



05-17

## Glen Ellyn School District 41

**Dr. Jack Barshinger, Superintendent**

### MINUTES

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TRUTH AND TAXATION HEARING ON THE 2004 TAX LEVY  
DECEMBER 13, 2004 - 7:15 P.M.  
DISTRICT 41 ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
MARY J. LUGINBILL BOARD ROOM**

President Vivoda opened The Truth and Taxation Hearing on the 2004 Tax Levy at 7:16 p.m. Jeanette Kreuz provided the following summary:

- As presented in the Truth in Taxation notice, the administration's Levy recommendation is a 29.66% increase over the previous year's total extension, but the District actually expects a total dollar increase to be 12.21% under the Property Tax Limitation Act. The increase is based on a CPI increase of 1.9% and an estimate of new construction of \$31,000,000 plus the rate increase factor from the 2001 referendum. The levy for debt service is expected to increase 1.56% as the result of the payment schedule for the bonds authorized by the 1997 referendum.
- The total District 41 taxes per \$100,000 of fair market value (EAV=\$33,333) are estimated to be \$1,045.98.
- The Levy includes special resolutions required for special education and life safety levies. Both levies are included within the tax cap. The Life Safety levy will provide funds for the replacement of student bathrooms at Lincoln and the Unit vents at Churchill.
- Because the levy is due before the EAV is calculated in April, the District asks for more than we expect or "over-levies." The County Clerk will not levy over the legal limit (EAV, the property tax cap, the amount requested, and the final year of phasing in the 2001 referendum) and will not increase the levy if District 41 shorts itself or "under-levies."
- Mrs. Kreuz reported that the Truth in Taxation Hearing was advertised on December 2, 2004 and she has received no requests from the public to provide testimony since the date of notice.

The board discussed whether or not the taxpayer really understood what the resulting increase of a successful 2001 referendum meant. Mr. Marcheschi said that an important piece of the levy is the trust of the taxpayer. Mr. Marcheschi explained that during the 2001 referendum, the District phased in the dollars rather than levy the amount all at once in order to maximize the tax dollars to the District. He stated that while this is a perfectly legal financial strategy, and the District can use every dollar that it receives, this is a strategy that effectively costs the taxpayer more money. He also felt that this phase-in strategy had not been sufficiently explained to the voters at the time of the referendum. On the other hand, board member Walt Snodell felt that the phase-in had

been openly discussed at the time of the referendum and that the voters approved a rate increase of \$.55, not a dollar amount. Mr. Vivoda added that because of the complexity of the property tax cap, most people do not completely understand the implications of the levy.

Mr. Marcheschi said that he would not vote in favor of adopting the Certificate of Tax Levy and tax levy resolutions.

Overall, board members agreed that it is critical to be open in discussing all of the District's financial matters.

The public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2004 - 7:30 P.M. DISTRICT 41 ADMINISTRATION CENTER MARY J. LUGINBILL BOARD ROOM

**7:00 p.m. BOARD OF EDUCATION LISTENING POST & STAFF RECEPTION**  
*Board members Marcheschi and McElvain were available from 7-7:15 p.m. during the Listening Post to provide an opportunity for informal conversation between residents and the Board.*

**7:30 pm REGULAR MEETING**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Vivoda called the December 13, 2004 regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were: DiFabio, Hoffman, Marcheschi, McElvain, Ruckstaetter, Snodell and Vivoda.
- IV. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS**
  - A. **Blue Ribbon Award Recognition:** The Board recognized Hadley Junior High's Physical Education Department for being one of 14 schools in Illinois to earn a Blue Ribbon Award from the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD). The board heard a report from Jennifer Felt, Chair of IAHPERD, on the strength of the physical education program at Hadley. The staff was recognized for their professionalism and for using their expertise and experience to meet the needs of all the students in the physical education program. The Hadley program places emphasis on team building activities and promotes "life-long learners." Recognized were: Cheryl Wittler, Judy Marchesi, Tiffany Anderson, Scott Dixon, Sam Szajkovics, Liz Hopkins and Tom Lofgren.
  - B. **March 2004 ISAT Report and Report Card Data:** Illinois public school districts are required to release school report cards to their local school boards, taxpayers, parents, etc. by December 15, 2004. John Correll presented an overview of the ISAT and Report Card data. This information will be posted on our web page and will go home in back packs in approximately a week. Dr. Correll reported that all of our schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) but also acknowledged that there are areas in which we can improve. The Board acknowledged that the School Report Cards are part of overall assessment activities, which provide feedback about student achievement, but expressed their disappointment in the lateness of receiving this information and with the way in which the state currently delivers the ISAT tests. They emphasized the need for the District to focus on individual student growth and suggested that the District rely on local assessments vs. the state ISAT's. Dr. Barshinger agreed and said that we have the resources; it is just a matter of changing our priorities. A copy of the summary is attached. (Attachment)
  - C. **Critical Friends Report:** Dinah Bryant presented an overview of the data from our CEC Critical Friends' Report. This data will be used as benchmark information for the District's continuous improvement efforts. The report acknowledged the District's great start to implementing a plan for systemic improvement and recommended that we focus on aligning our curriculum to

state standards. It was also noted that we need to "go slow to go fast" and focus on doing fewer things, but doing them better.

