

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
October 10, 2007

The first regular meeting of the month of October of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Wheaton Warrenville South High School, 1993 Tiger Trail, Wheaton, IL, by Board Vice President Rosemary Swanson, on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Barbara Intihar (arrived at 7:35 PM)
 John Bomher
 Ken Knicker
 Joann Coghill
 Marie Slater
 Andrew Johnson (by phone)

Also in Attendance: Dr. Richard W. Drury
 Dr. Lori Belha
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Dr. Robert Rammer
 Dr. Margo Sorrick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Dawn Snyder led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH HOST SCHOOL

Dr. Snyder, on behalf of the staff and students, welcomed the Board, administrators and community to WWSHS. Dr. Snyder stated that she is grateful to have Dr. Drury and Dr. Rammer in District 200 and she thanked the Board of Education for their service to the students of District 200.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Drury reported the following:

Beginning at this Board meeting, there will be reports from the two high schools, given by students. Dr. Drury introduced Wheaton North Principal Jill Bullo, who in turn introduced senior student Christine Ward. Christine reported on recent activities at WNHS, including events of Homecoming, a student sponsored blood drive, the upcoming school play, chorus concerts and

the Father/Daughter Dance. Ms. Ward stated that WNHS offers many opportunities for student involvement. These opportunities include sports, performing arts, leadership groups, foreign language clubs, and numerous opportunities for community service projects.

Dr. Drury then introduced Wheaton Warrenville South Principal Dawn Snyder. Dr. Snyder introduced two students representing WWSHS, Nick Novasad and Ali Winberg. These students reported on recent activities at WWSHS including their homecoming activities, accomplishments of the various fall sports teams, and an upcoming student run raffle to help needy kids from the area.

In the green folders at the Board member's places, there is a copy of the technology plan. Also in the green folders is a copy of the Recognition of Schools applications for all 20 schools. This report will be filed electronically this year and all Board members were in agreement with the report.

District 200 is one of 62 districts out of 872 districts in Illinois to receive the 2007 Bright A+ Award for academic excellence in education. This award is given by SchoolSearch and awards school districts that are the top 5% of Illinois school districts academically. The award criteria are based on objective factors for those districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper 5% of Illinois school districts on the 2006 IL School Report Card Data Source.

SchoolSearch is an educational research and consulting firm that publishes online rankings of school systems and provides relocating families information on school districts.

Two District 200 students scored a perfect 36 on the ACT, Greg Gauthier from WNHS and Kevin Shallcross from WWSHS. Both students are national merit semifinalists.

Longfellow Elementary School has been identified as a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S.

Department of Education for its high achievement on state tests and its incremental improvement over the last three years. Pleasant Hill School received this award last year. Two schools, in two years, from the same district is quite an accomplishment and speaks to the quality of dedicated students, teachers, staff, administrators and parents we have in District 200. The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country and distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. The award recognizes schools whose students achieve in the top 10 percent of their state. The awards ceremony will take place in Washington D.C. on November 12 and 13. Mrs. Thornburg and a representative of her staff will travel to Washington to receive the award on behalf of Longfellow and District 200. Paul McKinney, former Longfellow Principal, will join them in receiving this recognition. A representative from the U.S. Department will visit Longfellow on Tuesday, October 16, at 1:30 to present the award during an all school assembly. The Board of Education is invited to attend this assembly. Under Action Items, the Board will be asked to move the December 12 Board meeting from Bower to Longfellow to recognize the staff and celebrate this exceptional accomplishment.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the Renewal of the Agreement with the NTI Group for the Connect-Ed Service – Recommend the renewal of the agreement as presented.
2. Approval of Vendor Contracts – Recommend the approval of the vendor contracts for the 2007-08 school year as presented.
3. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend the approval of the bills payable and payroll as presented.
4. Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2007 Open & Closed - Recommend the approval of the minutes as presented. The Closed Session minutes will remain closed.

5. Approval of Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports – Recommend the approval of the Personnel and Supplemental Personnel Reports as presented.

MOTION

Member Slater moved, Member Knicker seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

Approval to Move to Construction Document Phase

At the May 9, 2007 Board of Education meeting, the Board directed Legat Architects to proceed with building design and preparation of bid documents. By taking this action to develop the architectural and engineering bid documents, the district was able to minimize the affect of inflation on this project and provide a new learning environment for students a year earlier than can be achieved if the district were to delay the start of the design. As part of the design process, the Board of Education is able to approve segments of the overall plan prior to moving forward. This first segment was development of the Schematic Design. This work was a continuation of the preliminary design work which had begun over a year ago with the Hubble staff. The second segment was Design Development and the third and final is the Construction Document (CD) phase. In an effort to create a high performing learning environment and an energy efficient facility, the Board directed Legat Architects to develop and implement a strategy to achieve a LEED Certified school. A portion of these dollars will be spent during the CD phase as the architects, engineers and commissioning agent develop a building more responsive to the environment. Legat Architects presented the Design Development phase. The Board discussed the current plan as presented. Costs, timelines and anticipated building schedules were also presented. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Design Development phase and move to the Construction Document phase at a cost of \$1,047,250.00. This cost is part of the money approved at the May 9, 2007 Board meeting and does not represent new or additional money.

