

Observer report of the League of Women Voters of Elmhurst, Illinois
By: Edgar Pal, League Observer

**Board of Education of Elmhurst School District 205 – Special Meeting
Monday, September 17, 2018**

8:30 pm, or 15 minutes after end of State of the Schools presentation
York Community High School – Yorker Room
355 W. St. Charles Road
Elmhurst, IL 60126

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Summary

The Board approved a memorandum of understanding with the City of Elmhurst on stormwater management projects at Jackson Elementary and York High School. City will contribute TIF funds to improve District facilities.

Meeting

1. Opening of Meeting (8:37 pm)
 - a. Members present: Kara Caforio (President), Karen Steufen (Secretary), Shannon Ebner, John McDonough, Jim Collins
 - b. Members absent: Chris Blum, Margaret Harrell (Vice President)
 - c. Staff: Dr. David Moyer (Superintendent), Bev Redmond (Exec. Dir. Of Communications)
 - d. Public: 3 residents and 1 journalist
2. Closed session – The Board did not need to enter into closed session, so this agenda item was skipped. The Board would have cited the following bases for entering into closed session, if needed:

- a. Litigation that is filed, pending, probable, or imminent (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11))
- b. Purchase or lease of real property, or discussions of whether a particular parcel should be acquired (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5))
- c. Setting of a price for sale or lease of property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6))

3. Reconvene to open session, Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments (3 speakers)

- a. Joe Witzel – Expressed interest in the stormwater projects.
- b. Keelie Witzel – Spoke about how flooding has impacted her home, adjacent to York High School, over the past several years.
- c. Edgar Pal – Thanked Board for waiting until after 8:30 pm to begin the meeting. Expressed concern that public was not notified of this meeting during the Board’s last regular meeting on September 11.

5. Statement by Kara Caforio (President): City of Elmhurst and School District have reached agreement on stormwater management. Basic principles set forth on memorandum of understanding. Board will vote on whether to authorize President to sign it. The projects address Jackson Elementary and York High School sites, and flooding areas in surrounding schools. City will contribute funds, from 2 TIF districts, to improve District facilities in amount of \$2,050,000. Agreement to be approved by Council and Board in late October.

6. Superintendent’s Agenda – Action Items

- a. Action regarding a memorandum of understanding with the City of Elmhurst for development of a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation agreement to address City stormwater management projects and District 205 facility improvements
 - i. Collins: Did Mayor Morley have authority to sign it from City Council? What is the significance of his signature?

- ii. McDonough: It's just a memorandum of understanding, establishing an intention to move forward and complete the agreement. Not a legally binding document, and it's sometimes signed without the explicit approval of the Council. City Council went into Executive Session. We don't know specifically what they discussed, but our expectation is that Morley would not act without clear direction from the City Council.

We want to show the public that our President's signing of the memorandum shows the Board's intention to approve the final agreement. Issues of stormwater, TIF, and stormwater fees. Provide immediate benefit for educational purposes for the TIF program that's been in effect for decades. This is a roadmap for the development needs that the City has expressed and the educational needs that the Board feels is important.

The memorandum of understanding is not on BoardDocs, as a matter of respect for the City. The Board members have read the document itself, and it will be disclosed once signed. The agreement covers the Jackson School stormwater project and the York High School stormwater project. Distribution of TIF monies to District through two methods: through TIF process and through direct payment. Money that the District will use for capital purposes. City will provide performance guarantees on its promise that these stormwater facilities will be dual purpose. They will provide facilities that will be usable for our students. These ideas should be captured in the comprehensive intergovernmental agreement to be worked out by professionals.

- iii. Ebner: Good to put these issues to rest, after Board has been dealing with them for years. Wants to focus more on education.
- iv. Approved: 5 – 0.

7. Adjournment (8:50 pm)