Overall, the Board was impressed with this process and is anxious to get the baseline data and begin next steps. Dr. Barshinger explained that for senior management, this is the baseline data that will be used to measure future improvement. The District 41 Teams for Excellence are the first step. By contract, the Building Leadership Teams, the Professional Development Team and the Learning Leadership Team are advisory committees that make recommendations to the Continuous Improvement Team (CIT). The CIT committee is responsible for ensuring that District systems are aligned with our key objectives and priorities. (Attachment)

- D. **BP Award:** Dr. Barshinger reported that he, John Correll and Director of Programs and Grants Lillie Abbott attended the BP Leader Awards dinner at the Chicago Athletic Club honoring the BP (British Petroleum) Leaders Awards Grant recipients for their creativity and innovation in habitat conversation and math and science education. District 41 received a \$15,000 grant check to be used for the "Inquiring Minds Want to Know" project submitted by Lillie Abbott with the help of Barb Oczkowicz, Bob Thompson, Dina Sbarra and Jim Bourke. Sometime in the future, Lillie will present the Board with the details of the grant and a project update.

#### V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no formal public participation.

#### VI. CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Teaching, Learning and Accountability

1. Personnel Report (Attachment)
2. Acceptance of the 2004 School Report Card and authorization to distribute

##### B. Policy/Procedures. No action.

##### C. Finance, Facilities and Operations (*\$ denotes financial attachment*)

1. Treasurer's Report \$ Attachment 1
2. Investment Schedule \$ Attachment 2
3. Cash Balances Report \$ Attachment 3
4. Variance Report: Revenues by Fund \$ Attachment 4
5. Variance Report: Expenditures by Fund \$ Attachment 5
6. Accounts Payable and Payroll \$ Attachment 6
7. Vandalism Report \$ Attachment 7
8. Disposal of Surplus Property \$ Attachment 8
9. 2004-2005 FOIA Report \$ Attachment 9
10. Acceptance of PEP Fund Donation \$ Attachment 10
11. Authorization to Develop 2004-2005 Budget \$ Attachment 11
12. Approval of Life Safety Amendments \$ Attachment 12
13. School Crisis Management Guidelines \$ Attachment 13

##### D. Other Matters

1. Board Meeting Minutes:
  - a. November 15 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
  - b. November 29, 2004 Special Meeting
2. Board Committee Minutes
  - a. Finance Committee Meeting: 11-29-04
  - b. Policy Committee Meetings: 11-12 & 11-29-04
3. AFSCME Contract Addendum: This addendum defines AFSCME's participation in the District 41 Teams for Excellence (Continuous Improvement Team, Learning Leadership Team, Professional Development Team and Building Leadership Teams. (Attachment)

*Mr. DiFabio moved and Mrs. Hoffman seconded to approve to approve the actions and accept the reports as presented in the Consent Agenda. On a roll call vote answering Aye: DiFabio, Hoffman, Marcheschi, McElvain, Ruckstaetter, Snodell and Vivoda. Answering Nay: None. Motion carried.*

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Teaching, Learning and Accountability**

1. 2005-2006 Program Plan: Classroom Sections: Dr. Barshinger and John Correll provided the first part of the 2005-2006 Program Plan. The Administration's recommendation for the 2005-2006 school year included the hiring of six additional teachers and the addition of a four-room portable classroom at Churchill, Franklin Lincoln and a two-room portable classroom at Forest Glen. The District is working with FGM on site planning for these portable classrooms. The Board expressed its appreciation to Dr. Barshinger and his team for having a plan in place this early.

*Mr. DiFabio moved and Mrs. McElvain seconded to approve the 2005-2006 Program Plan as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

### **B. Policy/Procedures**

First Reading:

1. Section 8, Community Relations (New)
2. 2:220 School Board - School Board Meeting Procedures (*Revised*)
3. 2:220-E1 School Board - Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Records and Minutes (*Revised*)
4. 3:30-AP General School Administration – Organizational Chart for Administration (*Revised*)
5. 3:40AP General School Administration – Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline (*New*)
6. 5:30AP2 General Personnel – Investigations (*Revised*)
7. 5:35AP1 General Personnel – Fair Labor Standards Act Exemptions (*Revised*)
8. 5:130 General Personnel – Assignment and Rotation of Staff (*New*)

The Administration recommended Board approval of the first reading of the above-referenced policies. The second reading, approval and adoption will be recommended at the January 24, 2005 regular meeting. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Barshinger noted that the Board will need to review and discuss the following items prior to the second reading on January 24, 2005:

