

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Nov. 17, 2008**  
**7:30 pm – 10:45 pm**

**No Spaeth**  
**Public: 150 Staff: 10 Press: 2**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

The Board had been in closed session since 6:00 pm to consider the employment of employee, property acquisition/lease/purchase, collective negotiations, student residency and approval of closed session minutes (10/27/08). President Davy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2008 Levy Public Hearing:** Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Pat Masterton, gave an overview of the 2008 Levy. The 2008 tax levy is based on a proposed increase of 11.94%. The requested levy amount is purposely inflated to account for a loss of revenue due to the tax cap. School district taxes are limited to the lesser of an increase of 5 percent or the current CPI (4.1percent), in addition to the taxes on any new property coming onto the tax rolls. School districts inflate the levy, because they are unable to guess the full value of new property. This is so they will not lose any additional revenue.

The District will likely receive approximately \$4,268,049 of regular levy dollars and \$356,437 in additional bond money, which is not subject to the tax cap. This represents a 5.62% increase of revenue over last year.

**Public Comment:** One man spoke, saying he was incredulous that the District would increase their budget by 9% and his taxes by an additional 11% during these hard economic times. He said that his taxes have increased 400% in the 15 years that he has lived in Elmhurst. He pleaded with the School Board not to raise taxes.

**The Levy Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting was started.**

**Recognition:** York Principal, Diana Smith, introduced the 18 students who were National Merit Commended Scholars and the one Semifinalist. York Athletic Director Rob Wagner introduced Boys Cross Country Coach, Joe Newton, who in turn introduced the 7 runners, 8 alternates and several assistants who helped York with their 2<sup>nd</sup> place win in the state. An assistant Coach later announced that this same team would be competing for a national title in two weeks.

**Public Comment:** One man spoke of the mentor program that District 205 has and suggested that the program needed to be staffed as a salaried position. Eight Emerson Parents asked the Board to look ahead for Emerson's needs and build more than the proposed 4 classrooms. They stated that they knew that Hawthorne would need the most money from the last referendum but that it seems that the other schools may have been slighted. One of these parents was also concerned with Emerson's scores on the ISATs (Illinois Student Achievement Test). The last individual said she was a retired teacher and concerned about the loss of time for teachers and students to do "hands on" activities. She specifically exemplified Lincoln's Prairie that was torn up because it had become overgrown since no one was maintaining it.

### **Superintendent's Communications:**

A. *Strategic Action Plan* – The Board agreed on the following Vision Statement:  
*Elmhurst Community Unit District 205 will be a national leader in educating children of all backgrounds and ability levels, promoting high individual student achievement. The district will incorporate student-centered decision-making, the highest academic standards, best practices in*

*education, the highest caliber educational professionals, and leading edge resources to ensure an equitable education for all and success in a global society.*

Based on discussion from the 11/11/08 Special Meeting, the ECRA Group prepared three different mission statements. The one that the Board's liked the most was:

*The mission of District 205 is to meet the educational needs of all students, challenging each to their full potential and ensuring a foundation for future success in life.*

The Board discussed many different Belief Statements addressing Holistic Belief, Academic Standards, Achievement and Alignment, Curriculum and Instruction, Technology, Human Resources and Staff Development, Research and Assessment, Communication, Diversity, Climate/Environment/Culture, Financial Responsibility, and Citizenship and Character. These belief statements will be presented and the strategic action plan will be voted on at a later date.

*B. District Branding Update – Deferred due to lateness of hour.*

*C. School Improvement Plans – All School Improvement Plans may be found on <http://www.elmhurst.k12.il.us/schools/>. Put in the specific school you would like to see.*

Madison Early Childhood:

- Use the assessment tool in the Creative Curriculum
- Increase communication, both internally and externally
- Increase Parent involvement

Bryan Middle School

- Reading Improvement
- Writing Improvement
- Increase problem solving, communication and goal focus

Churchville Middle School

- Improve reading scores by 2%
- Improve math scores by 2%
- Improve writing scores by 2%
- Increase communication with parents

Sandburg Middle School

- Increase reading scores (95% meet/exceed) and writing scores (85% meet/exceed)
- Increase understanding of responsibility
- Increase problem solving, goal focus and resource utilization

York High School

- Improve reading scores in PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam) by 3%
- Improve math scores in PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam) by 3%
- Improve communications

*D. Response to Intervention – Deferred due to lateness of hour.*

**Superintendent's Agenda:** The Board approved:

- Minutes of 10/27/08.
- A. Consent Agenda
- Personnel Report

- Financial Reports (payment of bills, monthly statements, ratification of investments)
- Freedom of Information requests

Mrs. Thrall removed the Acceptance of School Report Card – It was explained that the Board would be voting on this as an acceptance, not as an endorsement.

Mrs. Ostojic removed the approval of the new District Logo since no presentation had been made.

**Board Communications:** Mrs. Davy announced that the IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards) convention was this weekend and Board members were signed up for many workshops.

**Action on Closed Session Items:** The Board approved the suspension and removal of a tenured teacher. 5 yes votes, 1 absent, 1 present (Mrs. Ostojic was unable to participate in closed session and chose not to vote.)

**The Board returned to closed session for the purpose of property acquisition/lease/purchase.**