

Dist. 205 Board of Education Bastedo arrived at 7:45 pm; All Board members present
Dec. 13, 2016
7:35 – 10:15 pm
Public: ~80 Staff: 9 Press: 1
LWV Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. for employment of employee, collective negotiations, possible litigation, and approval of closed session minutes of 11/15/16, 11/28/16 and 11/29/16.

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

Public Hearing for the Adoption of the 2016 Certificate of Levy:

Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Chris Whelton, gave an overview of the levy. Per the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) or “tax cap,” the taxing body (e.g. D205) allows the lesser of 5% or the increase in the Consumer Product Index (CPI). For 2016, the CPI is 0.7%. The limitation does not apply to new construction. New construction is estimated at \$40 million, but an additional \$25 million in new construction is levied, although York Township estimated \$21.5 million and Addison Township estimated \$4.2 million in new construction. No matter what is levied, only the allowable increase will be used by the Counties.

The equalized assessed valuation is estimated at an 8% increase. Mr. Whelton said that most taxpayers who currently own property will see an increase of 1.05% (\$53 increase on a \$300,000 home). Note that the levy is a request.

Levy Hearing Public Comment: None

The levy hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting resumed.

Public Comment: Katy Padberg, Elmhurst Teachers Council’s President, thanked President Ebner for her letter and welcomed all Board members to schools to see what is going on. She also invited the Board to the Teachers Council’s meeting Wednesday after school. Ms. Padberg gave the following wish list for the upcoming year:

- Communication – Although the teachers are following the guidelines put out by the administration for communication, they do not always receive replies to their questions.
- Curriculum – a viable one that has adequate training for staff and remains consistent.
- Administrative support
- Provide a safe and healthy environment, which is spelled out in two separate Board policies. While the Superintendent and Focus 205 discuss “future ready” classrooms, the staff has complained about mold and mildew, cockroaches, ants and rodents in schools. These health and safety issues should be addressed.

Karen Stezowski spoke highly about the conference process at Sandburg this year. A parent meets with one teacher and the student does the presentation based on questions s/he was given to address concerning his/her education.

Recognition/Presentations:

A. American Choral Directors Association National Middle School honor Choir Selectees:
Sandburg 8th grade students Mary Latz and Ashley Harmon were selected to perform in the national middle school honor choir.

B. Illinois Music Educators Association District One Junior Festival Selectees: 18 Bryan students, 7 Churchville students and 7 Sandburg students were selected to perform in the Junior Festival Band,

Orchestra and Chorus Concerts for the ILMEA.

C. Focus 205 Update: F205 Co-chair Kara Caforio gave a summary of the October 24th focus groups hosted at each middle school.

(1) Positive comments were received about the strong D205 staff, involved parents and support from the community.

(2) Facilities need improvement, except for York and Hawthorne.

(3) All-day Kindergarten was favored, but some were concerned about childcare or education.

(4) Most preferred kindergarten at neighborhood schools.

(5 & 6) Media centers, maker spaces and STEM spaces were mostly spoken of positively, with need for facility improvement highlighted.

(7) Most said that classrooms were outdated.

(8) All agreed indoor air quality was a concern.

(9) Most knew about the issues at Lincoln school. Some suggested demolition, others wanted to be more informed about possibilities there.

(10) A long-term plan was supported over short-term considerations.

At the next meeting (Feb 1st at 7:00 pm), the settling on a plan will begin.

D. Middle School Task Force: Mary Baum, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, the Middle School Principals, and some teachers gave an update. The MS need interventions and enrichment. Enrichment may be for students to pursue their interests and passions. For Interventions, a 30-minute daily period seems to be the best practice. This should be delivered by a content-strong expert. All three middle schools in D205 are piloting different interventions and supports.

Middle school schedule concepts and modules are being considered, along with visits to other suburban middle schools to see how they allocate minutes, handle interventions and schedule elective and exploratory courses.

At the Dec. middle school task force (MSTF) meeting, the group will discuss information from site visits and develop more detailed scheduling options (with District Management Council – DMC). Parent feedback will be elicited on potential MS programming.

E. Early Childhood Program Presentation: Madison Early Childhood Education Center received an award of excellence for linguistically and culturally appropriate practices. It is the highest level of the state's quality rating and improvement system through the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. This program is one of only FIVE in the state to be awarded this prize. For the 2016-17 school year, there are 122 ELL (English Language Learner) students representing 15 different languages, or 42% of the student population.

Some of the Madison staff discussed the 13 standards that were set forth.

F. Future Ready Learning: Dave Beedy, K12 STEM, PE/Health & Family Consumer Sciences Coordinator and Kathy Baker, EC-12 Instructional Technology Coordinator, presented maker space and future-ready learning. Elementary students are building bridges (kindergarten) and coding (1st grade) to be challenged with an oil spill (4th grade) among many other hands-on experiences.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Minutes from 11/15/16, 11/28/16 and 11/29/16 were approved.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Report
- Open Designated Closed Session Minutes and Keep all Other Closed Session Minutes Closed
- Authorize Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes
- Purchase of Student Chromebooks and Staff Laptops – 100 student chromebooks and 10 staff laptops to “address certain needs that arise.” \$28,554.20

Superintendent’s Action Item Agenda: The Board approved:

- Resolution for 2016 Certificate of Levy
- Donation for Lincoln – The PTA is donating a class set of chromebooks and one chromebook charging cart not to exceed \$8,000 and books for guided reading not to exceed \$5,000.
- Donation for Field – The PTA is donating \$1800 for a relay course to be used as a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) incentive for students and \$1200 for 25 sensory boxes for classrooms.
- Donation for Bryan – The PTA is donating two bike racks to be put outside the 7th grade hallway not to exceed \$1300.

Action on Closed Session Item: The Board approved the hiring of an Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Growth to start July 1, 2017. Dr. Mark Cohen was hired for \$145,000 annually.

Superintendent’s Communication:

A. Conrad Fischer elementary School Model Classroom – a video of the model kindergarten classroom was shown.

B. Kagan Update – Different sharing strategies were shown – Mix-Pair-Share, Stray Away and Rally Robin.

Board Communications: The TIF Review Board was held the previous night. The Chair stated that there was some discretion for releasing the TIF money to D205 per the 2004 intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Mr. McDonough objected to this. He said that the IGA used the word **guarantee**. Mr. Collins said he felt that the City will not release the TIF excess and recommends that the finance committee consider a referendum to fund the maintenance that the TIF release was to address for the next decade. Dr. Moyer stated that he has told the Board several times that the City does not plan on releasing the TIF money to D205 unless D205 addresses stormwater detention.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Tuesday, Jan. 13th and 24th at 7:30 pm. All committee meetings as well as the regularly scheduled Board meetings are held at the D205 Center:

- Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, 6:00 pm – Policy Committee Meeting