



Glen Ellyn School District 41

Dr. Jack Barshinger, Superintendent

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2005
7:30 P.M.
FOREST GLEN SCHOOL
561 ELM STREET, GLEN ELLYN**

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call: President Vivoda called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Kevin Cosgrove, Terra Howard, Debbie Hoffman, John Kenwood, John Marcheschi, Carol McElvain and John Vivoda
- II. Public Participation (on non-agenda items): There was no public participation on non-agenda items.
- II. Overview & PowerPoint: Dr. Barshinger began with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights of his presentation included:
 - A. Meeting Objective:

To make a presentation on the Administration's long-range recommendation. He noted that the meeting purpose was not to authorize the expenditure of money, to make a site selection or to make a funding decision and that the Board is not scheduled to take any action on these recommendations. The first possible date the Board will take action is at their next regular meeting on November 28, 2005.
 - B. History of Recent Facilities Investigations:
 - Blue Ribbon Committee: Research conducted September 2002 through January 2003. Report on January 21, 2003
 - Community Forums
 - #1: October 9, 2003 Brainstorming Session
 - #2: November 3, 2003 Facilities Option Discussions
 - #3: December 1, 2003 Rating and Ranking of Options
 - #4: March 8, 2004 Architectural Reports
 - #5: April 6, 2004 Multi-track Year Round School Discussion
 - #6: May 13, 2004 Master Planning
 - #7: September 8, 2004 Community Forum Summary
 - #8: October 12, 2004 Options Focused to Final Three
 - #9: November 29, 2004 Facilities Task Force Report Presentation
 - #10: June 13, 2005 Facilities Site Locations Discussion
 - #11: September 12, 2005 Site Feasibility Reports
 - #12: November 14, 2005 Administrative Facilities Recommendation

- C. November 15, 2004 Facilities Task Force Report. The Task Force concluded that 1) District 41 schools are overcrowded 2) Steady enrollment growth will continue as projected 3) A new school is needed to accommodate this enrollment growth.

The complete Facilities Task Force Report can be found on the D41 website at:
http://www.d41.dupage.k12.il.us/facilities/facility_taskforcereport.pdf

- D. Past referenda
- 1) 1997 – remodel buildings and build additions for a target 25 students per classroom. To add music and art to the curriculum requiring 10 classroom district wide.
 - 2) 2001 – primary objective to have appropriate class size for K-5. Funds also required to hire staff (not space) and close the structural deficit.
- E. Current state of D41 facilities
- 26 portable classrooms in use
 - 580 students in portables
 - 2005 – 2006 student enrollment is projected to be 3600 (**currently 3573*)
 - Building infrastructures cannot support projected enrollments (Gym, lunchroom, art, music, parking, traffic, bathrooms and hallways)
 - Safety
- F. Demographic Report Update: Dr. John Correll, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Accountability reviewed NIU's Demographic Study Update and discussed the themes of 2005 findings:
1. The November 14, 2005 study verified a slow steady enrollment growth through year 2012 (approximately 1-2 percent per year)
 2. Our current enrollment is 3,573 and our best prediction is for enrollment to peak at 3,857 in the year 2012.
 3. Enrollment growth represents an increase of approximately 7.5% over a seven-year period and is the highest D41 enrollment in at least 20 years.
- G. Administrative Recommendations: Dr. Barshinger presented the Administrative Facilities Recommendations:
1. Build a new 5th-6th intermediate school at Hadley
 2. Connect the intermediate and junior high schools through core areas to be used by both schools at different times. The intermediate and junior high schools would be self-contained and the children will not interact during the school day.
 3. Two schools would share core spaces with separate entryways, arrival and dismissal times, lunch schedules and bus schedules
 4. New school will become the junior high and the existing building will become the intermediate school

