

Board of Education Highlights

February 25, 2009 - Longfellow Elementary School

Superintendent Report

Dr. Drury provided an overview of the District's financial situation. The following is a summary of his PowerPoint presentation:

These are difficult financial times for all Americans. Unemployment is escalating and there isn't a night that the evening news doesn't portray another depressing story about the stock market declining or another major company declaring bankruptcy.

District 200 specifically and education in general are not immune from the economic difficulties confronting the country and the State of Illinois. District 200 is facing some difficult financial challenges over the next several years. I would like to share with you the nature of the problem and the steps being taken to solve these issues.

The imbalance in revenues versus expenditures has existed in the District for many years due in large part to the funding structure of public education in the State of Illinois. Compounding the problem, on January 16 the CPI for 2008 was announced at 0.1%. The CPI is the index that establishes the amount of local tax a district may receive. Last year, the CPI was 4.1%, which resulted in the District receiving approximately \$4 million in additional revenue for this year. The drastic drop in the CPI means that District 200 will receive roughly \$4 million less revenue from local property taxes. In addition, there are strong indications that due to the financial deficit in the State of Illinois, we will not see any increase in state aide for the coming year. This would result in an additional loss of \$3 million in revenue.

Given that revenues have not kept pace with the increased costs of operations, District 200 is facing roughly a \$14 million budget deficit for the 2009-10 school year. To address this deficit, in September the School Board convened a District Finance Committee comprised of citizens, staff, teachers, administrators, and Board members to update the District's financial plan and establish long-term financial stability.

After reviewing a variety of options, the Committee recommended a multi-phased approach in an attempt to incrementally deal with the deficit and minimize the impact on classroom instruction. In the first phase, the Superintendent met with District level administrators and all principals to formulate strategies of budget reductions for the 2009-10 school year. These reductions will be made at all levels and departments across the District, totaling approximately \$5 to \$8 million for next year as part of this multi-year plan of cost savings. In this initial phase, the administrators were directed to propose reductions that would have minimal impact on students' classroom instruction and programs.

The Board took the following action:

Approved the adoption of a District policy on energy management that specifically will establish and implement short- and long-range strategies as a means of energy conservation.

Approved the science curriculum and accompanying textbooks and instructional materials for grades K-8 which has been posted for 30 days for public review and comment.

Approved some supplemental books for the social studies curriculum at several grade levels. The books were posted for public review and comment for 30 days prior to adoption.

Discussion Item

The Board reviewed the list of 96 recommended budget reduction items (the list can be found on the website at www.cusd220.org.) totaling \$7,677,705. Following a lengthy discussion, the Board asked for additional information and review of seven items:

Line 42	Reduction of high school workbooks	\$70,000
Line 55	Elimination of one high school counselor position	\$75,000
Line 56	Elimination of two high school deans	\$150,000
Line 65	Reduction of high school intramurals supervision	\$11,600
Line 71	Elimination of middle school ass't athletic directors (4)	\$21,000
Line 72	Elimination of middle school "B" teams	\$96,000
Line 73	Elimination of middle school "B" team travel/officials	\$34,000

The Board will take final action on all budget reduction items at the March 11 meeting.

Next Meeting:

March 11 – Wheaton Warrenville South High School