

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Aug. 8, 2018
7:45 pm – 9:20 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 20 Staff: 15 Press: 3
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. for purchase or lease of property, setting of price for sale or lease of property and possible litigation.

President Caforio called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Mawi Asgedom thanked the Board of Education for their service. He stated that he has a vested interest in education in this community since he has two children currently in school and another to start soon. He suggested to the Board that it is up to them to let the community decide on whether they want to pass a referendum or not.

Edgar Pal spoke of potential violations of the Open Meetings act. He spoke of the importance of the open meetings act training and how all Board members and most administrators should take this training.

Michael Crumley spoke of how the neighborhood around York floods. He talked of the ‘penalty’ that D205 was to pay (\$ 1 million) for not having water detention on the York property when the building was rehabbed and rebuilt after the 2000 referendum. This issue has not yet been resolved.

Reports and Presentations:

A. Phone Poll Results – Lesley Rogers, VP for Education, and Cornelia Treptow, research director, both of Strategies 360, presented the following results of the phone survey conducted July 14 – 21, 2018:

300 D205 residents were surveyed with the margin of error for this being 5.7% at the 95% confidence level.

- Residents are satisfied with the quality of education in D205.
- Residents are concerned about property taxes being high, but a little less sensitive when it comes to taxes that go toward education.

- When asked whether D205 should consider doing the following:
Elmhurst School District 205 is considering a ballot proposition that would build and equip two school buildings to replace the Field and Lincoln Elementary School Buildings, build and equip additions to and alter, repair and equip existing buildings including but not limited to improving security, energy-efficiency and technology infrastructure, providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) facilities and adding classrooms for full-day kindergarten, improve school sites across the district. The ballot proposition would cost a total of one hundred and sixty-eight and a half million dollars (\$168,500,000).
 - 51% (37% strongly) said yes; 43% (34% strongly) said no.
- When asked again after being told it would cost \$149 per year for a \$500,000 home, the results were:
 - 55% (39% strongly) said yes; 40% (35% strongly) said no.
- When the “yes” respondent were asked why:
 - 27% said need to be future ready
 - 23% said buildings are old
 - 21% said education is important
 - 9% said all day kindergarten (ADK)
 - 7% said safety and security
 - 16% - other
- When asked again:
 - 59% (39% strongly) said yes; 38% (28% strongly) said no.
- When asked to rate top/high priorities:
 - 57% said future focused learning spaces
 - 49% safe and secure entrances
 - 40% ADK
 - 42% District-wide technology updates
 - 43% air conditioning
 - 29% renovate Madison
 - 27% rebuild Lincoln
 - 25% rebuild Field
 - 20% expand Edison

- 15% athletic field improvements at York
- 16% build auditorium at Churchville
- 10% renovate York auditorium
- Access and equity is the strongest stated basis of support. Security is also important.
- ADK
 - In 2017, 81% (51% strongly) supported ADK. In 2018, 71% (48% strongly) supported ADK.
 - About half those surveyed said that the District and parents should share the cost of ADK.

B. Draft Master Facilities Plan – Superintendent Moyer addressed many of the issues previously addressed and also spoke about ADK. He suggested that a committee made up of Board members, administrators and community members work on a fee structure for this program. Most Board members thought this was a good idea, specifically looking for a “cost neutral” plan or something with which the community can agree. The boundary change possibility is still something that Dr. Harrell is concerned with and wants to visit this often in the future.

Newly hired Director of Building and Grounds, Todd Schmidt, spoke briefly about many maintenance issues within D205 and will have a report for the Board by December. Board members asked if the possible referendum ballot language is inclusive of these issues. Dr. Moyer replied that yes, the language is flexible to be able to use funds to address any needed maintenance issues.

Board member, Jim Collins, suggested the possibility of a second referendum to increase D205’s Debt Service Extension Base (DESB) by \$2 million/year. This would allow the District to borrow money for maintenance for 3 years, allowing for use of 95% of the money for maintenance and 5% for interest payments. These bonds would be tax exempt. The District’s current debt service extension base is \$1,377,000, established in 1994, when the “tax cap” became law. Adding \$2 million to this \$1,377,000 would cost \$134 for a \$500,000 home annually.

Elizabeth Hennessey, of William Blair gave the above information and also read the language needed for this type of referendum. She cautioned that this language was confusing and would require a lot of education for the community to understand what this means.

Mr. Blum asked if there could be a second referendum to increase the levy for the operation and maintenance fund. This type of referendum is no longer allowed – to increase one fund without exceeding the tax limitations.

Dr. Moyer said that he was concerned about this type of referendum, since the suggested capital referendum for \$168.5 million is confusing enough.

There did not seem to be a consensus of the Board about going ahead with this.

Remaining decisions are whether to go to referendum this November, the actual dollar amount and to confirm the language. President Caforio read a statement that said D205 was looking for property for the transition center, but has been unable to find one. Any ballot language should include the possibility of a new transition center facility. All Board members agreed. This would guarantee that any facility found would be allowed as an educational facility.

Dr. Moyer asked the Board if they were going to vote to put the referendum on the November ballot. Several Board members stated that the agenda for the Aug. 14th meeting was to discuss this. They asked that the referendum language and question be on that agenda and they would discuss putting this on the November ballot on Tuesday.

Board Communications – No discussion on the item listed on the agenda: Tax increment financing, stormwater management projects and stormwater fee issues with the City of Elmhurst.

Superintendent's Action Item Agenda: There was no action taken on

the agenda item:

A. Action regarding tax increment financing, stormwater management projects and stormwater fee issues with the City of Elmhurst.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Tuesday, Aug. 14th and Aug. 28th at 7:30 pm. All meetings are held at the D205 Center:

- Monday, Aug. 13, Policy Committee meeting, 7:00 pm.