

MINUTES

Community Unit School District #205
Board of Education
February 10, 2014

Call To Order/Roll Call

The Community Unit School District #205 Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM at 932 Harrison St., Galesburg, IL. The meeting was called to order by President Colclasure. The roll was read and the following Members responded: Kessler via phone, Lindstrom via phone, Welty, Palmer, Colclasure, Panther, Gibb (7) Roll Call #1

Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Visitors

The following community members spoke to the board about their concerns regarding closing Cooke Elementary School:

Ryan Wilson, Emma Sargent, Jim Jacobs, Tiffany Charles, Diana Pacheco, Marcellia Rocha, Rose Campbell, Hailey Damitz, Alisha Hodge, and Charlene Alfaro

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Panther that the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2014, special meeting of January 9, 2014, special meeting of January 21, 2014 be approved without further reading and without correction or addition. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Kessler, Palmer, Lindstrom, Panther, Colclasure, Gibb (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #2

Approval of Payrolls and Claims

Upon presentation by Member Panther of payroll and claims filed in the Ledger Book as #589 as of February 10, 2014, which exhibit is incorporated herein and by reference made a part hereof, it was moved by Member Panther and seconded by Member Welty that the same be approved and allowed for payment as presented. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Lindstrom, Kessler, Palmer, Colclasure, Gibb, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #3

Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Change Orders

B. Approval to Submit School Maintenance Project Grant

It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Gibb to approve the consent agenda items. On roll call the following Member voted AYE: Lindstrom, Palmer, Panther, Gibb, Colclasure, Kessler, Welty (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #4

Correspondence – None

Committee ReportsBudget

Member Palmer stated that the Budget Committee met on November 7, 2013. No meeting is scheduled at this time.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

President Colclasure stated that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met three times since the January meeting of the board. Highlights from those meetings include: approval of the initial bid packages for the GHS roofing project. The budget is set at \$3.2 million. The project was broken into two sections so that one would be small enough for local vendors to at least have the opportunity to bid. The pre-bid conference for the GHS roofing project is set for 9:00AM on February 17th at GHS. The district was notified during the first week of February that another round of \$50,000 maintenance matching grants have been issued by ISBE. This will be used for masonry work at GHS. The committee toured buildings that could possibly replace the Hawthorne facility and heard presentations from the owners. A third building tour is scheduled for Tuesday of this week.

Insurance Committee

Diane VanHootegem stated that the Insurance Committee has not met since the last meeting. The fund balance is currently reported at \$2,222,337.17. The next regular committee meeting is anticipated to be scheduled in late February/March.

Recruitment for Educational Diversity

President Colclasure stated that the RED Committee has not met since the last meeting. Semenya McCord will be presenting "Journey Into a Dream" for Black History Month during school assemblies in February. These assemblies will take place over 5 days plus one evening assembly at Lombard. Matt Jacobson is assisting in uploading the videos of the community

member interviews to a weebly site so they can be shared with committee members as well as the public in the future. The next RED Committee and subcommittee are expected to meet in late February/March.

Student Council

Danielle Guterrez stated that they are currently getting ready for Sweathart Swirl that will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

Old Business—None

New Business

A. Approve Personnel Agenda

Diane VanHootegem, Director for Human Resources, stated that the Personnel Agenda stands as presented and recommended its approval. It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Gibb to approve the Personnel Agenda as presented and recommended by the administration. (Insert Personnel Agenda) On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Welty, Kessler, Palmer, Gibb, Panther, Colclasure (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #5

B. Approval of Community Unit District 205 Strategic Plan Revisions

Mr. Bart Arthur, Superintendent, stated that the board met in several work sessions and have returned with slight revisions to the Strategic Plan. Member Panther stated that he would like to see every item be reported to the Board. Mr. Arthur agreed. It was moved by Member Welty to approve the Strategic Plan Revisions with the additional amendment proposed by Member Panther of reporting each item to the board at the already stated interval. (Insert) Member Panther seconded the motion. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Lindstrom, Palmer, Kessler, Colclasure, Panther, Gibb (7). Motion carried. Roll Call #6

C. Approval of Closing Cooke Elementary School

Mr. Bart Arthur, Superintendent, stated that In light of the recent cutbacks from the State of Illinois, the administration is recommending the closure of Cooke Elementary School beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. Anticipated savings will be \$930,321. More importantly, Cooke Elementary is out of compliance with the special education law, which states that the balance of regular education and special education in individual classrooms is mandated to be 70% regular education and 30% special education. Mr. Arthur then presented the cost containment plan to show where the reductions are proposed. Ms. Dawn Michaud, Director of Knox-Warrens Special Education discussed the special education rules, specifically at Cooke Elementary. Mrs. Diane VanHootegem, Director for Human Resources discussed each proposed cut as it related to staff and Mr. David Black discussed each proposed cut as it related to the budget and buildings.

Discussion by Members of the Board ensued. It was moved by Member Panther and seconded by Member Gibb to Approve the Closing of Cooke Elementary School beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Colclasure, Gibb, Kessler, Lindstrom, Palmer, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #8

D. Approval of Cost Containment Plan

Mr. Bart Arthur, Superintendent, stated that the administration proposes the Board act to accept as a package, the cost saving, revenue enhancement plan. Said action will yield \$1,843,235 in dollars to cover the anticipated deficit in next year's budget. It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Palmer to approve the Cost Containment Plan. (Insert) On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Kessler, Palmer, Lindstrom, Colclasure, Gibb, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #9

E. Approval of Resolution Authorizing \$5 Million Dollar Line of Credit

Mr. David Black, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, stated that currently, the balance of the Working Cash Fund stands at \$5,448,436. The budget shows that we will need to transfer \$3 million before the end of the year from this fund to cover the expansion of the GHS Multipurpose Facility expansion that occurred in January of 2013. Because some funds have been under levied and therefore underfunded, and because we are required to loan \$2,085,250 from the Working Cash to cover the tax abatement, there is no "safety net" Working Cash and other operating fund balances. A cash shortfall could occur from any number of reasons including delayed payments from the state for general state aid, any categorical, or any grant; an unforeseen construction cost overrun; any building or equipment issue that requires immediate repair. The money would be used on a short-term basis to cover a short-term funding issue. Because it is easier to get a line of credit when you really don't need it, Mr. Black began investigating this course of action awhile back. This would be a \$5 million line of credit with Wells Fargo Bank at a favorable rate that would be renewable on an annual basis. There will be no charge for the line of credit if we do not use it. It would merely be available funds for short-term use as a prudent backup. It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Panther to approve the Resolution Authorizing \$5 Million Dollar Line of Credit. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Kessler, Palmer, Lindstrom, Panther, Gibb, Colclasure (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #10

F. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Working Cash Loan in the Amount of \$2,085,250

Mr. David Black, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, stated that. When Knox County passed the County Facilities Sales Tax, the District issued Alternate Revenue Bonds and abated taxes in an amount that had not yet been collected by the school district. Because bonds were issued and payments pledged from funds that had not been collected yet, because of overly optimistic forecasting and because of the requirement to have 125% of the amount being abated available in the fund at the time of abatement, we need to loan \$2,085,250 to the bond and interest fund. It was moved by Member Panther and seconded by Member Kessler to approve the Resolution

Authorizing Working Cash Loan in the Amount of \$2,085,250. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Kessler, Palmer, Lindstrom, Colclasure, Panther, Gibb (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #11

G. Adopt Resolution Abating a Portion of the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2013 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2011A, of Community Unit School District 205, Knox and Warren Counties, Illinois

David Black, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations stated that In December, the district levied \$2,153,481 in property taxes to pay this year's installment on the Series 2011A bonds (Health-Life-Safety Source). The master facility plan provided for the abatement of a portion of said levy by utilizing the proceeds from the County School Facility Tax. The amount of this abatement varies according to the amount of distributions received from this tax. This year, the amount of tax to be abated is \$859,981. This reduces the amount of tax to be extended from \$2,153,481 to \$1,293,500. This abatement allows the overall property tax rate of \$4.46 per \$100 EAV as promised by the Board of Education in December. It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Panther to adopt the resolution. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Kessler, Lindstrom, Palmer, Colclasure, Gibb, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #12

H. Adopt Resolution Abating a Portion of the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2013 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2011B, of Community Unit School District 205, Knox and Warren Counties, Illinois

David Black, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations stated that In December, the district levied \$1,225,269 in property taxes to pay this year's installment on the Series 2011B bonds (Alternate Revenue Source). These bonds are financed entirely by the County Facilities Sales Tax revenues collected throughout the year. As we have received sales tax revenues sufficient to cover the entire amount of the installment due, it will be abated in its entirety. As a result, the tax levy passed by the board in December will remain at \$4.46 per \$100 EAV. It was moved by Member Panther and seconded by Member Gibb to adopt the resolution. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Kessler, Lindstrom, Palmer, Colclasure, Gibb, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #13

I. Approval of 2014-2015 School Calendar

Mr. Bar Arthur, Superintendent, stated that the 2014-2015 Calendar Committee, comprised of faculty, staff, and parents, met and is ready to bring a recommendation to the Board. The committee has considered survey results, and personal input from staff, in making this recommendation. Mr. Arthur went through the calendar in detail with the board stating that it is possible the district will be required to change the scheduled date of the County Teachers Institute based on the desire of the newly elected Regional Superintendent of the consolidated Regional Office of Education. It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Gibb to approve the 2014-2015 School

Calendar. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Panther, Welty, Colclasure, Gibb, Kessler, Lindstrom, Palmer (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #14

Administrative Reports

Comments were made by Diane VanHootegem

Comments by Board of Education

Comments were made by Members Lindstrom and Colclasure

Closed Session

President Colclasure stated that the Board will move into a closed session for the purpose of Personnel to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of employee(s). No action will be taken. It was moved by Member Welty and seconded by Member Gibb that the Board adjourn to closed session-8:24PM. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Welty, Palmer, Kessler, Lindstrom, Colclasure, Panther, Gibb (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #15

Following the closed session, it was moved by Member Palmer and seconded by Member Gibb that the regular meeting be reconvened. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Welty, Palmer, Kessler, Colclasure, Gibb, Panther (7) Motion carried. Roll Call #16

Adjournment

It was moved by Member Palmer and seconded by Member Welty that the regular meeting be adjourned—8:53 PM. On roll call the following Members voted AYE: Lindstrom, Welty, Palmer, Kessler, Colclasure, Gibb, Panther (4) Motion carried. Roll Call #17

Thomas Colclasure, President

ATTEST:

Michael Panther, Secretary