Mr. Patrick Brosnan and Mr. Paul Pessetti from Legat Architects presented information about the design phase. The architects are looking for approval of the high performance sustainable design. Mr. Brosnan reviewed site changes and Mr. Pessetti reviewed building changes since the last presentation. Mr. John Doherty from Bovis Lend Lease presented information on the estimated construction cost projection of \$54 million. The Board discussed the presentations and changes to the design since the last presentation.

MOTION

Member Knicker moved, Member Intihar seconded to approve the Design Development phase and move to the Construction Document phase at a cost of \$1,047,250.00. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval to Post 2007 Levy

The school code empowers the Board of Education to levy taxes to support the public school system. This is an annual process. Not less than twenty days before the adoption of its levy resolution, the School Board must estimate and announce the amount of money that will be necessary to be raised by taxation. If the tentative levy exceeds 105% of the previous year's aggregate extension, a public notice and hearing are needed before the official levy is adopted. Annually, the board of Education reviews a levy proposal prepared by the administration. The recommended tentative levy that provides for a 9.43% increase was presented to the Board.

Although the proposed levy increase is 9.43%, it is anticipated that as in previous years, the tax cap will significantly reduce the actual extension. The tax cap will limit tax growth by the rate of inflation (2.5%), plus any new construction growth in the district. Given the nominal increase in rate of inflation, as well as unpredictable new construction values, it is recommended that the Board make every effort to access all funds available under the tax cap.

The levy adoption process will be as follows:

October 10, 2007 – Board reviews and announces tentative levy

Between October 31, 2007 and November 7, 2007 – A legal notice regarding the levy will be published.

November 14, 2007 – Board conducts a Public Hearing on the levy

December 12, 2007 – Board adopts levy

Mr. Farley presented information about the levy process and the request being recommended.

It is recommended that the Board of Education post the recommended tentative levy as outlined, and set the levy hearing date and time for November 14, 2007 at Edison Middle School at 7:30 PM.

MOTION

Member Slater moved, Member Bomher seconded to post the recommended tentative levy as outlined, and set the levy hearing date and time for November 14, 2007 at Edison Middle School at 7:30 PM.. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ORAL REPORTS

Charette Presentation

Dr. Drury stated that as the district moves forward to a referendum on February 5, many people are asking what the district is going to do with the current Hubble property. Dr. Catalani sent a memo to the Board in the spring recommending that the property be sold. Dr. Drury will send a similar memo to the Board stating that he is in agreement that this is the best option.

Mr. Paul Colgan, Chairman of the Hubble Task Force Alternate Use Subcommittee, presented the results of the recent Charette activity. The Charette was a process to examine the site and brainstorm possible uses and design concepts for the property. The Board discussed the next steps.

Hubble Project Financing Options

Dr. Drury stated that as he has gone around the district speaking to various groups, he is asked five questions:

1. Will there be a February 5, 2008 referendum? – The Board has taken preliminary action to have this referendum.
2. What will the new building look like? – The design answers this question.
3. How much will the project cost? – Bovis has given us this information.
4. What will happen at the old site? – The Charette demonstrates some ideas and the possible value of the property?
5. How much will it cost taxpayers and what will the impact be? – To answer that question, Mr. Bill Hepworth of Baird and Associates will explain the funding options to develop a package that will pay for the new school and what the impact will be for tax payers on the tax rate.

Mr. Bill Hepworth presented information on four financing options for consideration. The options include varying lengths of payback timelines between 14 and 19 years. It also includes different assumptions as to the equalized assessed value of the District over the life of the bonds. The Board was most interested in two options. One holds the tax rate for debt service at the current .44 cents for the duration of the bonds and the other would raise the debt service rate by .13 or .14 cents for the first few years and then the rate would decline for the remaining years. The Board will discuss these options at the October 24 Board meeting and take action at the November 14 meeting to decide what funding option they will recommend.

WRITTEN REPORTS

Technology Assessment Report – this report was provided for information and will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Board members are asked to submit any questions on this plan in writing prior to the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Technology Audit

Public Comment Procedures

Hubble Cost & Financing Options

Referendum

State Testing Report

IASB Resolutions

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Regular Meeting – October 24, 2007 – Washington Elementary School

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Bomher moved, Member Intihar seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Barbara Intihar, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President