

Community Unit School District #95 - Board of Education
Committee of the Whole - Regular Meeting
November 6, 2008 – 6:00 PM, Lake Zurich High School Library
Regular Meeting

Board President Kathy Brown called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 pm, and a call of the roll showed:
Members Present: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Putbress, Mr. Hussey, Mr. Pietro, Mr. Finn, Mr. Tieman, and Mr. Kropf.
Members Absent: None

Public Comments – No members of the community came forward to address the Board.

2009-2010 School Calendar – Dr. Knutson presented the tentative calendars for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. The dates for parent teacher conferences are listed as “To Be Announced”. Parent and staff surveys were distributed at last year’s conferences (2 days/eves) to determine whether the days and/or dates met their needs. Different days (3 days/eves) were scheduled this year to determine whether this arrangement better meets the parent’s needs. Once this year’s results are tabulated, the calendar committee will meet and decide whether to return to the 2 day or continue with the 3 day schedule that is planned for this year. Discussion was held on the tentative schedule for high school graduation is on a Friday after the last day of school and how that will cause many staff members to skip the ceremony. The other options include holding the ceremony on the Saturday during Memorial Day weekend, where many families may not be in town, or holding the ceremony on a weekday evening. A survey with families and staff will help with the determination of when to hold high school graduation. The tentative calendars will come for approval at the November Board meeting, and if approved will be posted on the district web site, included in the district calendar that is distributed to each family, and mailed to local licensed day care centers, sports organizations and private schools.

Board and District Goals – Mr. Jennings presented the findings of the Communications Audit that had been conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards in the late spring and early summer of 2008. He noted the recommendations arising from the audit include the recommendation for a redesign of the District website, and a repurpose of the District Doings news paper. They also suggest implementation of new tools, especially electronic media and more face to face communication opportunities by rotating the location of board meetings. Members note that the small audiences at most meetings does not mean a lack of interest, but rather satisfaction with the current operation of the district. There was a call for a regularly scheduled mailing that will go to all addresses in the district outlining the facts and statement of affairs of the district.

Discussion was held on the number and type of public meetings that should be held to take comments from the community on the recommendation from the Superintendent on the new boundaries for middle and elementary schools. He is scheduled to present his recommendation on January 15th and public meetings could be held soon after that to hear from the public any ideas that the committee may not have considered in their deliberations. Further discussion will be held on the topic in the near future.

FY 2008 Audit – Ms. Kalou reviewed the FY 2008 audit that has been completed and submitted to the Regional Office of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education as required by statute. The auditors noted that several new requirements for reporting have been instituted, which in turn required a thorough review of internal control procedures including a site visit for detailed review.

Some of the highlights from the audit include: The assets of the District exceeded its liabilities at June 30, 2008 by \$80,566,940. Of this amount, \$4,185,540 may be used to meet the District’s ongoing obligations. The District’s total net assets increased by \$5,525,870. Substantially all of this increase represents the degree to which increases in ongoing revenues exceeded similar increases in ongoing expenses.

At June 30, 2008 the District’s governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$21,389,209, an increase of \$1 16,311 in comparison with the prior year.

At June 30,2008 unreserved, undesignated fund balance for the Educational Fund was \$4,357,153 or 8% of total Educational Fund expenditures. While this is still very low, it represents an increase of \$3,226,169 over the prior year.

The District's total long term debt decreased by \$3,033,294 during the year ended June 30, 2008 due mainly to scheduled repayments of long term debt. The District reduced its short term borrowing to \$2,000,000 from \$6,000,000 in the prior year. The management letter noted a few items which were all reviewed and explained. There is a negative balance in the high school accounts dating back more than five years which will need to be cleared this year at about \$200,000 as a one time budget item. The auditors will be in attendance on Nov. 20th to take questions from members. The 2008 Audit will be presented for acceptance at the November 20, 2008 Board of Education Meeting.

Estimated Levy – Ms. Kalou reported that the levy is subject to the Property Tax Cap and can only increase by the 2007 calendar year CPI, which was 4.1% plus the amount of new property growth. The levy is subject to the Property Tax Cap and can increase by the 2007 calendar year CPI, which was 4.1%, plus the amount of new property growth. The assessment and new growth information for Community Unit School District 95 has not been finalized by the County, so the District will use the assessment information for Ela Township for the calculations. According to the County, the assessments in Ela Township have increased by 3.6%. In the tax levy calculation, 4% was used. An increase in the assessment will lower the tax rate; a decline in the assessment will increase the tax rate. Since we are under the property tax cap, the assessment will not change the overall amount of property tax we can collect. Both the Operations and Maintenance Fund and the IMRF/Social Security Fund will receive increases greater than CPI. The increase in the Operations & Maintenance Fund will help to fund the short-term facilities plan. The increase in the IMRF Social Security Fund will help to eliminate the negative fund balance. The decrease in the Transportation Fund is due to that Fund having a fund balance. Since the increase is greater than 5%, the District will publish notice of the increase in the paper and will hold a public hearing on the levy.

Additional Written Information –

- Special Education Annual Review – Ms. Rosenfeld took questions on the annual report of special education services, noting that several students with active IEP's have moved into the District in the last year.
- Cash Flow Projections for the remainder of the year were included.
- School newsletters were included for information.

Closed Session – Personnel

Mr. Tieman moved, seconded by Mr. Pietro to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss: Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, performance, discipline or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

The Board adjourned to closed meeting at 7:43 pm. The Board returned to open meeting at 8:12 pm. As there were no further items on the agenda for the meeting, President Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Mrs. Kathy Brown
President, Board of Education
C.U.S.D. #95
Lake Zurich, IL

Mrs. Jan Putbress
Secretary, Board of Education
C.U.S.D. #95
Lake Zurich, IL

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Smyser, Board Clerk

_____ *Date Minutes Approved by the Board of Education,*

_____ *Date Minutes Made Available for Public Inspection;*

_____ *Date Minutes Posted on the District Website*