

January Board of Education Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Following approval of minutes for the December 14, 2009 Tax Levy Hearing, and Regular Meeting, an opportunity was provided for public comments. There were no comments during this portion of the meeting.



Dr. Linda Yonke, Superintendent of New Trier High School, reviewed the proposed \$174 million referendum for improvements to the Winnetka Campus of New Trier High School. Included in her report was information regarding the current layout of the Winnetka campus, the age of each section, proposed changes to the building and redesigned traffic flow through the school property. The proposed utilization of new space was identified and time line for construction addressed. The project, if approved by voters through a February 2, 2010, bond referendum, would cost a Township homeowner \$248-\$295 on a \$10,000 annual tax bill. If approved, the project would take place over three summers and two school years beginning in summer 2010. It is expected to be completed prior to the opening of the 2012-2013 school year. The first summer would include demolition of the Student Cafeteria, Tech Arts Building and Music Building, and beginning of construction of a new gym. The new gym would be completed and in use during the second year of construction. Construction of a new addition to replace the west side buildings would take place over two years. The second summer would include demolition of the Gates Gymnasium and Boiler Plant. The third summer would include renovation of classrooms in the North and Tower buildings. Construction of the field house would occur during the last 18 months of the project.

Dr. Yonke answered questions from the Board and encouraged individuals to attend tours of the facilities.

Mr. Edelheit reviewed the following fee information for the 2010-2011 school year:

Transportation

The anticipated cost of transportation for 2009-2010 was reported as \$258,450. Fees collected in 2009-2010 were approximately \$166,150. The user paid approximately 65% of the transportation costs. The costs versus fees collected were reported as follows:

FY10 cost of program = \$258,450

Noon Runs Cost = \$ 72,505

K-4 Runs Cost = \$144,624

5-8 Runs Cost = \$41,321

FY10 fees collected = \$166,150 = 65% of program costs

Noon Fees Collected = \$ 7,200
K-4 Fees Collected = \$147,250
5-8 Fees Collected = \$ 11,700

Discussion was held regarding continuation of the 5-8 buses, fee for noon run, and other changes to the transportation structure. Mr. Burnham, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Edelheit, and Dr. Crawford will meet prior to the February Board meeting to identify options for Board consideration.

Student Fees

Student fees were identified as \$120 for South students, \$100 for West students and \$135 for Central students. The fees of other township school districts were identified and overall the District 35 fees found to be comparable. During the 2009-2010 school year the traditional late fee was replaced by a \$20 discount if paid by September 30th. This resulted in an increased number of students who paid the fee and total collection down \$14,000. The lower amount collected was due in part to the increased number of students on scholarship. In February Mr. Edelheit will bring the Board several scenarios for consideration.

Milk

For twenty years the milk fee has remained \$.25 per carton or \$45 per child for the school year. With the addition of federal funds the cost of milk has been covered. In 2009-2010 a fee was not charged for 1st -4th graders and 5th through 8th graders purchased milk in the cafeteria. It was recommended that this practice be continued for the 2010-2011 school year and the cost of a carton of milk remain at the \$.25 rate.

Athletic Participation

The athletic participation fees were identified as follows:

Basketball = \$380

Volleyball = \$225

Soccer = \$210

The participation rate in each sport was requested and Mr. Edelheit indicated he would recommend the fees remain unchanged for the 2010-2011 school year.

The following were identified as Action Items for the February monthly meeting:

Transportation fees

Milk fee

Student materials fees

Athletic participation fees

Dr. Crawford reviewed planning information for the 2010-2011 school year. Information regarding student enrollment included the Kasarda projections from December 2008. Three enrollment projection scenarios were provided with "A" series based upon a reduced housing turnover and migration, the "B" series based upon expected enrollment, and series "C" based upon a more rapid housing turnover and in-migration. The actual district enrollment fell between the Series "B" and "C" projections.

In addition to examining past and predicted enrollments, time was spent reviewing the current enrollments at each grade level. There are 7 sections of Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. There are 8 sections in 3rd – 6th grades with 7th and 8th grade classes averaging approximately 18 students. It was recommended that the current number of sections remain in place for the 2010-2011 school year. However, review would be given should requests for leave of absence, resignations or retirements occur prior to the start of the school year.

Potential program needs and changes were reviewed and the following considerations discussed for inclusion in the 2010-2011 budget:

1. Potential decrease of 1.0 special education teacher.
2. Title I teaching staff at South School - contingent upon approval of Title I funds.
3. The actual number of teacher associates in 2009-2010 was identified as 61.60 and a projected number for 2010-2011 identified at the same level. This estimate includes classroom, LLC, 1:1 and additional classroom support teaching assistants. Special education annual reviews scheduled during the coming months will provide the information needed to more accurately determine the number of teacher associates required for the coming school year.
4. A part time occupational therapist and part -time speech language therapist were employed during the 2009-2010 school year. A review of contracted services in these areas and scheduling will be conducted to determine if either position could be increased to full time with improved provision of services to students.
5. Four staff members currently on leave of absence could request an additional year. By contract this request must be submitted on or before February 15th or 20 days after the leave commences.

Mr. Bailey reviewed information regarding Board self-evaluation with a representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards. The fee for this service is \$400, includes a three-hour session, reports, and the facilitator's travel

expenses. The Board selected March 15, 2010 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Young Auditorium if the facilitator is available. This will be a Closed Session of the Board.

Mr. Edelheit identified the End Fund Balance for December 2009 as \$23,575,412.

The Board approved the January 2010 Bill List and the Revised Personnel Report.

Mr. Edelheit reviewed a response to the FY09 audit report. This response will be kept on file in the Business Office. In response to the required audit adjustments: Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) was over allocated in the Ed Fund. The auditors reclassified \$51,209 of the CPPRT to IMRF and O&M Funds.

Auditors reclassified monies to follow the property tax revenue. These were the first taxes received in the settlement agreement with Winnetka School District 36 regarding Scott Street property.

Capital Lease payments were reallocated from the Ed Fund to Debt Service Fund.

The Board also directed the administration to send a copy of the response to the auditors and request their opinion on the action taken.

Closed session minutes for January through December 2009 were approved for release. Closed Session tapes 18 months or older were also approved for destruction.

The following Board Policies were revised as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards:

- 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings
- 2:250 Access to District Public Records
- 6:60 Curriculum Content
- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

During the second opportunity there were no public comments

There were no Committee reports.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to the placement of individual students in special education programs and matters related to individual students. Following adjournment of closed session the Board returned to open session and adjourned the meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 8th at 7:30 p.m. It will be held in Young Auditorium at Central School.