

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Mar. 10, 2008**  
**7:35 pm – 10:15 pm**

**Ostojic arrived @ 8:00 pm**  
**Public: 8 Staff: 35 Press: 0**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

Note: All supportive materials will be posted to the District's website starting with this meeting:  
<http://www.elmhurst.k12.il.us>.

President Davy called the regular workshop meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. The Board did **not** hold its discussion of governance issues, which was due to a scheduled closed session during the normal time when these discussions are held. They will resume at the next workshop meeting (the second Monday of the month).

**Public Comment:** A parent spoke of frustration about the classroom that his daughter is in. There is a student that is disruptive and disrespectful and most of the parents of the students in the classroom signed a petition asking that something be done about the disruptive student.

### **Workshop Discussion Topics:**

Family and Consumer Science Curriculum Review: The teachers discussed the current middle and high school curriculum, a review of best practices and national standards, and the middle schools' surveys of parents, students and other middle school programs in Northern Illinois. Many strengths for both levels programs were identified, some of which were interdisciplinary with academics, learning activities that address multiple intelligences, and promotion of career awareness. Some gaps and/or concerns were also identified as needing improvement in applied academics instruction and including required objectives to meet dual credit requirements through the College of DuPage, among others. The recommendations at the Middle School level included improving instruction in applied academics, expanding knowledge of work force/career opportunities, protect safety in lab and small group environments and increase class length. At the High School, some of the recommendations included expanding the entry-level courses during the summer, include necessary components to receive dual credit at College of DuPage and add a Bakery and Pastry Arts course.

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. The remaining eight (Edison, Field, Lincoln, Madison, Bryan, Churchville, Sandburg, and York) School that did not present their SIPs last month presented the Board with an overview of their School Improvement Plans. All Principals spoke of 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. Each of the School Improvement Plans (find York's under the "infodoc homepage" which is under the "information and documents" title) can be accessed through the District's website:

<http://www.elmhurst.k12.il.us>. All Board members complimented the Principals on their presentations. Mr. Thrall cautioned that this Board is committed to assessment and achievement and have high expectations of all Principals as well as themselves.

School/Community Safety: Assistant Superintendent Pat Masterton and York High School Assistant Principal Jeff Hartman are co-chairs of this committee. This committee is made up of

representatives of the Fire and Police Department, Elmhurst Hospital, and District teachers, staff, administration and parents. A school safety and security manual has been developed. This manual establishes a chain of command for each building, an emergency warning system, and protocols for various types of emergencies. The staff is in the process of being trained and a drill for an elementary school and one for a middle school will be held. There will be a chance to review, and if necessary, adjust the processes. All parochial and pre-schools will be invited to watch the drills and be involved in the de-briefing. The City would like for all schools to have the same procedures and the Public Schools will share all their information with these other entities.

Technology Overview: Because of the lateness of the evening, this agenda item was postponed until the next meeting. It was estimated that this would take almost an hour.

**Board Communications:** Mrs. Davy told Board members of the Community forum on Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m at Bryan Middle School to solicit feedback for its new strategic plan. All stakeholders, including parents, students, staff, and the taxpayers of District 205, are encouraged to attend. Mrs. Davy stated that this was not an appropriate meeting for Board members to attend. Mr. Carlquist reported that the Committee working on remodeling of the York Stadium was still meeting. Mrs. Ostojic reported on SB835 allowing Counties to assess a 1% sales tax for school infrastructure. There appear to be many hoops to jump through and there may be a trade off of a tax cap on EAV of 7%. Rock Island County is pursuing the initial 1% sales tax increase.

**Action on Closed Session:** The Board approved the expulsion of York Student "A" for the '08-'09 school year and if the student re-enrolls for the '09-'10 school year he and his mother would be required to sign a behavior contract.