

MEETING OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 50
Board of Education Office
1105 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
Thursday, September 3, 2009

Call to Order

President, L.A. Gregorash, called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Woodland School District 50 to order at 7:55 P.M.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Carla Little

Staff Present: Joy Swoboda Bob Leonard

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Bruce Bohren and seconded by Mark Vondracek to approve the agenda as presented.

On Roll Call, the votes were:

Ayes: Catherine Campbell, L.A. Gregorash, Terry Hall, Joan Morris, Mark Vondracek,
Bruce Bohren

Nays: None

Absent: Carla Little

The motion carried.

Citizen Statements

There were none.

FY10 Budget Updates

Mr. Leonard reported that since the July Board meeting when the tentative budget was passed, the budget picture has improved slightly. The district remains cautious regarding anticipated revenues. The proposed budget is conservative.

Bob Leonard clarified the State will determine the funds based on monies actually received in the past not on funds promised. Terry Hall asked if the budget was based on the assumption that funds would be delayed as in previous years. Since the tentative budget was provided to the Board the State budget has been approved. The General State Aid was not approved as of September 1, so the district will be cautious in allocations of state monies.

Bob Leonard gave an overview of budget adjustments made to the District Revenues for local funding, state funding, federal funding and other funding that included: Transitional Impact Aid, Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) Construction Bond Payment, and Special Education District of Lake County Tuition Costs. In addition, Bob Leonard explained in the upcoming week the budget will be reviewed to finalize salary and benefit code classifications. All grant accounts will also be reviewed for compliance with grants as written.

FACT (Financial Advisory Community Taskforce)

The first public meeting of FACT will be held on September 21, 2009 at the Educational Service Center Office. Dr. Gregorash and Bob Leonard will co-chair the meeting. Dr. Gregorash encouraged the board members to read the information given to them prior to the meeting on the 21, 2009.

The Board members discussed the purpose and process of the committee.

Dr. Swoboda spoke about the 4 goals that needed to be accomplished.

1. Set a goal or target dollar amount – (target is based on the budget deficit)
2. Set direction on the application process
3. Plan the agenda for the September 21, 2009 meeting
4. Discuss communication strategies to date and moving forward

The discussions began with the application process. It was decided the committee should have balanced representation from all of the District 50 taxing body. Applications should be available by walk-in, on-line, and mail if requested. Taxpayers with no children in school should be encouraged to participate, as well as parents and staff members. Information regarding the committee should be placed in newspapers, letters sent to internal and external community members, on the marquee on south campus and on the district web site. It was asked if a hot line could be established.

The Board planned the agenda keeping in mind the scope of the committee. The agendas may be modified at each meeting as directions shift. Previously, the Board discussed a 3.1 million dollar deficit. Given the new budget proposal the Board feels 3.5 million is a reasonable target. This gives the Board options if revenues change direction. The Board understands that finding 3.5 million may be difficult but feels it is a reasonable target.

The discussion continued with the general process for each meeting: meeting expectations, gathering feedback, parking lot items, administrative presentations, handouts, and the mission, vision, and goals of the committee.

The Board agreed the meeting on September 21, 2009 will include brief self introductions of the FACT members, an overview of District 50 demographics, explanations of the role and purpose of the taskforce, an overview of the finances, and what is expected of the committee.

It was brought up and agreed that this committee is an idea generating body, not a decision making body. The members need to understand their suggestions will be recorded and reviewed but they will have no voting power on the final budget reductions and revenue generating decisions. The final decisions will be made by the Board of Education.

Board Communication

Terry Hall distributed copies of her thoughts on ways to improve communication with the community.

A motion was made by Terry Hall and seconded by Catherine Campbell to return to closed session at 9:52 PM.

On Roll Call, the votes were:

Ayes: L.A. Gregorash, Terry Hall, Joan Morris, Mark Vondracek, Bruce Bohren,
Catherine Campbell

Nays: None

Absent: Carla Little

The motion carried.

Approved by the Board of Education on October 22, 2009.

President, L.A. Gregorash

Secretary, Bruce G. Bohren