



## Glen Ellyn School District 41

Dr. Jack Barshinger, Superintendent

**MINUTES (AMENDED 8-22-05)  
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2005-2006 BUDGET  
JUNE 27, 2005 - 7:15 P.M.  
DISTRICT 41 ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
MARY J. LUGINBILL BOARD ROOM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Board President John Vivoda opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. Members present: Kevin Cosgrove, Terra Costa Howard, Debbie Hoffman, John Marcheschi, Carol McElvain and John Vivoda. John Kenwood joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
- II. BUDGET OVERVIEW:** Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations gave an overview of the FY 2005-2006 budget that has been on display since the May 16, 2005.

Estimated Revenues

|                |              |              |                     |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Education      | \$29,241,624 | IMRF         | \$ 698,129          |
| Operations     | \$ 3,160,644 | Site         | \$ 592,960          |
| Bond           | \$ 2,477,916 | W. Cash      | \$ 471,593          |
| Transportation | \$ 998,022   | <u>Total</u> | <u>\$37,640,888</u> |

Estimated Expenditures

|                |              |              |                     |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Education      | \$31,119,000 | IMRF         | \$ 701,972          |
| Operations     | \$ 4,326,757 | Site         | \$ 1,223,689        |
| Bond           | \$ 2,395,852 | <u>Total</u> | <u>\$40,711,395</u> |
| Transportation | \$ 944,125   |              |                     |

Balanced Budget

- The Board has decided to balance the budget using cash reserves
- These reserves are being used for one-time capital expenses
- The Board has planned for these expenses as part of the facilities plan that has been developed

Balanced Budget History

- Six Year Totals
- The graph shows that District 41 has successfully implemented its Balanced Budget Policy
- Only one-time revenues are being funded by Cash Reserves

### **III. PUBLIC INPUT**

The District 41 Board of Education was available to take public input regarding the 2005-06 Proposed Budget. There being none, Kevin Cosgrove moved and John Marcheschi seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 27, 2005  
DISTRICT 41 ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
MARY J. LUGINBILL BOARD ROOM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Board president, John Vivoda called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. ROLL CALL:** Members present: Kevin Cosgrove, John Kenwood, Terra Costa Howard, Debbie Hoffman, John Marcheschi, Carol McElvain and John Vivoda.

- IV. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**
- A. ITBS Report & Revisions to D41 Assessment Plan: Dr. John Correll, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Accountability provided the Board with an overview of District 41's assessment plan for student learning. Highlights of the presentation:
- Purpose of ITBS data
  - Key Concepts
  - System/Leadership Levels of Assessment of Learning
  - Building/Classroom Levels of Assessments for and of Learning
  - District 41 Assessments: District 41 measures student performance in numerous ways, including the following tests: ISAT, IAA, ITBS, IMAGE, COGAT
  - 2004-2005 Current Assessment Plan
  - 2005-2006 Proposed Assessment Plan
  - 2004 Student Academic Performance

The District is currently working on improving its plan to better align assessments with curriculum, improve timing and quality of assessments to provide more useful feedback for teachers, and address the gaps in the process.

Board members agreed that timing and impact on classroom instruction should be considered when reviewing the District's Assessment Plan. The results of ISAT tests are received late and do little to help students in the classroom. Alignment, rapid feedback and year-to-year monitoring are critical.

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A. April 3, 2001 Operating Rate Referendum: Board president John Vivoda read the following statement clarifying the April 3, 2001 tax referendum.

"For District 41 residents, the spring, 2005 property tax bill included the final phase-in of the 2001 tax rate referendum. Recently, there has been discussion in the press and in communities throughout the Chicago area about the financial impact of phasing in a referendum, rather than levying the approved increase in one year. Tax Cap law

allows districts to implement a successful referendum over five years and most districts in tax-cap areas have chosen to phase-in their referenda. Phasing in allows districts to levy close to the approved rate over five years. In a one-year implementation, the approved rate may be levied for one year, after which the tax cap legislation forces the rate down over time.

The practice of multi-year implementation has come into question because it generated higher than anticipated revenues. The BOE and administration take these questions very seriously. We asked an independent financial advisor to work with us on reviewing our financial documents and procedures, and asked our law firm to examine our compliance with the law. We examined our files to review the referendum communication with the public. Tonight, we want to address these questions: Did we use the funds as promised? Did we communicate our intentions to the public? Were we within the law in all our dealings? The answer is yes; we could have done much better, and yes.

