



Dr. Jack Barshinger, Superintendent

MINUTES

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 13, 2005, 7:30 PM
FOREST GLEN SCHOOL, 561 ELM STREET, GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS**

FACILITIES COMMUNITY FORUM

1. Call to Order & Roll Call: President John Vivoda called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Mrs. Terra Howard, Mrs. Debbie Hoffman, Mr. John Kenwood, Mr. John Marcheschi, Mrs. Carol McElvain and Mr. John Vivoda. Absent: Mr. Kevin Cosgrove.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Participation: There was no public participation at this point during the meeting.
4. Overview and History: President Vivoda explained that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain community input on the site options that the District is considering for building a new school to relieve overcrowding and meet changing program needs. He explained the scope of the District's overcrowding and provided the following brief history and overview of the facilities planning process to date.

a. Background Information on meetings and reports:

October 9, 2003	#1 Brainstorming Session
November 3, 2003	#2 Facilities Option Discussions
December 1, 2002	#3 Rating and Ranking of Options
March 8, 2004	#4 Presentation of Architectural Reports
April 26, 2004	#5 Multi-track year-round school discussion
May 13, 2004	#6 Facilities Master Planning Meeting
September 8, 2004	#7 2004-2005 Facilities Planning Summary Meeting
October 12, 2004	#8 Options focused to final three Meeting
November 15, 2004	Facilities Task Force Report @ Board of Ed Meeting
November 16, 2004	NIU Demographic Report
November 29, 2004	#9 Facilities Findings
June 13, 2005	#10 Facilities site locations discussion, June 13, 2005

b. Community Perspectives From Past Forums

- Maintain target teacher student ratios
- No Multi-Track Year Round School
- Solution must be equitable district-wide
- There is a desire to maintain the neighborhood school concept
- Limit busing of K-2 students
- Maintain art and music classrooms
- Portables are not a long-term solution

c. Past Referendums

In 1997 the District passed a referendum to remodel and enlarge buildings, with a plan to ask for another referendum in the future to fund expanded programming.

In 2001 the District passed a referendum to reduce class size and provide programs consistent with those offered by peer districts. The referendum funded the following:

- Foreign Language at Hadley
- Math and Reading specialists
- Social workers and OT/PT
- Special Education enhancements
- English Language Learning and Bilingual Education
- Expanded Music and Art

d. Current State: For the 2005-2006 school year:

- Enrollment is approximately 3,600
- Approximately 590 children will be housed in 26 portable classrooms in the 2005-2006 school year
- Portable concerns include safety and stress of increasing enrollment on core areas such as libraries, gyms and bathrooms
- More students exacerbate traffic and parking issues at the small neighborhood school sites

e. D41 Facilities Needs: Enrollment and Base Projections, 1965 through 2001

5. Facilities Teams: Superintendent Dr. Jack Barshinger reviewed the scope of the four stakeholder Facilities Committees that will provide the Board of Education with information for future decisions regarding District 41 facilities.

- a. Finance: Alternative Capital Funding Committee: Develop viable options to finance and operate a new two grade level school building that maximizes outside sources of revenue while minimizing the impact on the local taxpayers.

- b. Facilities Program Planning Committee: Thoroughly review and articulate a model of program and curriculum delivery that enhances student learning based on the K-4, 5-6, and 7-8 grade structure, and outline what the facility needs are to support that structure for student learning.
 - c. Architectural and Site Planning Committee: Facilitate the development of the architectural and site plans of a two-grade level district-wide school building based on the curriculum design.
 - d. Communication Committee: Through full, accurate and timely communication, build trust among all stakeholders in the facilities-decision process, understanding and respect for any decisions taken, and develop the foundation for communicating facilities issues in the future.
6. Building Site Alternatives: Dr. Barshinger introduced FGM Architects and provided an overview of three site alternatives:
- a. Spalding School site, a 900-student school in the northeast quadrant of the district. This option would require the acquisition of up to 10 lots adjacent to the site and on June 11, the district discussed the plan with the homeowners in whose lots it is interested.
 - b. Hadley School site, a 900-student school on the west end of the campus in addition to current school building.
 - c. Main Street and Spalding sites, a 450-student school on each site. This is a two-building solution. The Main St. site (on the corner of Main St. and Hill Ave.) is owned by the Park District. The existing building is not suitable, and a 450-student school would be constructed with the Park District for joint use. Because the Main St. site cannot accommodate a larger school, another 450-student school would be built on the Spalding site.

