

**MINUTES
GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FACILITIES WORKSHOP
APRIL 26, 2004**

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Glen Ellyn School District 41 was held on Monday, April 26, 2004 at Hadley Junior High School, 240 Hawthorne Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Roll Call and Call to Order

President Vivoda called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Members present were Mr. DiFabio, Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Marcheschi, Mrs. McElvain, Mr. Ruckstaetter, Mr. Snodell and Mr. Vivoda.

Welcome & Introduction

President Vivoda welcomed and thanked participants for attending the fifth in a series of facilities workshops to study the overcrowding at District 41 facilities.

Dr. Barshinger explained that this workshop is to provide the Board with background material on Multi-Track Year-Round Education (MTYRE). MTYRE is a calendar system in which students attend school for the same number of days as they do now with a traditional school calendar, but on staggered schedules so that not all students are in school at the same time. MTYRE can increase the number of students a school can accommodate by 33%

MTYRE is only one of many options that the Board is studying to address the growing student population. The Board noted that it has an obligation to the taxpayers to conduct due diligence on all options. Exploring all options will allow the community to make informed decisions. Dr. Barshinger and President Vivoda stressed that the District is still in the process of collecting data on MTYRE and that no decisions have been made.

Participants were asked to submit questions on the 3 x 5 index cards that were provided. Time permitting, an opportunity will be provided at the end of the presentation for comments and/or questions. Questions and comments will be collected and posted on the District's website.

Below is a recap of Dr. Barshinger's PowerPoint presentation:

Background

- A review of facilities meetings:
 - #1 October 9, 2004, Forest Glen School – brainstorming session
 - #2 November 3, 2004, Ben Franklin School – plus/delta session
 - #3 December 1, 2003, Hadley Junior High School–Options review and priority setting
 - #4 March 3, 2004, Churchill – Architect Data Review
 - #5 April 26, 2004, Hadley Junior High School, Year Round Education review
 - #6 May 13, 2004, Forest Glen School
- Discussion on how year-round education might affect the school community (the community at large, family life, student success, staff, programs and services, etc.)

- A review of the issue, increasing student enrollment

Discussion on MTYRE

- What we've learned to date:
 - MTYRE is one option the Board may pursue
 - Transition planning to MTYRE takes 12-24 months
 - In a MTYRE plan, students attend school the same number of days as they do now
 - Families are on the same track or cycle
 - All facilities used in an MTYRE should be air-conditioned
 - A 60-15 (Trimester Plan) provides a district-wide summer break
 - MTYRE appears to be more cost effective than portables when a district exceeds 116% of facilities capacity
- Family life and community perspective: Parent Fiona Miller said that there were many unanswered questions about MTYRE and urged the folks to keep an open mind as the district continues to gather information on MTYRE.
- Administrative perspective: Churchill principal Karen Stebel and Franklin principal, Susan Miller discussed what they value most and consider to be the optimal learning environment. They wondered if they would have to trade what they value most for more space. They don't know, but are willing to find the answers.
- Staff perspective: This item was tabled as staff representatives did not feel they were prepared at this time to provide a perspective on the impact MTYRE would have on staff. This information will be available at the May 13th meeting.
- Costs associated with MTYRE: Air conditioning (for all schools), utilities, bus transportation, twelve month staffing, differential costs for custodial services on nights and weekends vs. summer, differential costs for maintaining the buildings, intersession costs for remediation, etc., storage containers
- Potential timelines

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- Community and staff cooperation is essential for any solution.
- The focus of any continued study must be on providing the highest quality educational program.
- MTYRE is being considered only as a way to gain space and the District has not made any determination about the learning impact on students.
- The District will develop a cost analysis for MTYRE as costs for other options are studied.
- All options have associated costs and the Board would have to seek voter approval for any of these options if their implementation were to incur significant additional funding.
- Further study will be necessary to determine top options for long- term facilities options.
- Next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2004, 7:30 p.m. at Forest Glen School. At that time, the Board of Education will review data collected on the various space options and develop a timeline for their decision.

Public Participation

- The Board provided an opportunity to residents for questions and/or comments on MTYRE. Approximately 23 parents addressed the Board, most of whom were upset with such a radical idea and expressed concern regarding its negative impact on family life and the quality of education. Parent, Simon Bare, representing a parent organization called Families Advocating Traditional Education (FATE) said that this a radical change that would tear the community apart. He added that this is a decision that is based on economics, not on the educational benefits to children. Some thought it was courageous

of the board to investigate MTYRE, despite its unpopularity. A summary of the student facility planning process so far, including frequently asked questions/comments and responses about MTYRE, if they were available, are posted on the district's web page at www.d41.org.

Adjournment

Mr. DiFabio moved and Mr. Marcheschi seconded to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education at 10:00 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Recorded: April 26, 2004

Deborah M. Hoffman, *Secretary*

Approved: May 17, 2004

John J. Vivoda, *President*