In summary:

- The district is committed to being open and transparent in all its decisions. We've learned that we need to provide as many specifics as we can about all aspects of any referendum we may put forward in the future, at the same time helping the public to understand that there is an element of uncertainty about the outcome of rate increases, since rates are determined by, and applied to, several changing factors.
- The money was spent as promised and allowed us to provide for the needs of a growing and changing student body.
- Our auditors and the board find the district's finances to be well managed.
- The levy rate and phase-in process complied with the tax cap law (Property Tax Limitation Law, or PTELL).

D41 is very grateful every day for the support the community has provided to students over the years and strives to give back to the community by providing an exceptional education to its children. 92% of our revenues come from the taxpayers---we need you.

I'd like to add a few words about ways we, as a district and as a board, are being responsible and accountable with taxpayer money.

- Our labor agreements are tied to the CPI, in other words, to our revenue stream.
- We constantly look at our health care costs and are transferring some of these increased costs to our employees over time.
- We have a solid capital improvement plan that covers our long-term needs.
- We have aligned our staff to goals. This includes our administrative team, which has been restructured at no additional cost to the district.
- Our process is to align our levy to our budget, rather than align the budget to our levy; this way the budget is a true reflection of real needs and the relationship between staffing and other costs.

- We continue to strive for open and honest communication in all of our work. In the future, we will apply our continuous improvement model to enhance future communications with the community.”

Board member comments:

Board member, Debbie Hoffman stated that she was appointed to the District 41 Board of Education shortly before the 2001 referendum passed. Since this issue first surfaced she has done much reflection and realizes that the phase-in of the referendum is a complicated process – one that she admittedly did not completely understand until after the June 25, 2005 special board meeting during which an analysis of the 2001 referendum was presented by District legal counsel. Mrs. Hoffman acknowledged the Board of Education’s responsibility to be open and honest in communicating facts and information about future referenda.

Board member John Kenwood stated that he was not a member of the Board at the time of 2001 Referendum, but he views the decision to vote “yes” or “no” to a referendum as a taxpayer or citizens’ right. He added that part of his motivation to run for the Board was to have an opportunity to collaborate and communicate.

Public Comment:

Resident Monica Miller said that the District did not provide the public with the necessary tools to make an informed voting decision and that the five year phase-in of the 2001 Referendum violated the spirit, if not the letter, of the law. She wondered how many citizens would have voted differently if they had known the full tax implications of the five-year phase-in.

Another gentlemen added that it would be helpful in the future to make website information (i.e. D41 budget) clearer with footnotes, etc. The more transparent we are, the more trust we will earn.

Board member John Marcheschi agreed and said that the District is currently trying to translate the complicated financial data that is required by Illinois School Code into a sensible and understandable format.

Resident Erica Nelson said that citizens and taxpayers have a responsibility to keep abreast of issues in the District and need to challenge each other to get better at being consistent with communication and collaboration and avoid the tidal wave affect.

Resident Jim Markby acknowledged the challenges faced by the Board and expressed his appreciation for their efforts. He was concerned with the manner in which past referenda have been promoted and with the notion that the Board had resigned itself to having future referenda in lieu of looking for alternative methods of funding.

Resident Mary Ellen Walksler asked board members John Vivoda and Debbie Hoffman, both of whom were on the Board at the time of the 2001 Referendum, if they understood the full tax implications of the five-year phase-in. Mrs. Hoffman said that she did not know at the

time how much her taxes would increase but the Board knew that in order for the District to sustain the needed revenue without having to go back to the community for at least five years, they would need to maximize the benefits of this referendum. Mr. Vivoda said that the District knew it would phase in the increase over a five-year period and that it had been stated at various public forums. Mrs. Walksler reiterated that she had no recollection of the phase-in being shared publicly and felt that the Board had an obligation to the District 41 taxpayers to revisit this issue.

Board member Carol McElvain took exception to the allegations that the District received some huge windfall of money. She explained that what the District has been doing is taking the funds and meeting the needs of the 3600 children enrolled in District 41—Meeting someone else’s dream to educate his or her children.

Board member Kevin Cosgrove said that he appreciates everyone’s point of view and that by delivering this public statement, the Board has acknowledged that the phase in was not adequately explained to the public and is committed to being more transparent and fully disclose the finances of the District. He added that at some point in time there needs to be willingness on the part of everyone interested in benefiting the children of District 41 to move this District forward together.

Mr. Marcheschi said that that a positive that has come out of this issue is that the District 41 Board and Administration is committed to taking a closer look at District finances and how we deliver our services to determine if we can provide these services for less money.