Attendees broke into three groups to discuss and prioritize the sites. Attachment 1 reflects the discussion that took place in these breakout sessions. Attendees showed a distinct preference for the Hadley site.

7. Q & A: Following is a summary of residents' questions and/or comments.
- Spalding area residents Brad Payne, Ken Bounds, Doris Nelson, Christopher Edwards, Rich Englund and Gabriela Latzke voiced concerns about the Spalding site. Some of the 10 homeowners who have adjacent lots to the site and who were contacted by the District in the previous week regarding the possible acquisition of their properties were upset at the idea of having to sell their homes. Other concerns Spalding neighbors shared:
 - Having a school in their backyard
 - The plan would have been more appealing if it did not include a parking lot and retention pond
 - Safety concerns
 - Residents asked why Ackerman Park was not being considered. Dr. Barshinger and board members explained that District 41 has been working with the Park District for many months in the hopes of collaborating to meet mutual needs. Upon review of the plan, the Park District has said that "it will not support any plan involving Ackerman Park."
 - Resident Amy Thompson said that at earlier facilities forum she suggested Spalding as a possible building site not realizing this might mean displacing

families. She also expressed concern about the fact that FY 2005-2006 tentative budget includes a \$1.7M line item for property acquisition.

- Michael Lynch (residence unknown) suggested that instead of spending pre-March referendum dollars (i.e. architectural and planning fees, etc.), the Board should place a question on the ballot asking the community if they would fund a new school. Mr. Lynch asserted that section 17-2.3 of the Illinois School Code allows the district to place a question related to capital improvements on the March 2006 ballot. A copy of Mr. Lynch's letter is attached.

(Attachment)

- Resident Rob Herbold
 - Asserted that the Ackerman site has been on the table for consideration for a number of months and the idea has been discussed by board members in closed session meetings. He suggested that the Board purposefully held back the information regarding Ackerman Park site until the June 11, 2005 homeowner's meeting with the Spalding residents. The Board explained that the law states that property acquisition is an appropriate topic for closed session discussion.
 - Asked whether the Board has a contingency plan if a March 2006 referendum fails. The board replied that the District would continue to use portable classrooms.
 - Requested minutes of the June 11, 2005 discussion with the 10 Spalding homeowners. Dr. Barshinger explained that it was not a public meeting and minutes were not kept.
- Rebecca Herbold wanted to know why Ackerman Park was discussed at the June 11th meeting if it was a moot issue. Dr. Barshinger explained that the discussion was initiated by the Spalding residents.

8. Board Discussion:

Board members thanked attendees for their comments and for taking time to attend the meeting. They understand how difficult a decision this is for everyone involved and said they do not wish to displace families in order to build a new school. However, the District cannot force the Park District to sell it the Ackerman or Main Street properties and so it must use the resources available to address the overcrowding issue.

President Vivoda said that next steps will be to develop specific facilities and education program planning based on the feedback from residents. Mr. Vivoda requested that more specific information be available for the June 27th Board of Education regular meeting relating to cash flow estimates, more adequate engineering cost estimates, soil testing, etc. Dr. Barshinger will work with FGM to compile the information and present an administrative recommendation to the Board on June 27.

9. Adjourn Special Meeting: *Mr. Marcheschi moved and Mrs. McElvain seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 10:20 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

Recorded: June 13, 2005

Deborah M. Hoffman, Secretary

Approved: June 27, 2005

John J. Vivoda, President