

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Dec. 17, 2013
7:35 pm – 10:35 pm

All Bd Members Present
Public: 12 Staff: 8 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:30 p.m. to consider property acquisition/lease/purchase, discussion/review of closed session minutes and approval of closed session minutes of 11/26/13.

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

Public Hearing for the Adoption of the 2013 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. The District expects to receive about a 3.4% increase over the previous year, but is asking for more so that no new property will be missed. Mr. Whelton said that most taxpayers will see an increase of 2.23%

Levy Hearing Public Comment: Gilbert Fischer asked the Board not to raise his taxes. He said, “you people are getting rid of all the hard-working people who are having their homes repossessed and section 8 people are moving in.”

The levy hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting resumed.

School Recognition:

Blue Ribbon for Excellence was awarded to Sandburg Middle School. The school was honored for being recognized by the US Department of Education for committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers.

Public Comment: None.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. 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 30,2013, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended, inconformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

Two changes made from the recommendations from the audit were to increase the levy amount in the transportation and IMRF funds so that they do not go to a negative cash amount in April or May and to increase the Treasurer’s bond.

B. Mobile Learning Initiative: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Charles Johns, presented. This initiative is a curricular technology improvement plan for grades K-12. With more accessibility to technology and more use in the curriculum being planned, this initiative was started. There will be about 500 student laptops scheduled to be refreshed this summer, and it could be appropriate to replace them with chromebooks. One laptop could be replaced with 2.5 chromebooks, cost wise. This move (in reality a move to the “Google education platform”) seems to meet student, teachers and District needs. The chromebooks have instant on, a longer battery life (5 to 7 hours), assessment ready, versatility, and better production capacity when looking at writing

papers as compared to a tablet. Much more input from staff and students will be sought before any plan is implemented.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Nov. 26, 2013 were approved as corrected.

Board Committee Reports:

Mrs. Ebner reported on the recent **Curriculum and Instruction** committee meeting. The committee discussed methods for prioritizing curriculum and instruction to help project expenses beyond maintenance level. Dr. Johns will revise the draft priorities document and develop a rubric to identify high priorities. The committee also discussed the mobile learning initiative as discussed above.

Mr. Blum reviewed the **Finance and Operations** committee meeting. The November financial reports were reviewed. The State of Illinois continues to be delinquent in quarterly categorical payments. The committee discussed:

- The audit.
- An RFP for a demographic study.
- Impact fees for the Berteau property.
- Position control reports.
- PMA projections – redo with removal of self-insurance fund, update the TIF projections, update staffing numbers, and update CPI for 2013.
- American Water, which takes care of water and sanitary in areas around Churchville and Conrad Fischer wants to apply for Illinois' EPA's Illinois Green Infrastructure grant to do porous pavement in the Fischer playground. Nothing further will be done unless a grant is received.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda: The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- Purchase Cisco Networking Equipment to Upgrade Middle School Local Area Networks (Cost not to exceed \$55,000)
- To Open Designated Closed Session Minutes and Keep All Other Closed Session Minutes Closed
- To Authorize Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes
- Donation (District 205 3rd Grade Students) – Elks Club donated a dictionary to all 3rd graders for \$1200.
- Donation (Bryan Middle School) – Jewel/Osco in honor of its grand re-opening for \$1,000.
- Donation (Middle Schools) – D205 Foundation for accessories for the NOVA devices for \$7,000.
- Donation (District) – Kiwanis Club for security measures \$1,825.54.
- Revised Policy #6:300 - Graduation Requirements (Second Reading and Adoption).
- Revised Policy #6:320 - High School Credit for Proficiency (Second Reading and Adoption).

Mr. McDonough pulled the following from the consent agenda:

- Donation (Edison Elementary) from the PTA for 10 iPads, charging cart, staff training and 1 MacBook Pro 13 for \$10,000. Mr. McDonough wanted to amend the motion to replace the

“iPad” word with something more generic. No second was received for this motion and after much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Resolution for 2013 Certificate of Levy
- Resolution to Instruct the County Clerk How to Apportion 2013 Tax Levy Extension Reductions

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Jan. 14th & 28th, as well as committee meetings, which will be held in the District 205 Center:

- 1/8/14 – Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm
- 1/15/14 – Special Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 pm
- 1/21/13 – Finance and Operations Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 1/22/13 – Policy Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm

Board Communications:

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of re-drawing attendance boundaries with the influx of students from the possible 50/60 houses being built on the Elmhurst Hospital Berteau property.