

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64**

Minutes of the Community Finance Committee
held at 7:00 p.m. February 24, 2011
Raymond E. Hendee Educational Service Center
164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Superintendent Philip Bender called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Also present were: Board of Education members Sharon Lawson and Eric Uhlig; Business Manager Becky Allard; Lincoln Middle School Principal Joel Martin; CFC members Allison Blum, Renate Stolzer, Paul Sheehan, Craig Harter; and, community member Marshall Warren

I. Introduction

Dr. Bender took a moment to recognize Kent Bergren for his tireless service to the CFC committee, District 64 and the community of Park Ridge. He was a wonderful man who will be missed by everyone who had the opportunity to know Kent.

Next, Dr. Bender explained that Craig Elderkin had provided notification that he would no longer be able to serve on the CFC. Dr. Bender had tried to notify him on several occasions unsuccessfully to discuss his decision in greater detail.

Mr. Elderkin had successfully served as the chairperson of the CFC for years and there would need to be discussions on the leadership of the CFC moving forward. Mr. Sheehan volunteered to host a roundtable meeting at his home to discuss and enlist potential co-chairperson leaders for the CFC. Dr. Bender and the CFC agreed to this proposed idea. Due to Mr. Elderkin's decision, Dr. Bender was not sure where the committee was in the process of projects that CFC was spearheading. Dr. Bender asked the members of the committee to identify the characteristics they would want in a new leader of the CFC.

II. Review Financial Projections: Becky Allard

Mrs. Allard provided two documents for the CFC members the report prepared by StratPlan and the power point presentation used during the February 14, 2011, Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Allard began by asking everyone to turn to slide 40 in the power point handout. This slide indicates that District 64 has the financial resources to maintain the commitment made during the 2007 referendum not to seek another referendum until the 2016-17 timeframe and the District is able to maintain four months cash on hand at the end of the fiscal year. Becky thanked everyone who worked on the referendum because its approval was vital to the District being able to hold its own under the current financial crisis. However, the District still needs to be fiscally responsible to the community as it moves forward in

the coming years. The administration continues to review expenditures regularly to make sure that the District is receiving the best value and benefit for the students and community.

Mr. Sheehan discussed that many community members do not understand why the District hired two Assistant Principals after referendum was passed. Dr. Bender discussed the vital role that the Assistant Principals would play in the upcoming school year because of the loss of a central office Rtl position and MTSEP programs. These changes would result in more responsibility being moved to the building level administration. The Assistant Principals will take up more of the daily managerial jobs in a building so that the Principals will be able to pick up additional curriculum responsibilities. These Assistant Principals will greatly impact the ability of Principals to address and play an important role in the continuation of these initiatives.

III. District Spend Management Initiatives: Becky Allard

Mrs. Allard discussed that the CFC has played a vital role in the District's review of various services that it contracts to outside agencies. She was very proud to announce that the primary issue was transportation this year and that there will be a recommendation to the Board on Feb. 28 for a new bus contractor, Illinois Central Bus Company. The new bus contractor, which will serve the District out of a location on Touhy and Lincolnwood, will save the District \$300,000. Six companies came to the open bid meeting and only three submitted a bid. The District's current contractor was the highest bid and the new company had the lowest bid. Mrs. Allard stated that they checked the company out thoroughly and felt very comfortable with their services. Glenview District 34 who was also out to bid for transportation services will also award a contract to Illinois Central Bus Company.

Mrs. Allard stated that the District is looking at employee benefits, self-insured through Arthur J. Gallagher and hopes to save about 4% employee benefits or roughly \$250,000. As soon as the transportation contract is finalized the District will begin to examine the topics of District Liability and Workers Compensation. This may or may not result in savings but may increase the lines of coverage for the District.

On January 26 and 27, 2011, Dr. Bender, Becky Allard, Joel Martin, Kent Bergren, and Board Members Sharon Lawson, Genie Taddeo and Scott Zimmerman interviewed six firms (Sharon replaced Kent). On February 22, 2011, the committee brought back two firms for another round of interviews and they will conclude with final presentations on March 7, 2011, at Roosevelt School. Dr. Bender stated that both firms would serve the District well in the future. Administrators, members of the BOE, and community were invited to attend the final presentation. Dr. Bender stated that final factors in the decision would include money and a visit to examine projects that both firms had completed for other school districts.

Mr. Sheehan asked if parents have been acting civil in regards to water issues at Carpenter and Franklin. Mr. Uhlig stated that more people have been concerned about heating/AC at these two schools. However, people had been expressing their concerns to the administration and BOE in a civil manner.

Mrs. Allard informed the committee that Elizabeth Hennessey would be at the next Board of Education meeting (Feb. 28) to discuss issues regarding financial choices and options for school districts. This is simply an informational presentation in nature for new Board of Education members.

IV. Future Topics:

Review the architecture interviews that are going to be held at Roosevelt School on March 7, 2011. Again it was stated that administrators, PTO members, and community groups have been contacted to attend and be part of this process. The District is looking at re-establishing Facility Teams at the building level, composed of: staff, custodians, PTO members, and neighbors. These teams will be invited to analyze needs, concerns, plans, etc. regarding the upkeep of each building. Dr. Bender stated that it is extremely important to understand the impact of involving the community in facility management and understanding the importance that quality schools and facilities have on property values.

Mrs. Allard stated that the Facilities Committee has not been functioning for a while and that they would be contacting people who had served on it to see if they are still interested participating. She stated that the last action of the committee that she was aware of was roughly 10 months to a year ago. Dr. Bender stated that a new architectural firm would assist in the development of a master plan that is to be a living document and allow the District to maintain the quality of its facilities. Additionally, it was noted by Dr. Bender that equity in facilities will be a tenet of any master plan in the future.

Mrs. Allard drew everyone's attention to two handouts, the first was entitled Proposal for Mandatory Consolidation of School Districts by the state of Illinois. It was discussed that the state legislature is discussing a bill that would allow the state to force school districts to combine as a perceived cost cutting measure. It was further discussed by Dr. Bender and Mrs. Allard that this move would not necessarily eliminate cost but would simply increase the size of central office staff. Additionally, many small districts do not merge in rural areas due to the distance between towns. Finally, this measure would greatly impact the local control that communities would have over their schools. Other members of the CFC were not impressed with the actions of our legislators in Springfield. Mrs. Allard and Dr. Bender encouraged members to contact their local representatives and express their opinion on this topic.

Dr. Bender stated that a future meeting date for the next CFC meeting would be established after the roundtable meeting to be held at Paul Sheehan's home to select

new chairpersons. Mr. Sheehan read the future topics list from the October meeting as follows:

- Alumni Giving
- Spend Management
- Energy Management
- Property Tax Environment
- Alternative Revenue Stream

Dr. Bender suggested that members review all of those topics at the dining room table meeting at Mr. Sheehan's home and come back with a priority list regarding these topics.

Dr. Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.