

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Philip Bender

DATE: November 14, 2011

RE: Community Finance Committee Leadership Update

This memo is intended to update the Board about efforts to identify new leadership for the Community Finance Committee (CFC), which has been on hiatus since early spring 2011. As described in my memo at the last Board meeting on October 24, the CFC is negotiating through a transition period as new leadership, members and topics for study are identified.

Selection of Community Coordinators

As discussed at the last meeting, my goal was to identify one or two community coordinators who could work with me for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year and hopefully through 2012-13 to help guide CFC activities.

I am pleased to announce that two individuals have been selected to fill these roles. Both are extremely strong candidates who have a long record of interest in District 64 schools evidenced by years of service. They also have a broad base of contacts among fellow Park Ridge-Niles residents and are willing to utilize this network to encourage other volunteers to join CFC as we move ahead.

The new CFC community coordinators are:

- Ares Dalianis – A Park Ridge resident for 11 years, Mr. Dalianis is an attorney specializing in education law, school finance and property assessment issues. Mr. Dalianis has been a resource for CFC since its inception in 2004 regarding his areas of expertise. He also served on the Board of Education in 2003-04. Mr. Dalianis has two children who are currently enrolled in District 64 schools.
- Genie Taddeo – A Park Ridge resident for 19 years, Ms. Taddeo is a local realtor. She was a member of the Board of Education from 2005-11, serving as Vice President and Secretary. She also was the Board's liaison to the Middle School Program Review, the Curriculum Council, the Facilities Committee, and the Elementary Learning Foundation among other assignments. In addition, she helped develop the District 64 Strategic Plan as a member of the Strategic Planning Team in 2009-10. Ms. Taddeo has a child currently enrolled in District 64, and one who has graduated from our schools.

I would ask the Board to join me in thanking Mr. Dalianis and Ms. Taddeo for taking on this leadership role as we begin a new chapter in the CFC's history.

Next Steps

The community coordinators met with me on November 8 to develop a timeline and review the proposed list of studies presented at the last Board meeting. At present, we are in agreement that the following items are most crucial and would like Board approval to move forward on these areas:

Board Goal	Project Name	Description	Timing/Comment
Financial, Facilities Master Plan	District Borrowing Opportunities	Identify options available to the District and calculate budget implications	Timing will be a concern relative to Facility Master Plan/Maintenance Plan
Communication	Financial Transparency <i>(in progress)</i>	Enhance financial reporting to improve transparency and increase taxpayer understanding of: sources of revenues; categories of district expenses; growth of annual revenues and expenses	New formats added to financial reports recently at Board request
Communication	Taxpayer Education <i>(in progress)</i>	Website enhancements; charts/graphs to aid taxpayer understanding of financial health; speakers' bureau for community outreach	Also build on/update existing Education Finance Fact Book materials
Financial, Communication	Student Fees	Refresh the 2009 study and make a new recommendation on fees	
Financial	10-Year Financial Projections	Review assumptions in current forecasting model, develop alternates and run additional versions	Financial Structure Subcommittee studied in the past

We will meet again on December 1 to finalize plans for soliciting new CFC members and study group leaders. I expect the coordinators will be extremely helpful in recruiting individuals with specific expertise that may be needed for these studies. We also will identify a means to orient new members via email, small group meetings or other methods.

Our goal is to reconvene the CFC in mid-January 2012 to begin its important work. We will report to the Board again later in the winter on a timeline for the study reports to be delivered.

At the November 14 meeting, I will ask for Board approval for CFC to begin work on these topics under the guidance of our new community coordinators.