

**Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education
Flossmoor School District 161
June 22, 2009**

President, Dr. David Dreyfuss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present for the meeting:

Present

Mrs. Christine Marks
Mr. Ronald A. Moore, arrived at 7:07
Mrs. Timijanel Odom, arrived at 7:05
Mr. Thomas Sifner
Mr. John Simmons
Dr. David Dreyfuss

Absent

Mr. Arnold Crater

Others Present

Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent
Dr. Susan Pingitore, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services
Mr. Joseph Martin, Director of Operations
Ms. Deborah Pitts, Director of Instructional Technology
Ms. Nancy Wilson, Director of Special Education

Visitors

See attached sign in sheet

Discussion of Tentative 2009-2010 Budget

Dr. Susan Pingitore presented the tentative FY2010 Budget for the Board member's consideration. The administration is asking the Board of Education to recommend approval of the FY2010 tentative budget on July 13, direction to place the budget on public display as required by School code, and direction to schedule the public hearing prior to adoption of the budget for the September Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Pingitore shared several facts about this budget:

- The budget reflects the educational goals, mission, and philosophy of the District in support of community expectations to provide all children with a quality education.
- General state aid was allocated to both the Education Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund as directed by the Board five years ago as part of the continuing scheduled construction work. The revenue projected from this source is conservative and does not reflect the proposed \$130 increase in the foundation level by the State Board of Education or the \$231 increase proposed by the General Assembly.

- Due to the uncertain condition of funding in Illinois and the uncertain future of some state grants, the proposed budget does not include grant dollars for the ADA safety and Block Grant, the Reading Improvement Block Grant, and the Early Childhood Block Grant. These grants total approximately \$265,000. Funds for some of these grants may be restored with the Illinois Legislature back in session this week.
- Expenditures for all funds in the FY2010 budget decreased by less than 1 percent from \$30,257,652 to \$30,232,457. The budget would have decreased by approximately \$739,000 were it not for the money the District will receive as party of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for at-risk students in the Title I program and special education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In addition, the FY10 budget reflects federal dollars, which will be returned to the district through the National School Lunch Program. This program is expected to add \$685,00 in revenues and expenditures to the budget.
- Due to ongoing contract negotiations with the Flossmoor Education Association, the tentative budget does not include salary increases for teachers, administrators, teachers who are not represented by the association, and non-scheduled support staff. This is in keeping with past budget practice.
- The budget includes \$472,000 for the completion of the Flossmoor Hills School parking lot and pavement improvement project.
- The budget includes the addition of two elementary reading specialists – one for Western Avenue; the other for Heather Hill School as well as aides to assist students in need of reading intervention and support. The aides will be funds with ARRA Title 1 funds.
- The tentative budget provides fund to replace servers, computer workstations for teachers, and installation of a keyless entry to improve security at Heather Hill School. In addition, the budget includes the technology purchases that are part of the ARRA IDEA plan adopted by the School Board on June 8.
- Fund balances for the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 will be adjusted in the budget, which will be adopted in September to reflect revenues and expenditures that followed creation of the tentative budget. This will include payroll through the end of June, outstanding bills, and revenues that are anticipated to close out the 2009 fiscal year.
- Interest projections and tax levy receipts are based on information provided by the Bloom Township Treasurer. This year's budget forecasts \$363,000 in interest payments. The District budgeted \$492,000 in FY2009 and has collected approximately \$409,000 as of June 19. An additional \$120,000 is expected to be posted in interest receipts for this fiscal year.

Dr. Pingitore provided Board members with a copy of the proposed 2009-2010 on the Illinois State Board of Education School Budget Form as well as an enlarged chart, which is contained on p. 10.

Dr. Pingitore stated adjustments would be made to the tentative budget as more information becomes known to the District. This tentative budget is based upon audited financial data.

Mr. Simmons clarified the servers mentioned in the budget.

Mr. Sifner referenced the amount of interest from the Bloom Township Treasurer and it was stated that was based upon investments and rate of return and effect.

Mr. Moore questioned if the District's bonds could be collectable today. The administration shared Loop Capital and William Blair & Company both shared presentations with the Board of Education regarding the fact the District's bond mature in 2013.

The Board is asked to approve this budget with the best information. This budget will be amended. This is a very good budget in terms of expenditures. The District is being cautious but realistic.

Dr. Dreyfuss suggested Board members review the budget and share any questions or concerns with Dr. Susan Pingitore.

