

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
February 25, 2009

The second regular meeting of the month of February of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at Longfellow Elementary School, 311 W. Seminary, Wheaton, IL, by Board Vice President Rosemary Swanson, on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Ken Knicker
 Marie Slater
 Barbara Intihar
 John Bomher

Absent Members: Andrew Johnson
 Joann Coghill

Also in Attendance: Dr. Richard W. Drury
 Dr. Lori Belha
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Mrs. Linda Knicker
 Dr. Robert Rammer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Dianne Thornburg led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOST SCHOOL

Mrs. Dianne Thornburg, Principal at Longfellow Elementary School, welcomed the Board, administrators and community members to the school. Mrs. Thornburg recognized her staff and PTA for everything they do for students.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Dr. Drury requested that the Superintendent's Report be moved on the agenda to just prior to Public Comments. The approval of the 2009-2010 fee schedule was removed from the agenda and will be placed on a future agenda after the budget recommendation is finalized. Dr. Drury reported that the Supplemental Personnel Report requires a correction; the first entry on the report should be for a job share at WWSHS instead of Edison.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Drury provided an overview of the District's financial situation. The following is a summary of the 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.

- Mr. Bill Hepworth from Baird & Assoc. presented information on the impact of issuing working cash funds and what it means to the community. Mr. Hepworth stated that it will be difficult for the district to maintain its Moody Aa3 rating with the budget and current financial situation. Mr. Hepworth provided a document that outlined the borrowing capabilities, a summary of the projected bond and interest tax levies and projected tax rates on \$20,000,000 working cash fund bonds, and a tentative timetable for a financing program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items

Vice President Swanson stated that the public comments are valuable and important to Board members. However, it is the Board's policy not to take action on any items until time has been taken to gather adequate information and objectively discuss available options. Lack of action on comments made at this meeting does not imply any lack of interest in what has been said.

Member Swanson explained the three step process the Board uses when making a decision such as the budget reductions. Tonight, the Board will not vote on the reductions. The Board will discuss the recommendation and then vote at the March 11 meeting. Member Swanson assured the public that every email sent to the Board of Education has been received and read by all Board members.

Speaker	Bryce Cann
Topic	Finance Committee Report

Speaker	Bob Siebert
Topic	Budget Item

Speaker	Jeanne Burda
Topic	Budget Item

Mrs. Sender reported that community member Mr. Leander delivered a copy of a petition regarding a budget item.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSENT AGENDA

1. Adoption of Policy 4.171 Energy Educators – Recommend the adoption of the policy as presented and posted for 30 days for public review and comment.
2. Approval of the Kindergarten through Grade 8 Science Critical Content – Recommend the approval of the critical content as presented and posted for 30 days for public review and comment.
3. Approval of Kindergarten through Grade 8 Science Textbooks – Recommend the approval of the textbooks as presented and posted for 30 days for public review and comment.
4. Approval of Supplemental Materials – Recommend the approval of the supplemental materials as presented and posted for 30 days for public review and comment.
5. Approval of 2009-10 Fee Schedule – This item was removed from the agenda for action at a future meeting.
6. Approval to Open July 9, 2008 and August 13, 2008 Closed Session Minutes and Keep All Other Closed Session Minutes Closed – Recommend approval to Open July 9, 2008 and August 13, 2008 Closed Session Minutes and keep all other closed session minutes closed as recommended.
7. Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2009 Open and Closed – Recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The closed session minutes will remain closed.
8. Approval of Personnel Report and Supplemental Personnel Report – Recommend approval of the personnel and supplemental personnel reports as presented. (A correction was made to the supplemental personnel report – the first item was corrected to read WWSHS instead of Edison)

MOTION

Member Knicker moved, Member Intihar seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

DISCUSSION ITEM

Recommendation from the Finance Committee

The Board discussed the recommendation of the Finance Committee and reviewed the staff budget reduction list one item at a time.

Member Bomher stated that he appreciates the work of the committee and staff and all of the input from community members. Mr. Bomher expressed that this might be the toughest decisions the Board has had to make during his tenure on the Board. As a parent, Mr. Bomher fought to have the PACE program expanded, chaired three referendum projects and has always supported providing opportunities and buildings for students. Having coached for many sports and had boys that played and competed, he is very aware of the athletic program benefits and co-curriculars; however, Mr. Bomher believes the Board must take a broader perspective and take into account the impact of the budget issues on all students that the Board serves. Board members must be mindful of the tax payers and the impact of the burden on them and the staff as well. Some people will lose jobs and stipends as income. These are very hard decisions and everyone knows people in this community that have lost their jobs and are in tight financial situations. Mr. Bomher is hopeful that the state will step up to the plate and better fund education; however, we cannot count on them to pay. Other Board members echoed his comments. Member Slater stated that students are always number one for this Board of Education. Member Slater stated that not much on the proposed cut list is frivolous if anything at all. If they weren't important they would have never been incorporated in what the district does. Member Intihar stated this is not a done deal and there is no rubber stamp to this decision. Member Intihar suggested that the Board agree to the things they are in agreement with and then take more time to study the other items and develop a long-term strategy that can serve as a yard stick to measure future changes. Member Knicker stated that he believes the administrative staff and principals spent a lot of time and thought on how to re-manage what the district does for kids, while at the same time continuing to do their daily job. Member Knicker thanked them for their time and effort to make the recommendations as real as possible. The most important part of property values in the community is what the schools are like. Member Knicker does not want to make cuts the might later be regretted. Member Swanson reiterated thanks for the work of Dr. Drury for guiding the process and all of the Cabinet and principals for the time they spent working on this recommendation. Schools cannot run without the teachers and Member Swanson would support cutting "things" and keeping teachers. Member Swanson always wants to include students that are not as connected to the school and allow students to participate no matter what their home situation is, but the first priority of the Board has to be assuring they get an education while they are at our schools.

After reviewing all 96 items on the list and discussing them, the Board circled nine of the items that they requested additional information about. Those nine items are:

- Item 42 – Workbooks – what other options are available for teachers
- Item 49 - Elementary Orchestra Stipends – dollar amount to be verified
- Item 55 – High School Counselors – what will the case loads change to with this elimination

- Item 56 – High School Deans – how many issues are dealt with and who will take over this work
- Item 62 – High School Student Supervisors - how many issues are dealt with and who will take over this work
- Item 65 High School Intramurals – how will these be supported with less paid staff
- Item 71 – Middle School Assistant Athletic Directors –
- Item 72 – Middle School B Level Team Coaches –
- Item 73 - Middle School B Team Travel and Referees – these three items go together – how will these activities be provided for this group of students

Staff will research these items and provide responses prior to the next Board meeting. The Board will vote on this proposal at the March 25, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2009 – WWSHS

March 4, 2009 – Special Closed Session

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

None

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Slater moved, Member Intihar seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Items 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 10:26 PM.

No action is expected following the Closed Session.

Barbara Intihar, Secretary

Andrew Johnson, President