



Glen Ellyn School District 41

Dr. Ann K. Riebock, Superintendent

**MINUTES
GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2010
CENTRAL SERVICES OFFICES
793 NORTH MAIN STREET
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS**

Call to Order

Following an informal dinner and socializing, the January 11, 2010 Special Meeting was called to order at 5:26 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Solak led the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Upon the roll being called, the following answered present: Drew Ellis, Erica Nelson, Dan Smith, Terra Howard, Bob Solak, Jack Kahler and Steve Vondrak.

Others present: Superintendent Dr. Ann Riebock; Communications Director Julie Worthen; Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, Finance and Operations Bob Ciserella; and Recording Secretary Maureen Stecker.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Board.

Discussion Items

A. Superintendent Dr. Ann Riebock reviewed the following working agreements for this meeting with the Board of Education:

- Conversation is future focused
- Open and honest
- Equal participation
- Creative thinking
- Shared air time
- Mutual respect
- Probing questions

B. Master Facility Plan: Board discussion included the following topics as they related to the District’s Master Facilities Planning:

1. Consolidation Conversation: Dr. Riebock said that the purpose of this conversation is for the Board to determine whether or not there is sufficient interest and rationale for further study into the possibility of consolidation with Community Consolidated District 89 (D89).
 - Setting the context for the conversation: Mr. Solak said that he had heard via the Glen Ellyn Message Board that District 89 was possibly open to the idea of consolidation and requested that Dr. Riebock meet with representatives of D89 in order to ascertain whether there is an interest on their part in consolidation with District 41. Board discussion focused on communication that takes place on the message board and in other public forums outside of Board meetings relative to District issues and what might be proper protocols for the Board to discuss these issues. Discussion center around appropriate communication by individual board members and what matters should be discussed and considered by the Board as a whole. The Board also discussed matters that are brought forward during the public’s participation at Board meetings and how to determine which of these matters should be further examined by the Board.
 - District 41/District 89 Conversation: Dr. Riebock reported that she and Board President Steve Vondrak met informally with D89’s Superintendent, Dr. John Perdue and Board President, Lori Gaspar to discuss D89’s interest in consolidating efforts with District 41. Dr. Riebock said that while D89 continues to be very interested in partnering with District 41 in a number of ways and in examining ways in which resources can be shared if facilities are available, the Board is not currently interested in consolidation with District 41 or in conducting a joint feasibility study. D89 constituents identify themselves as a school community, not as a community that houses a school district. Only one-third of D89’s students are Glen Ellyn residents and D89 expressed concern about the impact of a consolidation on the other two thirds of its constituents which reside in Wheaton and Lombard. Finally, D89 felt that a consolidation study at this time would be somewhat disruptive to the district’s current efforts and focus.
 - Benefits and Barriers Discussion: The Board discussed what might be perceived benefits and barriers of a consolidation effort with D89.

Benefit	Barrier
Financial Savings (consolidation of administrative and operating costs)	Boundary changes (District 41 shifts South)
Opportunity cost-no need to build	Standardization of curriculum
Curriculum Development	Each district’s culture and identity
Getting rid of a north/south mentality of Glen Ellyn	Financial burden of a combined district..tax rate, transportation, labor contracts, parity
One Board and one superintendent	Roosevelt Road both physical and psychological
Opportunities for creative collaboration	Perception that there will be a winner and a loser
	Need to know the outcome before a decision is made
	Damage to relationships

- Next Steps: The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of continuing the consolidation conversation and moving forward with a feasibility study. It was the consensus of the Board to table this discussion in light of D89's position. Dr. Riebock reiterated that D89 would like to keep the doors open on this conversation and that District 41 will continue to partner with D89 and look at ways in which we can share costs and efficiencies of services.
2. Land Acquisition Discussion: Dr. Riebock said that the purpose of this conversation was an opportunity for the Board to determine whether or not a land acquisition approach to both short and long-term facilities planning should constitute the District's next steps in completing an action plan for the recommendations made by the Master Facilities Planning Steering Committee. Board discussion included:
- Long-term plan for property acquisition around schools (10-15 years)
 - ❖ Forest Glen: greatest need, least prudent financially to pursue (limited opportunity)
 - ❖ Churchill: properties on Bloomingdale could provide additional green space as well as allow a building expansion. The outcome might be that Churchill becomes a larger school (i.e. 750 students) thus making it possible for Forest Glen to be a smaller school (i.e. 400) (probably the best potential for purchasing additional land)
 - ❖ Hadley: purchase properties to the east of the school to create green space, specifically physical education spaces. Would allow for expansion of the facility to the north.
 - ❖ Lincoln: Similar to Forest Glen, may not be financially prudent to purchase property due the size and potential cost of the properties
 - ❖ Ben Franklin: Adequate space to expand the school without property acquisition. Could make Franklin a larger school like Churchill and reduce size of Lincoln.
 - ❖ Spalding: Inadequate size for an elementary school and its general location is not an adequate site for a school due to need for extended bussing and potentially low numbers of students who actually live in the area
 - Property acquisition for the purpose of building a new school
 - ❖ Spalding site inadequate
 - ❖ Need for further opportunities in Pre-K education
 - ❖ Potential in the future for all day kindergarten
 - ❖ Greater green space at all buildings which could be achieved by a smaller enrollment and planned additions

Board discussion including the feasibility of purchasing the Park District's portion of the Spalding property in order to expand the 4.3 acre site to 6 acres; benefits of and strategies for property acquisition around the Spalding site school over a long term period and larger property acquisition for the purpose of building a new school.

The Board also discussed the concept of two larger and two smaller schools and the implications of the disparity in school size on the educational experience for children. Dr. Riebock said there could be a perception of disparity, due to the size difference but strategies would be utilized to create smaller learning communities within the larger schools. Kahler said he was concerned that short-term land

acquisition would send the wrong message to the community (spending money we don't have—projected budget deficit). Given the fact that we have cut our capital improvement budget, it would be difficult to say that we are going to set aside money for land acquisition. Dr. Riebock said that if there is conceptual consensus by the Board about some sort of land acquisition, then the Board would want to have community engagement. The Board talked about strategies to engage the community and developing a plan for investigating the availability of viable property adjacent to our schools. First group to share this concept with is the Master Facility Steering Committee. We should take advantage of authentic opportunities that come naturally and slowly share the concept with community members (i.e. Board Meetings and Highlights, E-News, PTA Council, etc.)

- Next Steps and Timeline: The Administration will formulate a more definitive plan, meet with the MFP and put this item on a future Board agenda for discussion.

Adjourn Special Meeting

There being no further business, Howard moved and Ellis seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 8:56 p.m. Motioned carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Stecker, Recording Secretary



Steve Vondrak
President, Board of Education



Erica Nelson
Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes approved: January 19, 2010