

MEETING OF THE BOARD FORUM OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 50  
Intermediate School  
1115 N. Hunt Club Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031  
Tuesday, November 3, 2009

**Call to Order**

President, L.A. Gregorash, called the Board forum to order at 7:00 PM.

**Roll Call**

Members Present:                    Bruce Bohren  
    Catherine Campbell  
    L.A. Gregorash  
    Terry Hall  
    Joan Morris  
    Mark Vondracek

Members Absent:                    Carla Little

**School Board Forum**

Dr. Gregorash welcomed the audience and thanked them for attending. Members of the Board of Education gave presentations on the following items:

- Pandemic Preparedness Plan- presented by Dr. Mark Vondracek
- Financial Advisory Community Taskforce (FACT) – presented by Dr. Larry Gregorash

**Pandemic Preparedness Plan**

Dr. Mark Vondracek presented an overview of the school district's plan in the event of a pandemic. He explained the four components of the plan are planning, preparedness, response and recovery. Dr. Vondracek also explained that State and Federal guidelines were followed when developing this plan. He presented an outline of #50 Pandemic Preparedness Plan. Woodland School will monitor Influenza Like Illnesses (ILI) and respond to increased incidence, notify parents if their child becomes ill at school, enforce the guidelines established by Lake County Health Department and the CDC, and encourage parents to keep children home when they are ill. In addition, the district will encourage staff to stay home when they are ill, teach and reinforce hand washing and cough etiquette, report and monitor student absenteeism and maintain the district website with updated information.

**Questions from the Community**

Community members asked the following question:

- *How often do we clean with sanitizer the desks, computers, drinking fountains, etc.?* It was explained the computers are cleaned each time a class comes in with sanitizing wipes as well as when they leave. A contracted company cleans the desks, drinking fountains, doorknobs, etc. in the evenings.
- *Will the district send home communications regarding shots so parents will know the availability?* The district website will be updated as we are provided the information and the information will be sent home with students.
- *Will using Neosporin in the nasal area lessen the effect of contracting influenza?* Julia Plescia, Woodland School Nurse explained this is not likely as Neosporin is for bacteria and the flu is a virus.

- *My child did get a flu shot and then they were sick, is the flu shot the cause?* Probably not. It takes two weeks to build up immunity. Your child was probably already infected.
- *Other schools are getting flu shots in their facilities, why not Woodland?* Woodland School provided employees with the seasonal flu vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine is being distributed by the Lake County Health Department and they are the ones who pick the location for distribution centers. The fact that other schools were distribution centers is probably because of location and parking lot size.
- *I have triplets at Woodland and am concerned they will become infected. Have there been any cases reported at the school?* The District will not be sending out information regarding individual cases under guidance from the Lake County Health Department. At this time the health department is lumping together the seasonal and H1N1 virus together when giving us information.
- *Is shutting down the school part of the preparedness plan?* Woodland administration and the Board of Education would look at all of the factors. There are two levels; 1. Dismissal of students and staff continue to work and 2. Complete closure of the school. One of the factors would include finding the proper number of substitutes to cover classrooms. At no time would the school combine classrooms based upon recommendations from the CDC.

#### Financial Advisory Community Taskforce (FACT)

Dr. Gregorash provided a presentation on the Financial Advisory Community Taskforce and the outcomes the committee hopes to achieve. Dr. Gregorash provided the audience with the situation regarding the district revenues; the goal of reducing the budget, a brief history of past budget reductions, as well as the process the committee is taking. Dr. Gregorash explained the efforts made to engage the community in the decision-making process and the short amount of time to explore all input and ideas that are brought before the committee. One point made clear by Dr. Gregorash is that student achievement is the number one priority when considering all outcomes of budget reductions. In addition, Dr. Gregorash stated, the Board of Education will make the final decisions on the reductions.

Dr. Gregorash concluded with letting the audience know how they could stay involved. He invited the audience to view the website. He informed the audience of the meeting dates and that they were welcome to come and observe the meetings. Dr. Gregorash explained that this process is not an easy one and that no one takes it lightly.

#### Questions from the Community

Community members asked the following question:

- *Before the economic recession did District 50 have a reserve fund?* Woodland has a working cash fund. The fund is approximately 1.5 months total salary costs.
- *Would the district save any money by reducing the transportation routes?* The reimbursement received from the state is pretty good and so it would not make enough of a difference to consider reductions in transportation.
- *Out of curiosity, why are Woodland Schools centers and not neighborhood schools?* It was explained, the community consolidated 7 one room schools into one district and that is how it began.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Bruce Bohren and seconded by Mark Vondracek to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

On Voice Vote, the votes were                      Ayes – 6                      Nays - 0                      Absent - 1  
The motion carried.

Approved by the Board of Education on November 19, 2009.

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President, L.A. Gregorash

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Secretary, Bruce Bohren