

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Dec. 15, 2015
7:35 pm – 10:55 pm

No Collins
Public: 100+ Staff: 9 Press: 03
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. to consider employment of employee, student residency, discussion/review of closed session minutes and approval of closed session minutes of 11/24/15.

President Ebner called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence for the five D205 families who have lost a child since the beginning of the school year, 2 within the last week.

She led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Public Hearing for the Adoption of the 2015 Certificate of Levy:

Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Chris Whelton, gave an overview of the levy. The requested levy is a 4.2% increase from last year, but based on estimates of new construction, the 2015 extension is estimated to be a 3.2% increase. The equalized assessed valuation is estimated a 5.8% increase. Mr. Whelton said that most taxpayers who currently own property will see an increase of 1.63% (\$90 increase on a \$300,000 home).

Levy Hearing Public Comment: None

The levy hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting resumed.

Public Comment: A total of 29 individuals spoke on several different subjects.

- 17, including 5 York students, spoke against the Superintendent's involvement with censoring the York As.Is Club's announcements in October, celebrating LGBT awareness month. About halfway through the month, a parent complained about the As.Is announcements. The Superintendent contacted the York Administration (who had approved all the announcements) and told them that he thought they needed to use "better judgement" and told them not to allow any more of the As.Is Club's announcement. Many expressed concern with the administration's lack of transparency and encouraged openness and respect for all.
- A previous Superintendent spoke in support of York Principal, Diana Smith during this turmoil.
- Five different individuals spoke against moving 2 special education classrooms from Field to Emerson next year. Besides the upheaval it will cause in the lives of their special needs children, the notice was sent home in the childrens' backpacks. This disrespectful attitude, along with the Superintendent's refusal to meet with these families, has enraged many.
- The Teachers' Council President thanked the Board and all those who participated in the contract negotiations and the final approved contract. She asked that the staff and administration and Board continue to work together.
- A York teacher complained about the cut of pay for staffing the afterschool math lab. The lab may not continue due to the lesser amount of pay for this function.
- A York teacher asked that the possible hiring of a new York Principal be slowed due to lack of staff participation in the process.
- A spouse of a D205 teacher said she is losing faith in the District administration.
- A parent indicated that although the co-taught Algebra AB had been put off a year, she was still concerned that the District was moving in the direction of doing more "co-taught"

classes and less special education classes.

- This observer read another statement opposing the Board's meeting in closed session to discuss the possible dual use of District 205 property as water detention sites.

After the last public comment, President Ebner stated the Board appreciates all the comments, especially the students' on the As.Is issue. The Board is aware of the concerns and has asked the Superintendent for more information which they expect to receive before the next school board meeting and will review with the Superintendent and other administrators and will determine the next steps.

Reports and Presentations:

A. Annual Audit Review: Scott Klein from Klein, Hall & Associates reviewed the audit with the school board. The difference this year, compared to previous years, is that the state required an assessment of pension liability should the staff pension requirements be shifted to local school districts. D205 would have an additional \$332 million in pension liability. (Pg 42 of report) Mr. Klein stated that there was no material weakness in District controls and that the District's Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Annual Financial Report (AFR) scored 3.8 out of 4.0. This earned the highest category of "recognition" which a district can receive.

B. Student Achievement Objectives:

Superintendent Dr. Moyer gave an update on Leadership Development. Work on developing a common district understanding and approach to solid formative assessment practices and inter-rater reliability of best instructional practices continued in December.

Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, Dr. Michelle Fitzgerald attended the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. The conference focused on personalized, blended/online, and competency based learning.

C. District Management Council: District Management Council conducted focus group interviews with teachers, administrators and parents to accumulate information for D205 Middle School Study. A time study of the middle school teachers will be conducted Jan. 11-15. A report from DMC is expected to be available by the end of February 2016. The Middle School Task Force, made up of 25 teachers and administrators will meet to ensure a common understanding of district achievement priorities. A letter was read stating that this contract was awarded using transparency.

D. Learning and Teaching Committee Report: A power point presentation was given about the Student Services Department. This department is responsible for special education, section 504, homeless liaison, nursing services, homebound/hospital and school counseling.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Nov. 11, 2014 and Dec. 1, 2014 were approved as presented.

The Board approved **Meeting Minutes** of Nov. 24, 2015.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda: The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- New Course at York HS – (Functions & Finite Math H)
- To open designated closed session minutes and keep all other closed session minutes closed (releasing 7/21/15 and 7/27/15)

- To Authorize Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes (Between Jan 2014 and June 2014)

Superintendent's Agenda – Action Items: The Board approved:

- Resolution for 2015 Certificate of Levy
- Donation (York) – 3 older cars in need of repair for the York automotive program. The cars are worth a total of \$2600.

Superintendent's Communications:

- 176 Illinois State Scholars awarded from York High School
- Three commercial freedom of information requests were granted and one requesting specific emails was denied.
- School report card information will be coming out in January.
- City Stormwater Communication – A letter was received from Elmhurst City Manager Grabowski asking the D205 Board to consider two more projects - Jackson School and York High School. Dr. Moyer said that unless directed differently, his priority is work on the agreement on the gravel lot at Bryan. Once that is complete, the Board can deliberate on its level of interest into looking at any other potential sites.

Mr. McDonough attended the City Stormwater Communications Committee meeting on Dec. 9th. He stated that the City would like to start the Madison project in the spring and the Bryan project June 1st. Mr. McDonough continued that this is an ambitious schedule. The City has said that it wants to move ahead on 3 projects – Bryan, Jackson and York. This is a different position taken by the City.

Mrs. Bastedo said that Jackson and York are being used for multiple purposes and these properties will be a more complicated discussion and require more research.

Mr. Blum stated that there are traffic flow problems at Jackson currently, and if something is going to be done there, let's try to solve several issues at once.

Several on the Board said that the Board's position has always been to see how the Madison property works first before moving onto another dual use. Consensus of the Board was to convert one at a time to see how the dual use works.

Board Communications: Tabled until another meeting when not so late in the evening.

Action on Closed Session Items: The Board approved:

- The dis-enrollment of student B and student C who are not residents of D205. Tuition of \$11,929.36 will be charged.
- The dis-enrollment of student D and student E who are not residents of D205. Tuition of \$8,947.02 will be charged.
- The hiring of York High School Principal Erin DeLuga, starting July 1, 2016 at a salary of \$155,000 including benefits and D205 will pick up TRS (Teacher Retirement System) contributions.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Jan. 12th & 26th, as well as committee meetings, which will be held in the District 205 Center:

- 1/13/15 – Finance and Operations Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm