

## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Board Vice President, Mr. Debb, called the annual Tax Levy Hearing to order at 7:20 p.m. Following roll call, Mr. Debb announced the opening of the Public Hearing. Mr. Debb referenced the School Board Resolution of October 20, 2003, regarding estimated amounts necessary to be levied for the year 2003. He also referenced the legal notice published in the *Glencoe News* on November 27, 2003. A motion was made by Mrs. Price and seconded by Mrs. Stender to approve these statements and incorporate them into the minutes of the meeting.

Prior to voting on the motion a presentation was made by Mr. Ron Chilcote, Business Manager, regarding the proposed tax levy. Mr. Chilcote recommended the School Board adopt an operational increase of 6.32% for the 2003 tax levy, when compared to the 2002 tax extension. The total levy requested for 2003, including debt service, was \$15,163,583 (\$13,545,000 for Operations and \$1,618,583 for Debt Service). This provided an increase of 5.01% over the 2002 tax extension. The County Clerk would automatically apply 5% to the debt service, which would result in a total 5.57% increase over the 2002 extension.

The 5.57% was identified as overstated due to the allowance for capture of new growth. It was estimated that the total increase in the tax extension, including debt service, would be approximately \$465,000 or 3.22% above the 2002 total tax extension level, while costing the existing taxpayer less than 2.1% above the 2002 tax level.

There were no questions from the Board members or public and the motion to include the identified statements was approved.

The Tax Levy Hearing was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Following roll call, minutes were approved for the regular and closed sessions held on November 11, 2003 and special and closed sessions held on December 2, 2003. There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Bernajean Porter, Technology Consultant, reviewed her assessment of District progress in attaining established technology goals. She also discussed her work with the District Tech Team and staff to determine future technology goals. In particular Ms. Porter referenced the positive climate, which exists in each of the District buildings, focus of staff development and student projects which promote higher cognitive skills using technology in a supporting role. She also spoke to the area of emphasis for staff and the Board's need to create and support the allocation of time in a student's day to support these changes.

Student learning should focus upon inquiry, accessing and evaluating information, and converting information into authentic products.

On Tuesday, December 2, the Board Facilities Committee met to review a revised Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Debb and Mr. Myefski represented the Board at this committee meeting. Mr. Debb reported that over \$10,000,000 in projects had been reviewed and projects totaling \$3,373,140 were being recommended for Priority 1 and 2 categories. Items in the Priority 3 Category included boiler replacement at West School, cafeteria construction at Central School, and air conditioning of all District facilities. Mr. Debb reviewed each project by school and priority. The committee members indicated additional discussion was needed by the full Board regarding replacement of the original 1959 boilers at West School and construction of a new cafeteria at Central School. It was also identified that completing only those items in the Priority 1 category would not be cost effective.

In discussing Priority 1 and 2 figures, it was identified that the total included environmental costs (i.e., asbestos abatement). Of this total sum, \$3,373,140, approximately \$2,752,000 would qualify as "Life-Safety" items. This would require application to and approval by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Financing of capital improvements and operating needs were also discussed. Mr. Chilcote referred to a packet of information prepared by Mr. Raymond Coyne, a District Bond Consultant. Mr. Coyne identified funding options for the Capital Improvement Plan projects. It was identified that the District could borrow \$4 million dollars for construction by extending the current debt and utilizing the accumulated "Loss and Cost" funds. Voter approval would be required to access the "Loss and Cost" funds if required for non-Life-Safety construction items. Another option discussed was the selling of Life-Safety" Bonds and Working Cash Bonds which would not require voter approval. However, the Working Cash Bonds would be subject to referendum if a petition by 10% of the registered voters were filed.

The confusion to voters was discussed if a question was placed on a ballot to approve \$621,000 of non-Life-Safety construction, while an additional \$2,752,000 in Life-Safety bonds were sold without voter approval. The Board also discussed placing the entire amount for capital improvement on a ballot for voter approval.

The Board reviewed implications of financing both capital improvement and operational needs. The questions to be answered included:

Should two questions appear on the same ballot, one for operations and one for capital improvements?

If one question were to be asked if the voters, which should first be placed before the voters?

Would the question(s) be placed on a November 2004 or April 2005 ballot?

How would an operating referendum potentially impact a tax bill of \$10,000?

How would a capital improvement referendum for the full amount impact a tax bill of \$10,000? (With and without restructuring of the debt and/or utilization "Loss and Cost" funds)

No action was taken by the Board to approve capital improvement projects or funding for these projects or operational needs. The Board members approved of the projects included in the long-range capital improvement plan and offered no suggestions for changing the document. Mrs. Stender identified a request from the Glencoe Junior High Project to improve the lighting and sound system in Misner Auditorium. The organization had independently solicited bids for the work. Mr. Debb indicated the two items discussed by the Facilities Committee and were not included in long range capital improvement planning.

Dr. Crawford reviewed results of a 2003 graduate survey. Approximately 50% of the surveys were returned with the following results identified:

If reported in the same manner as ISAT scores, the following reflect the percentage of students perceiving their level of preparation as well prepared or adequately prepared:

Language Arts	85.7%	Mathematics	89.5%
Science	96.4%	Social Studies	100%
Foreign Language	75.5%	Fine Arts	81.3%
Technology Skills	90.0%		

The following reflect the percentage of students who strongly agreed or agreed to the statement:

When I was a student in Glencoe School District there was an adult I felt comfortable going to when I needed help or wanted to talk with someone.  
91.2%

The amount of homework I received as a Central School student was appropriate to prepare me for high school expectations.  
91%

The letter grade I received on homework or projects was more important than the teacher comments.  
63.1%

I feel my elementary school education and experiences in the Glencoe School District prepared me to be successful in high school.  
92.9%

The sample size varied from 57 to 32 responses per question. This was a reflection of student enrollment in various classes and/or partial completion of the survey.

Mr. Chilcote reviewed correspondence and work completed with three independent insurance brokers. It was noted that a modification in staff participation levels in the medical benefits program would be required for the District to become viable in the marketplace. As of October 1, 2003 the District had an approximate 40% participation rate among employees. Based upon the information gathered, Mr. Chilcote recommended the District remain in the current cooperative for the coming school year. He indicated the North Suburban Benefit Cooperative would be exploring merger options and modification of the current benefit structure to address the rising cost of medical benefits.

The Board approved the December bill list and personnel report. The Board also approved the proposed tax levy for 2003, as reviewed during the public hearing held prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Chilcote reviewed the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2003. The accounting firm of Bark Associates prepared this report. Mr. Chilcote indicated the document would be submitted to the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officer Association for their respective Certificates of Excellence in Financial Reporting Citation. The Board approved the audit report and placed it on file with the District records.

The Board ratified authority previously given via e-mail communication calling for modification of the GEA-negotiated agreement regarding tuition reimbursement. The \$17,000 negotiated in the contract was insufficient to meet the needs of tuition reimbursement claims for the past year. An amount of approximately \$19,600 was paid, based upon prior approval of the Board and GEA.

Approval was given for the permanent transfer of \$24,359.49 from the Bond & Interest Fund to the Operations, Building & Maintenance Fund. An interfund permanent transfer of \$47,220.50 from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund was also approved. Mr. Chilcote provided the Board with a letter from the auditor verifying the interest available for transfer.

The Board Policy Committee recommended revisions to five existing Board Policies. The following changes were required due to changes in state or federal laws:

Board Policy

2:40 – Board Member Qualifications

Amended to prohibit a child sex offender from serving on a school board

2:220 – School Board Meeting Procedure

Amended to require a verbatim recording of closed meetings; added provisions on the semi-annual review requirements and destruction of verbatim requirements

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

Amended to add reference to Victim's Economic Security and Safety Act and the Equal Pay Act of 2003

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

Amended to add reference to Victim's Economic Security and Safety Act and the Equal Pay Act of 2003

6:60 Curriculum Content

Amended to include the role and contributions of Asian Americans as amended by P.A.93-406

The Board approved the revisions as identified.

Approval was given for the findings of residency hearing held on December 2, 2003.

There were no public comments during the second opportunity in the Board meeting.

There were no committee reports.

The Board adjourned to closed session to discuss matters related to personnel and negotiations.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2004. It will be held in Young Auditorium at Central School, 620 Greenwood Avenue.