

**Dist. 205 Board of Education**  
**Sept. 9, 2014**  
**7:30 pm – 9:35 pm**

**All Bd members present**  
**Public: 10 Staff: 8 Press: 0**  
**Observer: J. Dorner**

The Board was in closed session from 7:00 p.m. for employment of employee.

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

**Student Recognition:** The Board recognized Grabiella DiGregorio for receiving a gold medal in the ranked over-all in the nation in the Fashion Design competition and Caily Schwartz and Deisy Cano who received gold medals in the team Interior Design Senior Category.

**Public Comment:** None

**Superintendent's Communications:**

**A. Bond Market and Options Update:**

- Elizabeth Hennesy of William Blair presented information regarding D205's current bond position. Interest rates continue to be low and D205 is in a good position to provide savings to taxpayers through refunding bonds. Three options were presented.
  - Accelerate debt service structure within the current payments to reduce debt service payment by about a year.
  - Flatten debt service to a consistent level throughout the debt.
  - 2.5% annual increases in debt service and extending it out.

The Board discussed the options presented and consensus was to pay the debt off early. The Board will need to vote on a parameters resolution at the next full Board meeting (Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>).

Timing of possible refunding options are theoretically:

- Oct. 2014 – Refund about \$8million worth of bonds to save about \$750,000.
- Jan. 2015 – Refund about \$29.5 million in bonds for a savings of \$4,675,000.
- Oct. 2015 – Refund \$12.8 million in bonds to save \$2,868,000.

Timing will depend on current bond market conditions.

**B. PTA Council Topics:** President Collins suggested that perhaps PTA Council meetings could be used by the Board as a sounding board for topics the School Board needs community input on. He further recommended that stormwater be one of the first topics for input. The Board deliberated about possible questions to give to the Council. The questions they will ask the PTAs to respond to are: Do you support the use of school district property for the temporary storage of stormwater? What are the key issues as D205 negotiates the intergovernmental agreement with the City? What form of communication would you like to receive on this issue?

**Board Committee Reports:**

Mr. Collins commented on the **Board Improvement Committee**, who met as a Committee of the Whole without Board member Chris Blum.

- The Board discussed the Board Norms document (not received by Observer). This document, under a previous administration, stated that D205 staff were not to communicate with Board members and many employees still believe this to be the case. Mrs. Stuefen stated that it is the Board's responsibility to communicate to employees that Board norms were updated several years ago to allow interaction between the Board and staff. Other topics discussed during this part of the agenda were: having one Board meeting per month

be a business meeting and the other be a study session, Board members should notify Melea Smith if they have spoken to the press, and notifying Mr. Pruneau if a Board member planned on bringing up a specific topic during a meeting.

- There was discussion on an organizational performance framework, a staff recognition initiative, and the Harris poll survey feedback.

Mr. Blum reviewed the **Finance and Operations** committee meeting. The committee discussed

- The update on Bond market and options (as presented earlier).
- July financials were reported.
- The 2014-15 school nurse contract was presented.
- PMA will present preliminary projections at the November 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, followed by more updated projections at the end of January 2015, including staffing estimates. Using these projections, the Board will give the administration direction to the 2015-16 budget.
- The next steps for the demographer were discussed at the August 27<sup>th</sup> retreat.

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

- School Nurse Agreement with Elmhurst Memorial Hospital (Increases in administration charges (\$70,000), a 0.5 fte certified school nurse and a substitute flex nurse were included.)

**Superintendent's Agenda:**

- Approval of a Donation (York) – \$1,000 from Elmhurst Rotary to go to J. Kyle Braid Leadership Program.
- Approval of a Donation (York) – not to exceed \$2500 from Elmhurst Airborne for new freshman girl's basketball uniforms.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 7:30 pm, as well as committee meetings:

- Tues., Sept. 16 - Finance and Operations Committee mtg - 6:30 p.m.
- Wed., Sept. 17 – Policy Committee mtg – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 18 – Performance Management Committee mtg - 7:00 p.m.

**Action on Closed Session Items:** None

**Board Communications:** Mr. McDonough asked the Board how they wanted to proceed with discussions of the stormwater issue. He and Mrs. Ebner are representing the School Board in meetings with the Park District and City and would like to bring the information back to the entire Board. It was suggested that there be a stormwater item on every Board agenda. The letter they received from the City confused the Board. They felt that they are already working with the City on this issue and were unsure of what exactly the City wanted. It was stated several times that the use of D205's property is a re-allocation of assets from educational to stormwater. It was decided that the Superintendent will forward the draft intergovernmental agreement that the City had sent to all Board members. Mr. McDonough will draft a "term sheet" and share it with the others. Discussion will continue at the next Board meeting on this issue.