

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Feb. 11, 2008
6:30 pm – 7:25 pm

No Spaeth, Conroy & Thrall arr. 6:35
Public: 1 Staff: 8 Press: 1 arr. 6:55
Observer: J. Dorner

President Davy called the special meeting to order. This meeting is the second in the Board's discussion of governance issues, with tonight's topic of curriculum and instruction, with an assessment focus.

Public Comment: none

Discussion:

Dr. Krizic stated that two policies would pertain to this topic - #2115 Evaluation of Educational Program and #2635 Standardized testing & Assessment Program. Mrs. Davy asked, specifically, with what does Policy #2115 deal? Dr. Krizic replied that it was very broad and could include curriculum review cycles reports, student scores on tests and many other assessment areas. Dr. Krizic stated that currently District 205 is reporting one data point (ISAT/PSAE scores) to the community. Mrs. Ostojic asked what best practice is. The answer is multiple points over time per student. The District is looking at online assessments that could be done at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. There is immediate turnaround of these results and help to those needing it could happen quickly. A pilot program at Churchville, with testing at the beginning and the end of the school year has been initiated. The Elementary Schools are using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) three times/year which includes all K-5 students. These results are shared with the school and the parents. Dr. Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, explained that currently "data driven education" is a focus and that classroom teachers need time to look at and understand what the analytics mean. Dr. McCann, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, said that there is a lot of work to be done and everyone needs to be assessment literate.

This discussion will continue next month.

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Feb. 11, 2008
7:30 pm – 10:10 pm

No Spaeth
Public: 3 Staff: 15 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

President Davy called the regular workshop meeting to order lead the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: none

Workshop Discussion Topics:

School Improvement Plans – Each school is required to write a School Improvement Plan. The District Administration asked that each school's SIPs have a vision, a limited number of initiatives including a component for organizational health, one for character development and to look at gap analyses of literacy, math, and writing tests. An assessment plan was also requested. Five of the District's Elementary School Principals presented the Board with an overview of their School Improvement Plans. All Principals spoke goals to increase scores in several areas, specifically writing, had an organizational health dimension on which their facility was focusing, and a character development component (Character Counts!) on their SIPS. Many of the

Principals spoke highly of a reading program they have been using called “Jolly Phonics.” Each of the School Improvement Plans (except York) can be accessed through the District’s website: <http://www.elmhurst.k12.il.us>.

K-5 Literacy Text Adoption: Charlotte Kulla, District 205’s Literacy Coordinator, stated that over 20 teachers participated in this curriculum review and that there had not been a new adoption since 1999 due to budget constraints in 2003-04. The *Reading Street* program by Scott Foresman is recommended. This program was chosen due to its rigor, assessments and differentiation. The literacy committee also recommended that Jolly Phonics aligned letter-sound piece continue in Kindergarten. While the new *Reading Street* texts are estimated at a cost of \$763,000, it is also recommended that almost \$850,000 worth of technology equipment be purchased. This includes 4 computers/classroom. The cost does not seem to include any hard-wiring/wifi needs that the classrooms/school may have.

Many of the pieces of the program that were negotiated to be free of charge are not included in these figures. Some staff development cost is included.

FY08 Student Fees: Several years ago, the Board of Education chose to implement fees on a cost basis. Parents/Guardians are charged for 1/6th of a textbook (in the K-8 grades) per year since each textbook is theoretically used for 6 years. They are also charged for consumables. Music and/or athletic fees have recommended increases of 4% (the project CPI). Early Childhood and Kindergarten costs are recommended to increase by over 50% (due to the literacy adoption), while grades 6-8 fees will decrease by about 30%. The decrease for the grade 6-8 is because their literacy books will be 7 years old next year. The following year, the grade 6-8 fees will see a literacy adoption, which could be more than the 30% reduction and a math adoption may also fall at the same time. Some Board members were concerned about costs per families and suggested that perhaps fees charged should be re-analyzed next year.

Demographic Study Update: Dr. Krizic said that Dr. Kasarda’s new demographic study indicated that anywhere from 7.5 to 11.5 new teaching positions were indicated for the Elementary Schools for next year. His study from two years ago indicated that only 5 positions would be needed. 7.1 positions were budgeted for the entire District. The subgroup of the facilities task force is currently working with this study.

Board Communications: Mrs. Davy reviewed the joint School District/Park District meeting from the week before. She also said that Dr. Krizic will look into paperless Board meetings and report back to the Board. Mrs. Ostojic reported that at the LEND (Legislative Education Network of DuPage) meeting, there was discussion about the elimination of the IMAGE (Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English) test and the requirement for these students to take the ISATs in English. An alternative suggestion has been raised that each student should take the test (ISAT) in his/her native language. Many issues will result in finding translators of all of the different languages.

The Board adjourned to closed session to consider the matter of student residency and acquisition of property. Mrs. Davy stated that the Board planned on taking action after this closed session, but the Observer did not stay.