

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

Minutes of the Community Finance Committee
held at 7:00 p.m. February 7, 2012
Raymond E. Hendee Educational Service Center
164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Community Coordinators Ares Dalianis and Genie Taddeo called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first full CFC meeting of 2012. Also present were: Board of Education Liaisons Eric Uhlig and Anthony Borelli, Superintendent Philip Bender, Business Manager Becky Allard, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, and approximately 35 CFC and community members.

Education Finance Presentation

Mr. Dalianis introduced Tom Johnson, President, Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois, who is a former Park Ridge resident. Mr. Johnson shared information about Illinois' continuing fiscal challenges, the Governor's 2012 budget proposal, and the status of current legislation to deal with these issues. CFC members had an opportunity to ask questions and further explore the potential impact of the state's funding issues on suburban school districts like Park Ridge.

Review of Resources

Ms. Taddeo and Mr. Dalianis then reviewed a variety of sources for education finance information, such as the District 64 website (www.d64.org -- CFC page, financial pages, Fact Book); Illinois State Board of Education (www.ISBE.net) and financial reports (www.ISBE.net/sfms/html/financial_archive.htm); the Illinois Association of School Boards (www.iasb.com); and the Cook County Clerk – Real Estate & Tax Services (www.cookcountyclerk.com/tsd). In addition, all CFC members were provided with a copy of IASB's "Essentials of School Finance" by James B. Fritts.

Study Group Time

CFC members were assigned to study groups based on preferences submitted at the January preview meetings. Mr. Dalianis and Ms. Taddeo shared suggested norms for how study group members could work effectively and provided a list of key questions to be covered in each study, as presented in January. The groups then met individually to plan work on the five study topics: taxpayer education; 10-year financial projections; financial transparency; student fees; and District borrowing opportunities. In coming weeks, each group is free to meet independently; Google docs can be a helpful way to share materials between sessions.

Announcements

Reconvening the full group, Mr. Dalianis and Ms. Taddeo announced that requests for information from District 64 staff and use of ESC meeting space if desired for study group sessions should be channeled through them. They recommended that CFC members attend the February 13 Board of Education Committee-of-the-Whole Finance meeting featuring an update on the District's long-range financial projections and a discussion of borrowing options, or watch the video and download the reports from the District's website.

Next Full CFC Meeting

The next full CFC meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at the District 64 ESC. Study groups should be prepared to share progress reports with the committee at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Bernadette Tramm