

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Aug. 22, 2017
7:30 pm – 9:05 pm

All Board members present
Public: 4 Staff: 9 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:30 pm concerning collective negotiations, approval of closed session minutes for 3/21/17, 7/18/17 & 8/8/17 and employment of employee.

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of 7/13/17, 7/18/17, 8/8/17 and 8/11/17.

Reports and Presentation:

A. Utilizing Social Media to Tell the District Story – Consultant John Hickman, owner of My School Grid Company, showed the power point presentation. The point of social media use for a school district is connect, engage, activate.

- Social media is cost effective, personal, immediate, persuasive, flexible and visual with pictures and video.
- One can create a “buzz,” if it is a worthy cause, by making it visual, knowing whom you are talking to, evoke positive emotions and make it easy to help.
- The most active users can be found on Facebook, with almost 2 billion users. Others include WhatsApp, FB Messenger, Tumbler, Instagram, Twitter, Skype, SnapChat, Pinterest and LinkedIn. There are 54,000 active users in Elmhurst (with a population of 44,000!).
- One can do public opinion research, engage, share the good news, and share the “why” with social media.
- Data drives the bus. Measure your engagement by comparing it to what you want to achieve.
- One can achieve community engagement, information about facility needs and/or a budget squeeze, academic excellence and excellent results.

Mr. Hickman will be meeting with Principals tomorrow for 2 hours.

B. Recap of Budget Year 2016-17 (cash Basis) – Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Chris Whelton presented the following.

The actual results for the previous school year showed a \$139,446 operating surplus, while the budget predicted a \$87,282 surplus in the operating funds.

Revenues:

- Total operating fund (education, operation & maintenance, transportation, IMRF & FICA, working cash funds) revenues exceeded the budget by 2.5%. This was obtained by the June property tax collection being at 51.58%, or 2.35% increase over the previous year.
- Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes (CPPRT) collected in the Ed. Fund and IMRF (IL Municipal Retirement Fund) were over 11% higher than last year.
- Investment income remains small.
- In the Education and Transportation Funds, D205 received only 3 payments of the State Categoricals payments, making the State currently 2 quarterly payments behind. This amounts to over \$1.7 million.
- In the Operations and Maintenance Fund, D205 received about \$6,000 less in facility rentals, and \$133,119 from Enerwise, which is over \$106,000 over last year. D205 also receive a grant check from last year for over \$37,000.

- D205 has received \$235,000 for impact fees in the current year, which is being accounted for in the Capital Projects Fund. Last year, D205 received \$213,000 in impact fees.
- The District received \$119,331 in the first TIF1 surplus distribution.

Expenditures:

- Total operating expenditures increased 6.7% over the prior year.
 - There was a 4.5% increase in salaries over last year.
 - Benefits in the operating funds were a 5.0% increase from last year.
 - Due to an increase in contracting nursing staff and an increase in professional development, purchased services increased.
 - Supplies increased due to purchasing the ELA (English Language Arts) and Math textbooks.
 - Three trucks were purchased and two hot water tanks at Hawthorne were purchased in Capital Outlay.
 - Special education outplaced tuition increased.
 - Because D205 had budgeted TIF surplus funds to finance summer maintenance projects for 2016 & 2017 and did not received these funds from the City so the Operation and Maintenance Fund had transferred \$2.73 million to the Capital Projects Fund.

Fund balances for operating funds were 43.72% of expenditures on 6/30/17 compared to 46.54% at 6/30/16. The rationale for maintaining fund balances is:

- To avoid short-term borrowing in the district's low cashflow months of April and May.
- Fund balance reserves provide a margin of safety to absorb future negative financial changes.
- State finances are uncertain
 - Potential pension cost shift
 - State might redistribute General State Aid and Categorical funding.
- The State legislature would like to pass a bill to freeze property taxes for two years.

Both Mr. Blum and Mr. McDonough spoke about how the City of Elmhurst has not lived up to its commitment in the Intergovernmental Agreement of 2004 concerning TIF 1 and the school district.

C. Tentative Budget FY18 Presentation: Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Chris Whelton continued. Mr. Whelton presented the proposed 2017-18 D205 Budget.

- Revenues for operating funds are predicted to increase by slightly under \$1.5 million, or 1.2%. Mr. Whelton said it is always hard to budget how many state quarterly payments D205 will receive during a school year. He decided to budget 4 for this school year.
- Expenditures for operating funds are estimated to increase by almost \$4.7 million, or 4.0%
- Fund Balances for operating funds are expected to decrease by slightly over \$3 million to 39.54% of expenditures.
- Certified staffing is expected to have an increase of 11. This includes additional certified staff in 5.9 in ELL (English Language Learners), 5.45 in Special Education, 1.6 in General Education, 1 in Instructional Coach (ELL) and 4 in Special Education Instructional Coaches.
- There will be a reduction of 11 Special Education Aides.
- Grand total is \$137,004,298 of expenditures and \$134,073,751 for a difference of -\$2,930,547.

Mr. Whelton said that D205 has increased certified staff by an average of 13/year. This is unsustainable. Mrs. Ebner asked Dr. Moyer about this. He answered that he sees special education as "flat" in the future. He is not sure about ELL (English Language Learners). He is predicting a reduction in Math staff and when implementing "academic return on investment" and efficiencies

on balancing class size, this trend should stop.

Superintendent's Agenda – Consent Agenda

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- Acceptance and Posting of FY18 Tentative Budget – See above
- Purchase 3-Year Subscription to Cisco Email Security (Not to exceed \$32,000)

Mr. McDonough removed the following from the consent agenda:

- District Wide Title I Plan

Mr. McDonough stated that Title 1 is about poverty and he was glad that the state changed the rules about the School Board having to approve the Title 1 plan. He said that York High School has 14% of their students eligible for free and reduced lunches (less than \$45,000 for a family of 4) and Conrad Fischer has 59% eligible. Conrad Fischer receives school wide assistance (if over 40% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunches) and the rest of the schools receive targeted funding. Dr. Henderson made additional comments about students who come from poverty.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Collins removed the following from the consent agenda:

- Retirement Agreement for Executive Director of Communications, Publications and Community Relations, Melea Smith. Ms Smith would like to retire at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Ms Smith will receive
 - 6% salary increase over 2016-17 salary
 - To be hired by D205 as a consultant after retiring at the rate of \$500/day not to exceed \$10,000.
 - D205 paid employee-only insurance for 22 months
 - Total cost for retirement agreement \$39,122.

Mr. Collins stated he was fully supportive of this agreement and that Ms. Smith was a great asset to D205 and the community.

The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Agenda – Consent Agenda

- Donation to York – \$1,498.13 from Elmhurst Airborne for York Girls Basketball program.
- Donation Agreement with Elmhurst Swim Team - EST will donate \$23,348.70 in exchange for 5 – year freeze on their facility rental usage fees and staff changes.

Superintendent's Communications:

- Freedom of Information Act Request – 3 granted (2 for RFP information and 1 for employee salary) and 1 was denied (for info not intended for D205).
- York HS – U.S. News and World Report Rankin- 18th in the state and 618th in the nation. This was determined using 2014-15 data.
- Just that day, Dr. Moyer received the Niche rankings (which are very subjective, in his opinion) and D205 ranked 8th best District in Illinois.

Board Communications: Mr. McDonough said he had attended the SASSED (School Association for Special Education in DuPage County) meeting, at which time the budget was approved for the upcoming year.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Tuesday, September 12th and

26th and Oct. 10th at 7:30 pm. These Board meetings are held at the D205 Center.