



Dr. Jack Barshinger, Superintendent

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 6, 2005, 7:30 P.M.  
DISTRICT 41 ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
MARY J. LUGINBILL BOARD ROOM**

1. **Call to Order:** President Vivoda called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Members present: Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Marcheschi, Mrs. McElvain and Mr. Vivoda. Mr. Cosgrove and Mr. Kenwood joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.
3. **Public Participation:**
  - Resident Jim Markby addressed the Board regarding the District's proposed "new school" and reminded them of his earlier request for a rebate in property taxes that resulted from the 2001 "phased-in" referendum. He said that his neighbor, and a District 41 resident of many years is moving because he can no longer afford the taxes. Mr. Markby said that there are other ways to secure funds in lieu of a referendum, and urged the Board to find the "middle ground" to provide our children with an excellent education. He also asked about the architectural fees that were included in the tentative budget for FY 2005-2006 and said that the District should first learn whether or not the public would support a new school building before incurring architectural costs. The Board said that the 2005-2006 tentative budget has a placeholder figure of \$500,000 for architectural fees so that the District would be able to present a specific plan to voters should it decide to go to referendum and noted that it is difficult to ask taxpayers to vote on a concept without having plans available. It does not mean that the District will spend that much, but instead, is a "worst-case" scenario.
  - Resident Mary Ellen Voltaggio-Walksler reiterated her concerns with the District's disclosure of information regarding the 2001 referendum. She also inquired about the architectural fees budgeted for 2005-2006 and wanted to know when the Board would comment on alleged reports that due to the phase-in of the 2001 referendum, the District took in more tax dollars than was shared with the public. The Board said that it will discuss this matter in more detail at the June 25, 2005 workshop and will have a report at the June 27, 2005 regular meeting.
  - Michael Lynch (residence unknown) read aloud a letter to the Board of Education, which addressed the Board on funding issues for architectural fees and for a new school.

(Attachment)
- Resident Steve Vondrak addressed the Board regarding discrepancies that are contained in various District 41 communiqués. He noted discrepancies in information such as enrollment, per pupil expenditures, tax rates, etc. and said that either dates

are not comparable or not available at all. The Board thanked Mr. Vondrak for his comments and agreed that data needs to be footnoted so that the information from the District is more transparent.

President Vivoda reiterated that the District has publicly stated it would ask voters via referendum for funding to build a new school and that it has no intention of using Alternative Revenue Bonds to finance construction of a new school.

4. **Functional Leadership Institute:** Dr. Larry Baskin, Superintendent for Glen Ellyn CCUD 89 gave a presentation to the Board on leadership self-assessment and reflection. Dr. Baskin distributed information on assessment procedures that have been in development over the past 2-½ years. He explained that this is a perception study that is done on line and focuses on three imperative areas in education: 1) student learning, 2) customer satisfaction and, 3) resource utilization. This assessment measures the culture of an organization against the strategies used and attempts to obtain two readings in each product: 1) perception of overall board performance and, 2) assessment of the value that the board places on these prompts. Dr. Baskin recommended that the survey be taken by seven people randomly selected from each of the following constituent groups: board, administrators, parents and teachers. The survey is completely anonymous and people will only be identified by their group name and number (e.g. Board1). Dr. Barshinger explained that the survey would be conducted in time to present results to the Board at their June 25, 2005 special board meeting workshop.
5. **Budget Workshop:** Kristopher Monn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations, lead a workshop discussion on the tentative budget for FY 2005-2006. The tentative budget has been on display since the May 16, 2005 Board of Education Regular Meeting. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:15 p.m. on June 27, 2005 at the Central Services Office preceding the regularly scheduled board meeting and the Administration will subsequently ask the Board to approve and adopt the budget during its regularly scheduled meeting.

#### Summary of Major Budget Changes

The \$40.8 million budget, which includes a \$3.38 million dollar deficit, is \$7 million or approximately 21% more than last year's \$33.7 million budget. Approximately \$2.3 million of that increase is due to money that has been budgeted for the possibility of property acquisition to build a new school; 2.1 million is cash reserves that have been earmarked for one-time capital improvements; the remaining 2.6 million is for items such as hiring new staff, contractual pay increases, technology upgrades curricular materials, etc. The District will use its cash reserves that have been saved for one-time capital improvements and possible land acquisition to balance the budget.