## **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Residents Pete and Becky Lorusso, Bill Lange, Daniel Nielsen and James and Cathy Truesdale expressed their opposition to the Hadley Junior High School campus as one of three possible building sites for a new school to accommodate the District’s growing enrollment. Among the reasons were esthetics, loss of open space, noise pollution, traffic congestion, safety and possible flooding caused by underground streams

Mr. Truesdale also presented the attached petition dated June 15, 2005 from Hadley neighbors objecting to building a new school on the Hadley site. Hadley and explained that out of a possible 51 people, 44 people signed the petition.

(Attachment)

Resident Joyce Miller, also a Hadley neighbor said she was one who did not sign the petition because she would like to learn more about 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade school concept and find some magic land. She commended the District for the information currently on the website

Maureen Mladucky, resident who lives behind Hadley said she also did not sign the petition and felt that people need to develop more trust among each other. She added that you can’t always believe what you read and feels that everyone needs more information.

Resident Sherry Shonkwiler wanted to know how much money has been spent to date on architectural fees. Mr. Vivoda estimated that less than \$50,000 has been spent over the last 18 mos.

Michael Lynch, residence unknown commented on the following items

- 1) District needs to improve its accuracy with enrollment projections with Hadley.
- 2) District should conduct a door-to-door kindergarten census and asked if kindergarten enrollment is for the 2005-2006 school year was available. Dr. Barshinger said that the information was not yet available and
- 3) Inquired whether Board has decided on a preliminary referendum for Capital Improvements as he suggested in his letter to the Board at the June 13, 2005 meeting. The Board replied that it had not decided.

Resident Doris Nelson and Spalding neighbor said that the people that are opposed to building on the Spalding site are also opposed to building on the Hadley site. She contends that she attended a Park District Board meeting and asserts that if the District is left with no alternatives, the Park District is willing to give up some of their soccer fields and work with District on the Ackerman Park site.

Board member Terra Costa Howard said that the District 41 Board has attended many meetings with the Park District over the past several months at all levels and the Board has never heard that from the Park District. D41 put a proposal together about potential sites, which included a proposal for Ackerman Park. The Park District rejected the Ackerman Park proposal. Park District officials were invited to attend the June 13, 2005 facilities forum where the possible sites were being discussed, but no Park District representatives were in attendance.

Resident Brad Payne and Spalding neighbor asked that the Board please take Spalding residents out of the limbo with the idea that homes may be taken at a future date and asked the Board for reassurance that if the Spalding site is chosen for a new building that it would be done so without displacing families. He stated that he contacted the County about property deeds and covenants, which were available and also spoke to the hydrologist about flooding. The hydrologist suggested that there are number of options that would allow the District to build on the Spalding site without the need for land acquisition.

Resident Richard Ruth asked why the Board is in favor of an option that will cost 4 million dollars more and displace families. Mr. Vivoda said that the Board affirmed the recommendations of the Facilities Task Force Committee and has pursued options based on their recommendations.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Teaching, Learning and Accountability
  1. Personnel Report (Attachment)
- B. Policy/Procedures
  1. 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. Prevailing Wage Act (\$ Attachment 10)
  11. 2005 Gym Window Replacement Work: Hadley (\$ Attachment 11)
  12. 2005 Locker Painting Work: Hadley (\$ Attachment 12)
  13. Central Services Renovations Project (\$ Attachment 13)
- D. Other Matters
1. Board Meetings & Committee Minutes
    - a. May 16, 2005 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
    - b. May 31, 2005 Special Meeting and Closed Session
    - c. June 6, Special Meeting
    - d. June 13 Special Meeting

*Mr. Marcheschi moved and Mr. Cosgrove seconded that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda actions and accept the recommendations contained in Section VII. On a roll call vote answering Aye: Cosgrove, Kenwood, Howard, Hoffman, Marcheschi, McElvain and Vivoda. Answering Nay: None. Motion carried.*

### **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Teaching, Learning and Accountability
  1. No action.
- B. Policy/Procedures
  1. No action.
- C. Finance, Facilities and Operations
  1. Adoption of the 2005-2006 Budget (\$ Attachment 14)

Board member Howard hopes that in the future the District can find ways to reduce the budget and spend less. Board member Kenwood added that we need to look at alternative funding and make it a priority.