- *Recommendation: The Board members recommend moving the tentative budget on to the July 13, Board agenda. This agenda item will be to place the budget on public display, and direction to schedule the public hearing prior to the September 14 Board of Education meeting.*

Update on Special Education

Nancy Wilson updated the Board on special education services in the District.

The District has identified 325 students as special education students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs). The District has 317 total IEPs with eight service plans, and three declined services. The District has 41 students with outside placements. Twenty-two students attend SPEED, 8 attend ECHO, 2 attend Park Forest Academy, 6 attend AAA Academy, 1 attends Southwest Cooperative, 1 attends Easter Seals, and 1 attends Elim Christian School. The District received 20 students who moved into the District with IEP's. Nine students entered the District with outside placements. Eleven students receive services in district. Thirty-nine eighth graders graduated from special education; eleven were out of district students.

The District has 75 initial evaluations this year with 61 completed evaluations. Forty-seven students of the 61 have qualified for services within the District. One hundred reevaluations have been scheduled with 95 completed, and five are pending. There were three evaluations conducted by outside services due to bilingual issues.

- *This was an Information Item. The Board of Education thanked Nancy Wilson for this update. The Board appreciated receiving this information so timely.*

Discussion Regarding Copiers

Joe Martin, Director of Operations, shared with Members of the Board the District owns eight Kodak copiers (3 at Parker, 2 at Western Avenue, 1 at Serena Hills, 1 at Flossmoor Hills, and 1 at District), which were purchased ten or eleven years ago. The copiers were not new, but refurbished units at the time of purchase. Mr. Martin mentioned because of the age of these computers and the computers out of production status, parts are extremely hard to obtain and computer down time is increasing. Also, the maintenance agreement associated with these machines expires in January 2010.

Mr. Martin obtained RFP quotes from eight vendors. The RFP requested a 60-month lease for copiers that would put out 75-80 copies per minute. The copiers must be networked and the service agreement should provide for 5.5 million copies. Chicago Office Tech Group met all the specifications and quoted the lowest price.

The District currently pays \$40,700 per year for a maintenance agreement, which does not include supplies. The new recommended agreement offers a lower price per copy as well as includes supplies on all eight copiers. Another feature of the new agreement is that after the five-year lease is up the District has the option to purchase each copier for \$1.00. The company will also buy out the existing lease, which expires in January.

The cost savings between the expiring agreement and the new agreement were compared.

Mr. Martin believes due to the economy it would be beneficial to move on this item so that copiers are in place before the start of the school year.

Mr. Moore asked amount the District is currently paying for paper. The District purchases its paper and art supplies through a purchasing cooperative. Dr. Pingitore would be happy to provide Mr. Moore with that information at a later date.

Mrs. Marks questioned if the new copiers would have the same longevity the Kodak copiers. Mr. Martin assured her they would and the company provides outstanding customer service per the references made.

The cost of toner cartridges and centralizing printers in the District was discussed. Mrs. Odom inquired as to why Heather Hill was not on the list. The administration stated Heather Hill entered into a lease agreement a few years ago and has newer digital copiers. Mr. Martin will revisit Heather Hill's lease.

A discussion took place regarding the disposal of the old copiers and how the District's Go Committee can help with recycling and the reduction of paper used in the District.

- *Recommendation: The Board recommends moving approval of the proposal by Chicago Office Tech Group to replace eight, out of production, Kodak copiers with eight new Xerox copiers to the July 13 Board of Education meeting.*

Discussion Regarding Computer Purchases

Deb Pitts, Director of Technology, shared with the Board members information she researched regarding comparative pricing for the 77 personal computers as teacher workstations at Parker Junior High the District will be purchasing. The question is can we get a better price if we go out to bid? Ms. Pitts shared the District currently has the lowest quote for \$725 per computer, and \$115 per 17" flat screen monitor, which is a total of \$830 for each unit. These are Duacore computers with a 2.16GHZ, a 3-year warranty, and a life expectancy of 6 to 8 years.

A discussion took place regarding the support services provided by HP and Dell. Price point vs. reliability was also discussed.

Faculty will receive support and inservice regarding the installed teacher workstations and these computers will be up and running at Parker Junior High prior to the start of school.

- *This was an Information Item. The Board of Education thanked Deb Pitts for this update. The Board appreciated receiving this information so timely.*

Adjournment

The agenda was exhausted, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Dr. David Dreyfuss, President

Ronald E. Moore, Secretary