

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Nov. 24, 2015
7:35 pm – 8:25 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 4 Staff: 9 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:45 p.m. for negotiations, employment of employee, and approval of closed session minutes from 10/27/15, 11/4/15 and 11/10/15.

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

Public Comment: Mary Young, a parent representing those families whose children will be moved from Field School to Emerson next year, asked about having a meeting about this and to help with the transition.

Jan Dorner read the following statement:

The purpose of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) is to ensure that the actions of public bodies are taken openly and that their deliberations are conducted openly. To further this policy, the General Assembly has instituted training requirements for **each** elected member of a public body.

Members of the public may also take this training and I just did and I learned some interesting things. For instance, under “Exceptions to Open Meetings – Closed Session,” (page 31) the following was stated:

Because these exceptions are contrary to the general requirement that meetings be open to the public, they are to be "strictly construed," which means that they will only apply to situations that are clearly within their scope. Thus, discussion in a closed session under an exception must be limited in scope to the specific exception(s) authorizing the closed session.

For example, one of the statutory exceptions allows a public body to hold a closed session for "the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body." Under this exception, a public body may not hold a closed session to discuss whether to sell or lease the property, or whether to accept an offer for its purchase. Those are matters that are beyond the scope of the exception, which authorizes holding a closed session only for the purpose of setting a price for the property.

At the September 8 School Board meeting, the agenda included this specific exception under closed session.

At the end of the open meeting under the agenda item “Board Communications,” then Vice President Shannon Ebner, when announcing information about the City’s use of the Madison School property for water detention, stated that “the Board was able to come up with consensus on issues like reimbursement, termination and educational purpose” and so “give our attorney direction on how to finish the IGA.”

After the meeting ended, I asked both Mrs. Ebner and then President Collins, “when did the Board discuss the IGA?” Mrs. Ebner replied “in closed session” and Mr. Collins added under the item “setting of price for sale or lease of property owned by the district.”

Neither reimbursement nor termination nor educational purposes would fall under the closed session exception of setting of price for sale or lease of property owned by the District.

Since that meeting, the school board has met an additional three times in closed session under this exception, on Sept. 22nd, Nov. 10th and tonight.

At the most recent meeting of the Stormwater Communications Committee Meeting on Nov. 12th, City Manager Grabowski reported that he was meeting with the Superintendent about “getting the Bryan agreement done.” Grabowski stated that the school board meeting was the previous night and the Board “gave the Superintendent some direction on where they wanted to be.” They talked about a number of things related to “shared services, shared material storage facilities.”

None of this was discussed at an open meeting at the Board table.

For the past two years, until the September 8th meeting, the school board has been discussing the possible dual use/intergovernmental agreement with the City of Elmhurst for D205 property in open session.

I am asking that you return to this practice and that you release the tapes of discussions that were not supposed to be in closed session, with the appropriately discussed closed session pieces redacted.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: The Board approved the minutes from 10/27/15, 11/4/15 and 11/10/15.

Superintendent’s Agenda: The Board approved the following Consent agenda:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- Disposal of surplus equipment – 3 obsolete pianos to be sold on eBay.
- 1 Gbps AT&T Managed Internet Service – To double the bandwidth from 500 Mbps to 1 Gbps. An RFP was issued. WOW, Comcast and AT&T submitted proposals. Since this would replace the current contract with 30 months remaining, AT&T will continue on as the provider, since they waived the \$47,000 early termination fee (which D205 would have to pay if either of the other 2 vendors were chosen) and are charging about the same monthly fee for double the capacity.
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 2: Board of Education (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 3: General School Administration (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 4: Operational Services (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 5: Personnel (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 6: Instruction (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 7: Students (Second Reading and Adoption)

- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - Section 8: School-Community Relations (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Policy #6:235 - Access to the District Network and Technology (Second Reading and Adoption)
- Revised Policy #5:240 - Suspension (Second Reading and Adoption)

Superintendent's Agenda-Action Items:

- Agreement Between Elmhurst Community School District 205 and Elmhurst Teachers' Council Local 571 American Federation of Teachers – From 7/1/15 through 6/30/18. This motion carried 5 -2, with Collins and Blum voting no. Both stated that the District cannot afford this. Both, as well as Stuefen said that the administration has been hugely supportive of the staff and they hope that the staff will be as supportive of the administration as they move the District forward.
- Donation (Hawthorne) – From the PTA for \$1,499.50 to purchase 50 atomic clocks. Motion carried unanimously.
- Donation (Edison) – From the PTA for:
 - \$539 – online subscription to Science Fix.
 - \$675 to purchase the National Geographic Explorer – Pioneer Edition monthly magazine for each grade level.
 - \$674.40 to purchase student novels for the 4th grade classrooms.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Communications:

A. Freedom of Information Act Requests: Three requests were received and granted; one for specific emails and two for specific test data.

B. Balanced Assessment and Student Engagement: Dr. Moyer called the Board's attention to two articles in the most recent Illinois School Board Journal: *High-Stakes Assessments: Mandate, Optional, and In-Between*, and *Achievement, Engagement Rise with 1:1 Programs*.

Board Communications: Mr. Collins asked the administration about the York cohort program and requested that the High School present the information. Dr. Moyer stated that Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, Michelle Fitzgerald and Director of Research, Charles Sprandel, had information but had just started the process. He did say that there would definitely be changes in the 2016-17 schedule. Mr. Collins asked if there would be Board involvement and what the timing was. Dr. Moyer replied it would have to be at the Dec. 15th of the Jan. 12th meeting. Dr. Harrell also requested that the High School be involved in the presentation.

Action on Closed Session Items: Memorandum of Agreement was passed unanimously. This is for the paraprofessional and school related personnel (PRSRP) union. Some members of PRSRP are certified as substitute teachers and may be called upon to sub. This agreement guarantees the higher pay for those who substitute but may be making more money as a PRSRP.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Dec. 15, 2015 and Jan. 12, 2016 at 7:30 pm. All meetings are at the District 205 Center, second floor.