(Attachment)

#### Board Discussion

Board member Kevin Cosgrove recommended that the Board postpone its plan to approve and adopt the budget at the June 27, 2005 meeting based on his rationale that the District has a new Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations and there is a 21% increase over last year's budget. He felt that the entire Board would be best served by getting more comfortable with the budget, even if it meant delaying the scheduled adoption on June 27. Board member Terra Costa-Howard agreed and felt that Board members needed more time to review the budget and ask questions. Dr. Barshinger said that while there will not be additional time for the Board to meet as a whole to discuss the budget, he encouraged each board member to schedule time with Kris Monn to have a detailed discussion about the budget. Dr. Barshinger advised that while the

District is not required by law to adopt a budget until September, the Board adopted a policy this year to change the budget timeline and approve its budget prior to the July 1 beginning of the fiscal year.

**6. Action Items:**

- a. Personnel Report: Mrs. Hoffman moved and Mrs. Howard seconded to approve the personnel recommendations contained in the attached June 6, 2005 Personnel Report.

(Attachment)

*Mr. Cosgrove moved and Howard seconded to amend the motion removing the last two employment recommendations, Kimberly Donahue, Lincoln Literacy Specialist and John Zelman, Hadley Social Studies teacher, from the Personnel Report dated June 6, 2005. Motion to amend carried on a voice vote.*

There being no further discussion, on a roll call vote answering Aye: Cosgrove, Kenwood, Howard, Hoffman, Vivoda; Abstain: McElvain. Motion carried.

- b. FGM Architects-Engineers Contract: Dr. Barshinger explained that the Illinois School Code requires school districts to name an architect of record and outlines a process for selecting one. After completion of the process, which took place from January – April, 2005 FGM Architects-Engineers was ranked #1. The Administration recommended that the Board approve FGM Architects-Engineers as the District 41 architect of record and approve the attached contract as presented.

*McElvain moved and Hoffman seconded to approve the attached contract with FGM Architects-Engineers and Amendments 1, 2, 3.*

(Attachment)

Board member, Kevin Cosgrove requested a list of all outstanding projects with Arcon & Associates who was the District's previous architect of record.

- c. Policy/Procedures

- i. Second Reading & Adoption: GEEA Job Description

- Program Transition Facilitator: The Administration recommended that the Board approve the second reading and adoption of the attached job description for a Program Transition Facilitator. This position will provide training and support to inclusion teachers and support staff as the district shifts to a building-level, rather than district-level, special education delivery model.

*Mr. Cosgrove moved and Kenwood seconded to approve the second reading and adoption of the job description for Program Transition Facilitator. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

(Attachment)

- d. Program Plan Update/Revisions: The Administration recommended that the Board approve the recommendations regarding the District's 2005-2006 Program Plan:

- .5 social worker and 1.0 Instructional Assistant for Lincoln School to work with the refugee students
- Increase the .5 Spanish teaching position at Hadley to .67

*McElvain moved and Howard seconded to approve the changes to the 2005-2006 Program Plan as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

- e. American Capital Computer Lease: David Zolnier, the District's Director of Technology, said that this is the first of a two-year roll out for upgrading the District's technology that includes the purchase of PCs in Hadley and new computer labs throughout the district. The Administration recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution and lease agreement with American Capital for purchase of 400 computers in conjunction with the District's two-year roll-out plan to upgrade its technology. The finance option with American Capital for the purchase of these computers, which cost \$915.00 each, will be amortized over four years at \$98,665 per year and includes a five-year warranty. Implementation will begin at Hadley Junior High School during the summer of 2005.

*Mrs. Hoffman moved and McElvain seconded to approve the attached resolution and lease agreement with American Capital as presented. On a roll call vote answering "Aye": Kenwood, Howard, Hoffman, McElvain, Cosgrove and Vivoda. Answering "Nay", None. Motion carried*

(Attachment)

6. **Other:** Board member Cosgrove stated that the Hadley Graduation was a great event. Everyone involved did a great job. He also congratulated board president, John Vivoda on receiving the "Those Who Excel Award".
7. **Adjourn Special Meeting:** *Mr. Cosgrove moved and Mrs. Hoffman seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 10:21 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.*

Recorded: June 6, 2005

---

Deborah M. Hoffman, Secretary

Approved: June 27, 2005

---