

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
November 28, 2012**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the School Service Center, 130 W. Park Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Swanson, on Wednesday, November 28, 2011, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Rosemary Swanson
 Barbara Intihar
 Joann Coghill
 Jim Gambaiani
 Andy Johnson
 Ken Knicker
 Jim Vroman

Also in Attendance: Dr. Brian Harris
 Mrs. Faith Dahlquist
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Mrs. Stephanie Farrelly
 Mr. Rodney Mack
 Dr. Robert Rammer

PLEDGE

Member Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION

Member Vroman moved, Member Knicker seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn to workshop setting. Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jefferson/Facilities Capital Development

President Swanson stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Jefferson/Facilities Capital Development Plan. There are three parts to the discussion: the ECRA survey; the concept designs, and financing options. No decisions will be made at this meeting.

Dr. Harris stated that the Board heard a full report on the ECRA survey at the November Board meeting and this meeting is to have any necessary follow-up discussion on the results. Dr. Harris summarized the key points of the survey results: confirmation that the community is happy with the excellent education received in District 200; clear about prioritizing decisions that directly impact students, high level of support for safe and secure environments for students; a desire to look at the least costly plan for Jefferson; and to make program driven decisions.

Dr. Harris stated that the facility is critical to the program at Jefferson. The district needs to design a facility that meets the needs of the students. It is critical to fix the fact that the current building is the wrong facility for the program.

Dr. Harris reported that staff directed Legat to create revised plans based on the feedback from the four forums and the survey results. The Core Team, which included Board member Jim Vroman, has met and looked at possible changes to the concepts.

Mr. Patrick Brosnan from Legat Architects presented a PowerPoint report on the following:

- Review of the Previous Concept Diagram
- Review Community Feedback
- Review Program
- Review Updated Design Options
- Review Preliminary Budget
- Review Preliminary Schedule

The presentation showed the plans after removing the administrative offices and training center from the floor plans, moving the footprint of the building further north, and taking away parking no longer needed with the removal of the administrative offices and training facility. Storm water storage must also be considered in the space configurations.

Dr. Harris reported that he has been talking with the Wheaton Park District to work collaboratively to develop an important play space for the kids and the community that is sensory driven.

There was discussion about the following:

- The building can only be moved so far north because the current building will still be in place during construction
- The placement of the playground, the green space
- Height of the buildings
- Large spaces and flexibility of space
- LEED Certification
- Use of pavers in the parking areas
- Total square footage of the building
- Change of options allows for about 2-3 acres of open green space at the far south end of the property

The staff at Jefferson will be meeting to discuss the options and share their opinion on the two concepts.

Board members were asked to let Dr. Harris know if they prefer one design concept over the other.

Dr. Harris reported that the Finance Committee has been meeting to look at various funding options for the Jefferson project. The committee has narrowed the choices down to a few.

Mr. Robert Lewis from PMA presented information on the following topics related to funding options:

- Referendum Bonds Debt Service, Existing & Proposed Debt Service - \$18.3M

- Total Debt Service with &18.3 M Referendum
- Existing & Proposed Debt Service \$6.7M Referendum
- Development Grant Money
- Total Debt Service with \$6.7M Referendum
- Summary of Referendum Tax Rate Impact

Dr. Harris stated that the Board will need to decide if the district should maintain the fund balance per the current policy or fund a lower amount and thus reduce the fund balance.

President Swanson stated that this presentation reflects the lowest and highest options for funding.

Member Gambaiani stated that the fund balance is important and prevents the district from having to borrow money in the spring to meet the bills payable and payroll. The district has to think about the potential pension reform impact and a lot of discussion needs to happen before a decision is reached. The committee looked at as many options as possible to do what the district needs to do.

Dr. Harris reminded the Board that the district has also identified other capital needs across the district. He also reminded the Board that other projects like the SSC and Woodland, which were removed from this project, will still need to be addressed and paid for.

Member Intihar asked questions about the possibility of paying down the bonds over the life of the debt instead of paying mostly interest upfront. Mr. Lewis explained the difference between the payment methods. Member Intihar stated that she believes this reasoning will need to be clearly communicated to the public if that is the direction that is taken. Member Gambaiani suggested that the district explain how the refunding did not extend the terms of the current debt and lowered the payments at the start and increased them later and paid off debts with the money that came into the district to keep the debt down. Member Johnson stated that he thinks that simple explanations to the public are the better way to go because he believes tax payers really just want to know what it will cost them each year.

Member Vroman asked when the district would go out for the bonds if the referendum passes. Mr. Lewis reported that it would depend on the market at the time and how the timeline of the project plays out.

President Swanson asked the Board members if there is an interest in bonding for the full \$18M or do Board members prefer a lower option. The consensus of the majority of the group was to seek the full amount needed for the project. President Swanson also asked Board members to get any additional questions or request for information to Dr. Harris prior to the discussion on December 12. Dr. Harris stated that staff will know the option preference of the Jefferson staff by the December 12 Board meeting.

Member Intihar stated that the one educational space that still needs to be considered is the Transition program. Dr. Harris stated that this topic did come out in the ECRA survey. The program is currently housed at Hubble and this location is not optimal for the program. Jefferson is not an ideal setting either. At this time the district needs to continue to pay attention to Jefferson and consider the other facilities separately.

President Swanson requested that two additional funding scenarios be run. She would like to see the \$18.3M amount with one scenario with the principal spread out over the life of the debt and one without extending the debt. Mr. Farley will gather this information and provide it to the Board prior to the December 12 meeting.

Mr. Vroman stated that the ECRA report indicated a possible correlation between living in the Washington attendance area and having a dissatisfaction level with the district. Will the staff be looking into this to try and determine why? ECRA reported that they cannot find a direct correlation between the two. Dr. Harris stated that staff has been looking at this and believes that it is related to the recent middle school boundary change for that demographic and the performance of the school on the School Report Card.

In summary, Dr. Harris stated that staff will provide replies to President Swanson's request and the recommendation from the Jefferson staff for option 1 or 2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Swanson stated that while the Board appreciates all questions and comments, it may not be prepared to respond at this meeting. Speakers were asked to confine their comments to three minutes or less. To ensure dignified and respectful presentation of all sides of any issue, it is asked that audience representatives refrain from applause or other expressions of support or opposition to comments being made.

Speaker	Dan Wagner
Topic	Jefferson

Speaker	Cindy Hummel
Topic	Jefferson

Speaker	Harold Lonks
Topic	Jefferson

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board, Member Johnson moved, Member Intihar seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and **the motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Ken Knicker, Secretary

Rosemary Swanson, President