- Facility Rental Fees
- Policy in Section 8:25 – Advertising, etc. (Broader in scope than the current policy)

*Mr. Ruckstaetter moved and Mr. DiFabio seconded to approve the first reading of the above-referenced policies as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

(Appendix A)

### **C. Finance, Facilities and Operations**

1. Student Fees for FY 2005-2006: The Administration recommended that the Board approve an increase in student activity fees annually, rather

than on the past practice of large increases every five years. The recommended increase for the 2005-2006 school year is reflected on the attached fee schedule. (\$Attachment 14)

*Mr. DiFabio moved and Mr. Marcheschi seconded to approve the 2005-2006 student fee increases as reflected on the attached. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

2. Adoption of Certificate of Tax Levy: A Truth and Taxation Hearing was held earlier in the evening. The Administration recommended that the Board adopt the 2004 Tax Levy to be collected in 2005 for the 2005-2006 school term.

*Mrs. McElvain moved and Mr. DiFabio seconded to adopt the Certificate of Tax Levy and tax levy resolutions as presented on the attached and to authorize the Administration to implement the Levy Strategy as presented to make necessary adjustments to calculations prepared by the DuPage County Clerk. On a roll call vote answering Aye: McElvain, Ruckstaetter, Snodell, DiFabio, Hoffman, Vivoda. Answering Nay: Marcheschi. Motion carried.*

(\$ Attachment 15)

3. Facilities Task Force & Administrative Recommendations: The Administration supports the Facilities Task Force Recommendation to provide a long-term solution to the District's overcrowding and lack of program space: The Board and Administration feel that this recommendation is the best programmatic solution and one that gives future District 41 administrators and boards of education the most flexibility. The Administration recommended Board approval of the Facilities Task Force Recommendation to:

- Renovate the existing schools
- Build a new school
- Change the District's educational program model to four K-4 elementary schools, one 5-6 intermediate school and one 7-8 grade junior high school.

The estimated cost is \$29.3 million and does not include the cost for land acquisition.

The Board commended the staff for their diligence and hard word and commended District 41 staff for doing an outstanding job for our students, despite the crowded conditions.

The Board also reiterated its decision not to go to referendum in April 2005, as they do not feel they have adequate information to get the support of the public. The Board added that it would not vote on a referendum date until after the April 5, 2005 School Board election.

*Mrs. Hoffman moved and Mrs. McElvain seconded to approve the Facilities Task Force and Administrative recommendations as described above.. On a roll call vote answering Aye: Hoffman, Marcheschi, McElvain, Ruckstaetter, Snodell, DiFabio and Vivoda. Answering Nay: None. Motion carried.*

4. Facilities Architect Request for Proposal: The Administration recommended that the Board authorize them to solicit proposals for architectural work to bid documents for:
  - a. Building renovations at all five schools as recommended by the Facilities Task Force
  - b. The construction of a new building (at a site to be determined) to facilitate the transition of District 41 to an educational program model of four K-4 elementary schools, one 5-6 school and one 7-8 school. The estimated cost of this transition is one million dollars. The Administration recommended soliciting proposals for prices and fees as required by the School Code before the District makes the financial commitment. Dr. Barshinger stated that this is a qualitative, not quantitative process. The Administration anticipates having concrete costs available by the January 24, 2005 regular board meeting. Dr. Barshinger explained that he would like to defer any payments until July 2005 of the next fiscal year so that the District can keep the 2004-05 budget on track and plan for the 2005-2006 school year.

*Mr. Marcheschi moved and Mr. DiFabio seconded to authorize the Administration to create Requests for Proposals for architectural services in preparation for the Task Force Facilities Recommendation. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

#### **VIII. BOARD REPORTS**

Board reports were tabled.

#### **IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

No report was given.

#### **X. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Upcoming Policy Issues: The Policy and Finance Committees will need to schedule a joint meeting in January to review finance policy before review by the entire Board at their January 24, 2005 regular meeting.

#### **XI. ANNOUNCEMENT SECTION**

- A. Upcoming Board meetings:
  - January 24, 2005 regular meeting, 7:30 p.m.
  - February 7, 2005 special meeting, 6:00 p.m.

#### **XII. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

*At 10:30 p.m. Mr. Marcheschi moved and Mr. DiFabio seconded to adjourn to closed session to discuss:*

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.
- B. Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- C. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

D. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

**XIII. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION:** *Mr. DiFabio moved Mrs. McElvain seconded to return to adjourn to closed session and return to open meeting at 11:07 p.m. On a roll call vote answering Aye: DiFabio, Hoffman, Marcheschi, McElvain, Ruckstaetter, Snodell and Vivoda. Answering Nay: None. Motion carried.*

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT** *There being no further business, Mr. DiFabio moved and Mrs. McElvain seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 11:08 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

Recorded: December 13, 2004

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Deborah M. Hoffman, Secretary

Approved: January 24, 2005

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John J. Vivoda, *President*