

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Oct. 26, 2016
7:40 pm – 9:05 pm

All Board members present
Public: 8 Staff: 7 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:15 p.m. for an individual student matter, employment of employee, setting of price for sale or lease of property, purchase or lease of real property and approval of closed session minutes of 9/27/16 and 10/11/16.

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

Public Comment: Kristin Whitehurst spoke about the enrollment figures that were listed for the Middle Schools and for York. Last year, York's administration said there would be an increase of 100 students this year and the district's administration said 60. The current figures say 91 new students. Ms Whitehurst was concerned about the cutting of courses and re-registration that was done last year and asked that it be avoided this year. Although the middle school numbers appear to be decreasing, it should be noted that class sizes are still in excess of 30. Ms. Whitehurst also spoke about being disappointed in the Focus 205 process.

Recognition/Presentations:

A. Those Who Excel: The Illinois State Board of Educations (ISBE) recognized Kara Caforio, Focus 205 Facilitation Team Co-Chair for her efforts on behalf of students, staff and the community at large and Stephen Fijor, Jackson School PE teacher for his modification for diverse learners.

B. Health and Dental Insurance Presentation:

Proposing a:

- 7.2% increase in PPO1 (preferred provider organization) and HDHP (high deductible health plan)
- 3.3% increase in HMO (health maintenance organization)
- No increase for dental

Which will amount to a 6.0% increase for D205 (\$1.01 million).

C. Preliminary Tax Levy:

- CPI (Consumer Product Index) for 2016 Levy is 0.7%.
- EAV (Equalized Assessed Valuation) is not known at this time, but an 8% increase is estimated.)
- New Construction is also not known at this time, but approximately \$40 million is estimated. D205 levies for an additional \$25 million in new construction to avoid under-estimating.
- No matter what D205 levies, the counties will only extend the increase allowable under the tax cap.

Using these numbers, the estimated tax rate is 3.35%, although the district thinks it should end up at 2.5%. This will amount to a \$53 increase on a \$300,000 home.

D. Enrollment Projections:

- D205 enrollment **increased** by 110 students (1.32%) to 8,436.
- Madison Early Childhood increased by 20 (7.46%) to 288.
- K-5 **increased** by 22 students (0.6%) to 3,444.
- 6-8 **decreased** by 23 (1.15%) to 1,970.
- York **increased** by 91 students (3.44%) to 2,734.

After 4 years of elementary enrollment decreasing, K-5 is experiencing a slight increase. Both Fischer and Emerson have experienced 4 years of decreases, with Emerson down by 100 students since the 2012-13 school year. Jackson had three large kindergarten classes in a row and that school is expected to exceed 500 students by 2019-20.

Madison has increased by 45% over the last 5 years.

Churchville and Sandburg are projected to decrease over the next five years, with Bryan continuing with slight increases. It will be the largest middle school next year.

Mr. Whelton stated that this is not an exact science and it is giving D205 directional guidance.

E. Finance Committee Meeting:

- September 2016 monthly financial reports were presented. Chris Whelton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance stated that the state has not distributed the 4th quarter for 2015-16 or the 1st quarter from 2016-17 categorical payments and are now two payments behind. (Did not receive the June or the September payments.)
- Frank Schuh, Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented a prioritized 10-year capital maintenance plan. He will present to the entire Board at a future meeting.
- Summer 2017 Projects – Mr. Schuh said the roof on the York academic building needs to be addressed. This will cost \$1.2 million and will be the only maintenance considered for the upcoming summer unless the City comes through with their TIF payment.
- D205 currently purchases electricity from Constellation New Energy through June 30, 2017. Extension of the current contract was discussed.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Minutes from 9/22/16, 9/27/16 and 10/11/16 were approved.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Report
- JMP Consulting proposal for Executive Coaching Services - Not to exceed \$4500 at \$135/hour.

Superintendent's Action Item Agenda: The Board approved:

- Organizational Goals
 - Student Achievement – progress toward meeting District Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
 - District Culture – Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Model, job-embedded professional development, communicate and educate the school finance, student achievement goals and academic return on investment to stakeholders.
 - Finance – Regularly analyze resource allocation priorities to make sure they are research-based and support the KPIs. Maintain the highest rating by the Illinois State Board of Education's annual watch list.
 - District Management – Financial sustainability and facility considerations support D205 student achievement priorities.
- Administrative Reorganizational Proposal – replace retiring EC-12 Instructional Technology Coordinator, Kathy Baker with an Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Growth the help current Asst Superintendent for Learning and Teaching. This should be cost neutral.

- Resolution Regarding the Estimated Amounts Necessary to be levied for the Year 2016 – as discussed earlier.
- Medical and Dental Insurance Contract – see presentation above.
- English Language Arts Instructional Materials
- Donation for Churchville – The PTA is donating a flat panel TV, mount and miscellaneous supplies for digital signage, not to exceed \$4700.

Superintendent’s Communication:

A. Principal Professional Development Update – The Principals continued discussion *Transforming Teaching in Every School* and had a presentation on Future Ready Learning activity.