- H. Rationale for Choosing the Hadley Campus: Dr. Barshinger summarized the reasons for choosing the Hadley campus for a new school:
1. Minimizes transitions between buildings
 2. Preserves open space
 3. Spalding site remains a future elementary option
 4. No new land acquisition is required
 5. Cost-effective measure from a construction and ongoing operations standpoint
 6. Provides the district long-range flexibility
- I. Administrative Program Planning Team: Dr. Jack Barshinger, Dr. John Correll, Mrs. Laura Campbell, Dr. Christopher Dransoff, Mr. Scott Klespitz and Mr. Kristopher Monn and Mrs. Julie Worthen.
- J. Program Plan Highlights: Lincoln principal, Laurie Campbell gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the District's Program Plan. She explained that it will improve the learning environment for all students so they leave District 41 better prepared for success in high school and beyond with particular focus on an expansion of the curricular program for grades 5-8. It was noted that 5-6 grades would be impacted most by this change. Highlights of the proposed plan changes included:
1. Expanded foreign language
 2. Introduction of two support programs: Academic Support and Advisory
 3. Strengthened Exploratory Program
 4. Ability-level Math instruction in Grades 7 and 8
- Also reviewed were the proposed changes to the curriculum for Elementary grades K-4, Intermediate grades 5-6 and Junior High grades 7-8.
- K. Transition Planning: Dr. Dransoff reviewed the proposed transition plan for students, staff and parents for a grade-level transition from one building to another – Grade 4 to 5 and grade 6 to 7 for all stakeholders
- L. Financial Planning Program: Dr. Barshinger reviewed the financial data that was developed in cooperation with PMA Financial Planning. It included a five-year projection of year-end balances with operational costs of for both the Hadley and Spalding building site options. The projections indicate that the operational costs for the Hadley building site option would be considerably less than Spalding.
- M. Building Concept Design: Dr. Barshinger introduced Augie Battaglia of FGM Architects to review the proposed building concept designs for a new school at the Hadley site. Mr. Battaglia explained that the design was developed based on FGM's work with members of the Facilities Program Planning Committee.

A copy of this information will be placed on display at the District's Central Services Office.

- N. Summary: In summary Dr. Barshinger said that the Administration felt that this is a plan for all students and the community and addresses improvement in learning and teaching for all students. It incorporates our stakeholders' values of excellence, equity and fiscal responsibility and is consistent with the expectations our community has for its schools. It accommodates the growth that NIU's demographic study tells us to expect, optimizes District resources and provides flexibility to meet the District's changing needs.
- O. Next Steps: Dr. Barshinger said that if the Board of Education saw fit to endorse the following recommendation that the Administration would begin to work on an implementation plan that includes all the elements needed for a smooth transition to this new organizational plan.

The Administration recommended that the Board of Education approve:

1. The concept of four K-4 elementary schools, one 5-6 intermediate school and one 7-8 junior high.
2. The building site of the Hadley Junior High Campus
3. The concept of two separate schools connected by shared core areas
4. The associated program plan concept for teaching and learning

Copies of the complete Administrative Facilities Recommendation, the 2004 demographic study and the 2005 demographic study update are attached and can also be found on the D41 website at http://www.d41.dupage.k12.il.us/news/admin_recommend.htm.

Traffic studies for Spalding and Hadley are available at the District offices upon request.

Public Comment

- Resident Monica Miller, 607 Western, Glen Ellyn said that while she appreciates the time and effort of the planning team and the many volunteers, she does not endorse the Administration's recommendations. Mrs. Miller said that she has been with the process since the beginning and before; does not support a 5-6th center for any reason on any site and feels that the community has been overtaxed fiscally and emotionally.
- Hadley Resident Pete Lorusa thanked the Board and Dr. Barshinger for preserving the green area around Hadley. Dr. Barshinger credited FGM architects for that work.
- Resident Mary Ellen Walksler, 941 Crescent Boulevard, asserted that the Board and Administration are attempting to shift their culpability for the extra tax burden imposed on D41 residents as a result of the 2001 referendum phase-in by focusing on an enrollment crisis. She said that instead of recommending that a new school be built, the Board should be seriously considering a way to pay back money to District 41 taxpayers. She noted that Hinsdale District 181 also phased-in a referendum which had the same impact on its taxpayers and that the 181 Board would be meeting tonight to discuss options to reconcile this situation with its community. Mrs. Walksler did not feel that the District 41 community would support a referendum to build another school and urged the Board to make right

what many feel is an issue of public trust before embarking on any brick and mortar solution for the District's overcrowding.