*Mrs. Hoffman moved and Mrs. McElvain seconded to adopt the 2005-2006 budget as presented. On a roll call vote answering Aye: McElvain, Cosgrove, Kenwood, Howard, Hoffman, Marcheschi and Vivoda. Answering Nay, None. Motion carried.*

2. Site Engineering Proposals: The data gathering for the Hadley and Spalding sites will need to include surveys, soil borings and storm water studies. FGM Architects requested and received proposals to provide the surveys and soil borings at these two sites. Below is a summary of their recommendations:
  - Webster, McGrath and Ahlberg to conduct the survey at Hadley for a cost of \$4,500
  - Marchese to conduct the survey at Spalding for a cost of \$4,500
  - Terracon to perform the soil borings at the two sites for a cost of \$5,600.
  - Eriksson Engineering Associates perform the storm water management studies at both sites for a total cost of \$6000.
  - FGM's costs are estimated at not more than \$4,000. The total cost of the site investigation data gathering would be \$24,600.

Dr. Barshinger recommended that the Board of Education approve the site survey proposals as presented above.

*Mr. Cosgrove moved and Mr. Marcheschi seconded to approve the site survey proposals as presented. On a roll call vote answering Aye, Marcheschi, McElvain, Cosgrove, Kenwood, Howard, Hoffman and Vivoda. Answering Nay, None. Motion carried.*

## **IX. BOARD REPORTS**

*(Note: All committees and liaison positions of the Board of Education are listed for information. Not all areas will be reported.)*

### A. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee (Hoffman/Howard). The Committee's goals this year is to finish the compliance component of its review, which includes Sections 6 and 7 on curriculum and students, respectively. The Board agreed conceptually that the only true measure of change or effect change is via policy. To that end, the Board is committed to looking at District policy to ensure that the education we are providing for every child affords them the opportunity to achieve to his or her potential. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
2. Finance Committee (Cosgrove/Kenwood): The Board reorganized on April 25, 2005 and there are only two standing committees, Finance and Policy. Items previously reviewed by the Capital Improvement Committee have now been absorbed into the Finance Committee. The Committee is looking forward to opening up its review process to the public. All meetings will be posted and are open to the public. Goals for the year:
  - Work with architects in being proactive, not reactive.
  - Create a simplified method of reporting of District finances

### B. Liaison Reports

1. PTA Liaison Assignments: (April-June, 2005)
  - a. Executive Council: Vivoda
  - b. Hadley: Cosgrove
  - c. Churchill: Marcheschi
  - d. Forest Glen: Howard
  - e. Franklin: Hoffman
  - f. Lincoln: McElvain
  - g. Special Education Resource Committee (SERC): Kenwood
2. Continuous Improvement Team (CIT): Vivoda
3. Learning Leadership Team (LLT): McElvain

## **X. UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- A. July 18, 2005 Regular Meeting
- B. August 22, 2005 Regular Meeting

It was noted that additional workshop sessions would likely be scheduled regarding facilities.

## **XI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Summer Construction Updates: Dr. Barshinger reported that summer construction included work on the portable classrooms, bathrooms at Forest Glen; bathrooms at Lincoln; Hadley, air-conditioning and asbestos abatement, Churchill, asbestos abatement. He added that summer construction does impact the teachers enormously and we need to be mindful of getting teachers into the building early so that

they can get into the classrooms and unpack. Buildings and Grounds has an aggressive schedule in order to accommodate the opening of school in August.

- B. Board Facilities Tour: Dr. Barshinger encouraged this tour after Labor Day when school is in session. Friday, September 9, 2005 was tentatively scheduled as the date for the Facilities Tour.
- C. Board of Education DRAFT Targets: The Board of Education narrowed its focus at its Saturday, June 25, 2005 workshop and established one goal: To establish policies, procedures and resources to improve teaching and learning.
- D. Central Services 2005-06 DRAFT Targets

**XII. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

*(Note: Following are the legal reasons for conducting a closed session. The board will identify the specific reason before going into closed session.)*

- 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. 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).
- C. 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 8u120/2(c)(11).

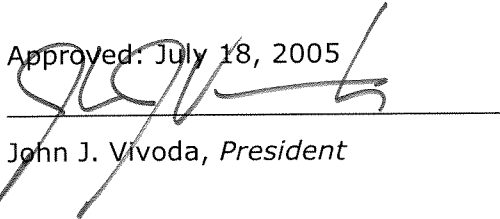
**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** *There being no further business, Carol McElvain moved and John Kenwood seconded to adjourn the regular meeting 11:11 p.m. On a roll call vote answering Aye, Cosgrove, Hoffman, Marcheschi, McElvain, Kenwood, Howard and Vivoda. Answering Nay, None. Motion carried.*

Recorded: June 27, 2005



Deborah M. Hoffman, Secretary

Approved: July 18, 2005



John J. Vivoda, President