B. Freedom of Information Act Requests – All six requests were granted.

- One about purchase orders.
- One about epi-pens.
- One about copier contracts.
- One about payroll information.
- Two about job related issues.

Dr. Moyer read the following statement. *Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205, like many districts around the country, is dealing with concerns related to accommodating the needs of students who are transgender and the privacy interests of all students. The District is, and will be, making its decisions based on existing District Policy 7:10: Equal Educational Opportunities, state and federal law and emerging court decisions. Particularly given the current unsettled state of the law, the District expects to deal with these issues on a case-by-case, building-by-building basis, primarily as guided by Board Policy 7:10 on Equal Educational Opportunities and the privacy interests of all involved. The District will take these issues into consideration in its planning process for future facility projects and budget cycles. Potential changes will be designed to achieve cost efficiency, enhanced supervision, safety and privacy for all students and consistency with the master facility plan now under development for the entire District.*

Board Communications: Board President Shannon Ebner read the following statement:

In an October 20, 2016, letter from the Elmhurst City Manager, the City proposed to purchase a 1.6-acre portion of the Bryan Middle School site for \$1.1 million to be developed into a stormwater detention facility. After careful consideration, the Board of Education has reached a consensus that the City’s October 20 proposal is inadequate. Under that proposal, the District would have had no place to which to transfer its current storage and maintenance operations on the Bryan parcel, very little to pay for the acquisition and improvement of another site for its current Bryan operations and no compensation for its loss of the long-term future use of the Bryan parcel for school expansion. It is the District’s understanding that the City has another project opportunity on a comparably sized parcel for which the City has contracted with the Messiah Lutheran Church immediately south of the Bryan site.

The District and the City have been negotiating an agreement under which the District would have received:

- 1) about an acre of land from the City adjacent to its public works facility on Riverside Drive in exchange for the Bryan site;

- 2) partial improvement of the Riverside Drive site for District maintenance; and
- 3) cash to make up the difference in value between the Bryan and Riverside sites and the loss of future use of the Bryan parcel for expansion of school facilities.

However, the City's October 20 proposal was only to purchase the Bryan parcel at its appraised value of \$1.1 million.

The District remains open to considering agreements on a case-by-case basis for City use of School District land for stormwater management projects. The District's consideration of such projects will be influenced by:

- 1) The results of its current long-range facility planning process. The District must balance and give precedence to achievement of its core educational mission over stormwater management issues.

- 2) The Madison School stormwater management project. The Madison School stormwater management IGA has been completed and construction has begun. Its operation will be closely followed by the District.

- 3) Whether the City makes timely payments under the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement between the City and District. While not connected directly to stormwater management projects, the District regards the City's willingness to abide by its intergovernmental agreements in general terms as a factor in assessing the likelihood of compliance with stormwater management agreements. It is the District's understanding that the City has delayed release of approximately \$1.3 million in TIF funds to the District due to the City's dissatisfaction with the District's position on the sale of the Bryan parcel.

- 4) Resolution of the City's York High School stormwater fee claim. The City has periodically asserted that the District "owes" the City \$1.2 million for alternative stormwater projects arising from the reconstruction of York High School completed in 2004. The District strongly disputes that it owes the City anything in regard to the York project. This will need to be resolved before any negotiations over future stormwater management projects. The District will not accept the City's vague use of this claimed fee as a bargaining chip in connection with future stormwater management projects. The issue should be resolved or dropped by the City now.

The Board reiterates its willingness to consider continued cooperation to help resolve the City of Elmhurst's storm water management problems, but only consistent with its obligations to fulfillment of its core educational mission and to its taxpayers who live both in and outside of the City.

Mr. McDonough read another statement with his viewpoint. I'm supplementing the Board's consensus with my own views. First, I would especially like to respond to allegations of delay by the Board. It is as unfair as it is inaccurate. The school district is not delaying and has had its strong offer on the City's desk since June 20th - that's four months. Delay didn't happen because of anything the school district did. What happened is the City did not like the price.

Second, it's a naive view that educational land is in some way available for stormwater purposes without any countervailing costs whatsoever. The public does own the property for educational purposes - for the children. There are true opportunity costs to our community diverting the use of that land most assuredly on a permanent basis away from the education of our children. The District's request for compensation was designed to reflect those lost costs.

This community will suffer if it subordinates all its interests to those of stormwater especially where it is to the detriment of our kids' education. Home values will decline as much if not

more through the decline of educational resources as they will from a failure to manage storm water resources.

We can walk and chew gum - that means pursue two important goals at the same time: have the City fix the storm water while the school board preserves the educational system, including its physical resources available for the education of our kids. We need to resolve stormwater issues, but not single-mindedly. We must preserve the most excellent schools in this community. They are what's driving our property value.

Mrs. Bastedo stated that D205 is still willing to work with the City to help them solve their water management problems.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Tuesday, Nov. 15th and Dec. 13th at 7:30 pm. All committee meetings as well as the regularly scheduled Board meetings are held at the D205 Center:

- Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, 7:30 pm – Special Board of Education Meeting Board self-evaluation, which will be in closed session, facilitated by a member of the IASB – IL Association of School Boards.