- Steve Vondrak, wanted a more detailed timeline on school start times, bus schedules, etc. and asked what was the purpose of this meeting. The board explained that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to hear the Administration's conceptual recommendations on the building site location and design and the program plan. The conceptual plan will be available at the end of tonight's meeting, but the implementation details need to be worked out.
- Simon Bare, 196 East Road, Glen Ellyn, commented on two items: The first was the Administrative Facilities Recommendation. He said that he supported the Administrative recommendations, felt it was a good plan and urged the Board to move as quickly as possible on these recommendations. He acknowledged that there were still many details that need to be sorted out, but said that details will come later. The second was to clear up rumor and innuendo about a petition to state legislators about the state construction grant program that has been circulating. He explained that while some believe the grant program is a charity effort, the petition was formulated to urge legislators to reconsider financial assistance to districts that qualify and need financial assistance through the State's School Grant Construction Program, a program funded by our tax money. He noted that District 41 qualifies for the program and that our efforts should be focused on moving ahead with this plan so that the District no longer qualifies for the program.
- Resident Chris Saviaino, 244 Linden, Glen Ellyn, asked if there are open space guidelines or requirements and what variances would be required for the proposed building site. The Board explained that while the requirements are provided in the Illinois School code, it is likely that D41 schools currently fall below the requirements for green space. In terms of variances, it has already been determined that a variance for height may be needed. While it is a code requirement for the amount of stored water needed at the site, the proposed underground water system is not considered a variance. It is a code requirement for the amount of stored water needed on the site.

Other Comments (by persons unknown):

- Request for comparisons between the existing and proposed program plan, demonstrating the advantages of the new program plan. The Board agreed that this is a reasonable request.
- What is the impact of a longer day on 10-11 year olds? Isn't it too much time away from home? Dr. Barshinger said that while approximately ½ hour is added to 5th grade school day, the proposed curriculum leaves children with a more flexible schedule and offers them opportunities to take part in more engaging activities. Currently, the 5th grade curriculum is so crowded that the ½ hour extra will provide them with an opportunity to slow down. It will also afford parents more opportunities to attend school activities.
- Will there be times during the day when 5th graders will have to mingle with 8th graders in the hallway? Dr. Barshinger replied "no."

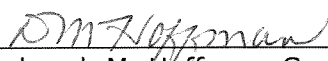
- If the board endorses this plan, will the District be ready for the 2007-08 school year? Dr. Barshinger said probably not until the 2008-2009 school year.

Board comments:

Board president Vivoda asked what additional information was needed for the Board to endorse the Administrative Facilities Recommendations. Board members reaffirmed their need for the following information:

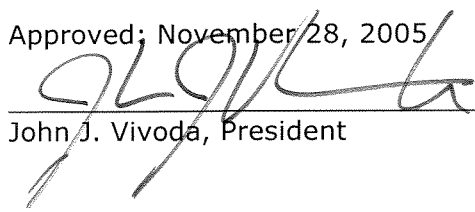
- Building and operational costs.
 - More details on the Program Plan, which will ultimately drive the costs
 - Additional information on how the logistical complexities of this recommendation that will impact approximately 1600 children will be addressed
 - More information/options on tracking and ability grouping for multiple
- P. *Adjourn Special Meeting: Terra Howard moved and Carol McElvain seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

Recorded: November 14, 2005



Deborah M. Hoffman, Secretary

Approved: November 28, 2005



John J. Vivoda, President

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