will reach the minimum fund balance level of 25% by next year (’08-’09). The levy request was inflated (as in the past) to ensure that no new property revenue is lost.

C. District Writing Assessment Results – The summary of the ISAT results for writing showed two obvious trends: girls outperform boys in measures of writing achievement and all students need to produce more elaborated and better organized compositions.

D. Technology Update – By Friday, Nov. 16th, all schools but Madison and Hawthorne will have been converted to VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). At least 3 additional phones per school building will be added. David Smith, Director of Technology, will report to the Board what will be needed to supply every classroom with a phone. There were many contributing issues for the failure of the online sign-up for conferences at York. The final disposition was that Parents had to sign up in person. Mr. Smith stated that it was probably time for District 205 to get out of the software business and to look to something already in use. The Middle School conference sign-ups on line went smoothly with two different softwares.

E. Construction Update – A new proposal for Conrad Fischer without a need for a variance will be presented shortly. This will contain multiple solutions including traffic flow and parking. With construction starting on the Wilder building in February 2008 and a new dormitory being

built at Elmhurst College, a careful review of all possible options for safer pedestrian and vehicular routes and waiting areas around Hawthorne were explored. Several actions will be taken including safe walk routes through the college campus and Wilder Park. District 205 and IC will direct parents to specific wait/drop-off areas.

F. Organizational Health - Dr. Krizic reviewed the results of the survey the certified staff completed in the Spring. All ten “dimensions” – goal focus, communication adequacy, power equalization, resource utilization, cohesiveness, morale, innovativeness, autonomy, adaptation, and problem solving adequacy had scores between 21% (goal focus) and 36% (innovativeness). Both balance among the different dimensions and higher percentiles is desirable. The cabinet decided that the District should focus on goal focus and problem solving adequacy. Each school will devise their own action plan and it will become part of their school improvement plan.

G. Strategic Planning: Dr. Krizic briefly reviewed what results are expected from Strategic Planning. The results will be a shared vision, organizational alignment, engaged stakeholders and articulated goals and priorities.

Cabinet Reports: (These reports will no longer be discussed at the meetings.)

- Curriculum - Dr. McCann’s reported on the need to replace the retiring ELL Coordinator, current curriculum studies, the middle school task force subcommittees and the writing assessment update (see above – “C”).
- Finance – Pat Masterton, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, reported that the District is moving ahead on implementation of the finance/human resource software. The safety and security committee has divided into subcommittees and are implementing visitor identification software at York and Sandburg.
- Student Services – Dr. Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services reported on work to identify an assessment to be used in the role of Response to Intervention (RtI). More staff development time was suggested and the state mandated changes for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) have been implemented.
- Personnel – Seven Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been received for a health benefit broker. Each will be reviewed and the goal of interviewing finalists the week of Nov. 20th was set. An ELL (English Language Learner)/Social Studies Coordinator position was presented and action requested (see below). An updated certified staff evaluation form was presented.
- Community Relations and Publications – AlertNow, the new system for contacting parents and guardians has been used many times both by phone and email notifications.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved:

- Minutes from 10/22/07
- Consent agenda
 - Personnel report
 - Financial reports
 - Freedom of Information requests
- Acceptance of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- Approval of Waiver Application to Increase Driver Education Fee
- Acceptance of School Report Card
- Bid #07-105 Landscaping for Hawthorne (\$59,041)
- Bid #08-07 Bryan Middle School Unit Ventilator (\$178,000)

- Bid #08-08 Band String Instruments (\$6,347)
- Bid #08-09 Band Posture Chairs (\$19,476)
- Bid #08-10 Interior Room Signage – new interior signs for all schools except York, Hawthorne and Madison (\$53,035)
- The adoption of 2007 Certificate of Levy
- The modification of the Technology Support Hiring Plan
- The School Technology Revolving Loan Program Application
- ELL/Social Studies Coordinator New Position Posting

Board Communications: Mrs. Davy announced that there will be a meeting with the Park District per the intergovernmental agreement that the School District signed with the Park District. Mrs. Davy, Mrs. Ostojic and Mr. Carlquist as well as Dr. Krizic are the School representatives. Mrs. Kubiesa, Mr. Healy and Mrs. Kies as well as Mr. Grodsky will represent the Park. This meeting will be an open meeting and a date in December is being investigated. Mr., Carlquist asked when the TIF meeting with the City is scheduled. Dr. Krizic stated that a date will be put forward.