

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Dec. 16, 2014
7:35 pm – 9:35 pm

No Collins
Public: 50 Staff: 8 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. to consider negotiations, student residency, employment of employee, discussion/review of closed session minutes and approval of closed session minutes of 11/11/14 and 12/1/14.

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

Public Hearing for the Adoption of the 2014 Certificate of Levy:

Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Chris Whelton, gave an overview of the levy. The requested levy is a 3.6% increase from last year. The equalized assessed valuation is estimated a 2% decrease. Mr. Whelton said that most taxpayers who currently own property will see an increase of 2.24%

Levy Hearing Public Comment: Gilbert Fischer asked the Board not to raise his taxes. He said that of the 19 taxing bodies on his tax bill, all but D205 and the City of Elmhurst have reduced his taxes. He asked the Board if they were Communists, since he hasn't had a student in D205 schools for over 25 years.

The levy hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting resumed.

Student/Staff Recognition:

A. Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA) Selectee: 7th Grader, Jack Rosenberg's colored pencil drawing of an aluminum can in various states of crush was chosen to be on display at the IAEA conference this fall.

B. Shining Star Recognition: 12 staff members were recognized for making a positive impact on the students and staff of D205. Staff members David Arredondo, Barb Bosslet, Erika Bradley, Carrie Emrikson, Lindsey Fiore, Tania Foertsch-Bays, Charlotte Kulla, Elizabeth Marcellus, Chris Olson, Annie Perrone, Jose Soto and Marc Wessler were presented with this honor.

Public Comment: None.

Superintendent's Communications:

A. Freedom of Information Requests: Three requests were received. Two (one for the list of athletics and clubs at York and another for job descriptions, salaries and benefits for non-certified staff) were granted. An additional request for closing records for debt issuances for the past 30 years was denied.

B. Annual Audit Review: Auditors from Klein, Hall & Associates stated that: the financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 at June 30, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended, inconformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

C. PMA Preliminary Five Year Projections: Projections were run using expenditure assumptions of: current contract salaries through FY15 and salary increases equal to CPI (Consumer Product Index), health benefits increasing by 8% annually and estimated cost of Cadillac taxes starting in FY18 (\$40,000 that year, \$200,000 for FY19 and \$400,000 for FY20) and NO pension shift to the local Districts. This results (for operating funds) in a \$1 million surplus for FY15 (this year), \$740,000 deficit for FY16, \$330,000 deficit for FY17, \$270,000 deficit in FY18, \$236,000 surplus in FY19 and a \$856,000 deficit in FY20. It should be noted that using these numbers, the lowest fund balance would be slightly less than 26% in FY20.

PMA will repeat this exercise in late January when more figures are known rather than estimates or assumptions.

D. Bond Market and Options Update: The Board refunded just under \$10,000,000 from 2005 in October 2014. This resulted in an \$860,000 saving for the Elmhurst D 205 taxpayers. In January, an additional \$43.4 million worth of bonds from 2005 and 2006 will be refunded. Taxpayer savings for this issue is estimated at greater than \$6 million.

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

Board Committee Reports:

Dr. Harrell reported on the recent **Learning and Teaching** committee meeting.

- Discussions of various York math pathways for current 8th grade geometry students were held. Current 7th graders will have a rigorous identification process for placement in 8th grade geometry. Part of the id process is a cognitive ability test, which is recommended for 2nd and 5th grade students.
- September 2015 implementation of a KIDS assessment for Illinois kindergarteners is observation-based in 47 areas. The committee expressed concern about the management of this new requirement. This will require professional development.
- The committee favors PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) testing for 9th graders in spring 2015.
- Teachers will be able to use data warehouse in fall 2015.
- The committee reviewed the KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) that should change due to curricular changes and PARCC testing.

Mr. Blum reviewed the last two **Finance and Operations** committee meetings. The October and November financial reports were reviewed. D205 has not rec'd any state mandated quarterly payment in FY15. Higher expenditures due to data warehouse and Special Education contracted services as well as higher medical claims in the self-insurance fund are being seen. The committee discussed:

- Demographic projections were higher for total enrollment, kindergarten and 9th grade. The 2nd phase of the demographic plan is a school utilization study.
- The audit. GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) will require that TRS (Teacher's Retirement System) unfunded liability. TRS will provide the unfunded liability amounts to each school district for recording.
- Debt refunding option (see above).
- Budget at a Glance and Facilities at a Glance were updated. Both are available online, and

some Facilities at a Glance are available in hard copy.

- PMA projections (see above).

Superintendent's Consent Agenda: The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- To open designated closed session minutes and keep all other closed session minutes closed
- To Authorize Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes

Mr. McDonough removed the following from the consent agenda:

- Revised Policy #7:190 – Student Discipline (First Reading)

He moved to amend the wording to “soliciting to sell or attempting to distribute.” The amendment and the main motion carried.

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

- Resolution for 2014 Certificate of Levy
- Resolution to Instruct the County Clerk How to Apportion 2014 Tax Levy Extension Reductions
- Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$31,500,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2015, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with William Blair & Company in connection with the sale of said bonds
- Resolution authorizing and directing the execution of an Escrow Agreement in connection with the issue of General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2015
- Employ Legal Counsel – Engler, Baasten & Sraga.
- Donation (Lincoln Elementary School) – From Lincoln PTA not to exceed \$2500 for online subscriptions to Learning A-Z.com and classroom online subscriptions to Raz-Kids.com.
- Donation (Edison) – From Edison PTA for \$1860 for water bottle fillers for the water fountains.

Board Communications: None

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Jan. 13th & 27th, as well as committee meetings, which will be held in the District 205 Center:

- 12/18/14 – Board Improvement Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm
- 1/7/14 – Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm
- 1/20/14 – Finance and Operations Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm