

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 50
Board of Education Office
1105 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
Thursday, February 5, 2009

Call to Order

President, Bruce Bohren, called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Roll Call

Members Present: Gail Bennett
Bruce Bohren
Larry Gregorash
Terry Hall
Mark Vondracek

Members Absent: Michael Bond
Carla Little

Administrators Present: Dr. Joy Swoboda Bob Leonard

Citizen Statements

Village of Gurnee Mayor, Kristina Kovarik, approached the Board regarding a potential cell tower on the Woodland Middle School campus.

Cell Tower

After discussion on the possibility of a cell tower, the Board reached consensus to pursue and investigate a possible tower on district property. The Board directed the administration to contact T-Mobile to have a presentation on the February 25th Board agenda.

Finance

Bob Leonard, Associate Superintendent, discussed with the Board the following items related to finance.

- Life health safety funds remaining
 1. Review costs of air conditioning Intermediate and Middle Schools in the summer
 2. Review projected costs of air conditioning south campus
 3. Discuss funding options

When all work is completed, there will be approximately \$2.5 million remaining in the life health safety fund (including \$1.2 million of interest earnings). The Board reviewed the cost and need for air conditioning the south campus. The estimated cost is \$8 million. After discussion, the Board consensus is to be conservative, postpone the use of the money for air conditioning but keep the topic on the district's list of potential projects. The Board also highlighted the list of remaining projects that could be completed with the funds available.

- Fund balance target for newly established Tort fund
At the last Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board established an 80% target for the new Tort fund. After review, Bob Leonard recommended a 65% target of expenses.
- Working Cash Fund and overages
The Board discussed ways to use the working cash fund. The recommended use is, when building the budget, recommended a transfer of funds from the Working Cash fund when needed. Currently there is \$8 million in the account, which equates to approximately 1.5 months of district expenses for salaries.

- Payment to SEDOL for new school
The Board will be paying \$1,224,640 to SEDOL for our portion of the construction bond for a new school. The Board previously agreed to pay the amount in a one-time payment versus a payment plan. The administration recommends the district sell a short-term bond for the payment.
- Payment for computer lease for district
The Board discussed paying for the lease out of monies in the debt fund. The payment process will be the same as FY09. Monies will be transferred to debt from the Education fund.
- Foundation Level
Bob Leonard stated preliminary budget internal forecasts list a general state aid funding level per student at \$150. A current recommendation from the Illinois Association of School Boards is \$130 per student. The district will continue to watch the budget proceedings and wait for the final amount prior to adjusting our district budget. The concern is that the foundation level increase will drop to a level that would shift the district's general state aid calculation from foundation to alternate formula.

First Reading of Revised School Board Policies

The Board members reviewed the recommended revisions of the following policies: 2:12, 2:80E, 2:140, 2:140E, 2:220, 4:60, 4:70, 4:160, 5:90, 5:100, 5:150, 5:240, 5:250, 5:290, 5:330, 6:60, 6:120, 6:160, 6:230, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50, 7:100, 7:210, 7:230, 7:290, 7:300, and 7340.

Terry Hall shared a concern regarding the health curriculum and topic of abstinence. The Board will review all health materials on the topic and discuss at a later meeting.

The policies will be placed on the February 25th Board agenda for a second reading and approval.

Board Forums

The Board discussed and reviewed the data shared at the January 29th forum as well as the responses from the feedback sheets of participants. The district has an on-line survey for parents and community members to complete on the areas of finances, facilities, student clusters: the house concept and learning opportunities: curriculums and finances. The data from the survey will be reviewed at the February 25th Board meeting.

The members were pleased with the turnout and felt the change in format and availability of child care was a positive change.

Cell Tower

Bob Leonard stated the topic of a cell tower was discussed as part of the financial review committee in March and December of 2006. The remaining items on hold from the financial review committee were shared with the Board.

Board Comments

Terry Hall thanked Bruce Bohren and Mark Vondracek for sharing their evaluations of the school board conference from November. She attended some good workshop as well including one regarding having senior citizens volunteer in schools to offset their taxes.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Bruce Bohren and seconded by Larry Gregorash to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM.

On Roll Call, the votes were

Ayes: Gail Bennett, Bruce Bohren, Larry Gregorash, Terry Hall, Mark Vondracek

Nays: None

Absent: Carla Little, Michael Bond

The motion carried.

Approved by the Board of Education on February 25, 2009.

President, Bruce G. Bohren

Secretary, Gail Bennett