

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

Minutes of the Community Finance Committee  
held at 7:00 p.m. March 13, 2008  
Raymond E. Hendee Educational Service Center  
164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Superintendent Sally Pryor called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Also present were CFC members: Olympia Asimacopoulos; Michael Calahan; Andy Duerkop; Phil Eichman; Craig Elderkin; Ken Fink; Craig Harter; Board of Education Member John Heyde; Jerry Kenny; Sharon Lawson; Margo Lorenz; Business Manager Bruce Martin; Laura McGrady; Emerson Middle School Principal Vicki Mogil; Tom Nasshan; Board of Education President Sue Runyon; Paul Sheehan; Board of Education Member Ted Smart; Diana Stapleton; Renate Stolzer; and Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm.

Upon motion of Mr. Kenny and second of Ms. Stolzer, the minutes of the previous meeting on February 7 were approved as submitted. Dr. Pryor then distributed a list of the four subcommittees and asked that members confirm their assignments.

**Invitation to Briefing Session**

Dr. Pryor announced that all CFC members would be invited to a briefing for members of the community who actively invest their time to support education and District 64 schools. The session will be held on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the ESC to review the administration's staffing recommendations for 2008-09. Members of the Elementary Learning Foundation board, PTO Presidents, and Committee for Strong Schools steering committee members also will be invited via e-mail next week with a reminder sent after Spring Break. Dr. Pryor stated she was planning to present a PowerPoint presentation from the February 25 Board of Education meeting and answer questions about the administration's recommendation and Board deliberations. She would also briefly "tour" the newly redesigned District 64 Web site, and show how easily Board reports and agenda can be accessed.

**Brainstorming Period**

Mr. Eichman conducted a brief brainstorming to gather any new thoughts or suggestions, especially those that can be added to the CFC list of possible revenue enhancement or cost minimization ideas to be explored. Ideas contributed include:

- Encourage after-school outreach activities in cultural and art activities with Brickton, the Civic Orchestra, Art League, and similar organizations.
- Outsource operations and maintenance tasks, such as repairs and custodial activities.
- Lobby for tax cap law changes to exempt life safety work.
- Work with the City of Park Ridge to bring more industry to the community so as to increase the commercial/industrial tax base and reduce the burden on homeowners.
- Host a movie night at local schools for community members and use it as a means to "show off" student artwork and other assignments to non-parents.
- Cooperate with PROUD and Pride of Park Ridge to develop a connection with these community groups.
- Expand Web site question-and-answer feature for contacting the District.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

Mr. Elderkin announced that subcommittee chairs would be asked to update a matrix of current activities during this evening's meeting, so that a revised list can be distributed to all members.

### **Financial Structure**

Mr. Eichman reported that the subcommittee had met with Business Manager Bruce Martin immediately prior to tonight's meeting to learn more about how the District prepares its annual budget. He also reported progress in updating the CFC's cash flow projection model, and expects to have it completed in 30-45 days.

Mr. Elderkin reported that the investment rate of return project was continuing, and he was hopeful the work would move forward in April. He also noted that a benchmarking study would get underway later this month as well.

### **Spend Management**

Ms. Stapleton reported that a detailed analysis for the last two years of District spending was moving forward swiftly, and that the subcommittee was ready to begin examining the data to spot any trends or fluctuations worth investigating for opportunities to save. Ms. Stapleton also reported that the subcommittee had contributed ideas for a draft of the District's transportation Request for Proposal (RFP), which will be discussed at next week's planning committee.

### **Legislative**

Ms. Lawson reported that she had presented a report to the Board of Education at the March 10 meeting, and that some additional suggestions were received on ways to develop information on pending legislation. The Board had advised Dr. Pryor to invite the District's legal counsel to brief subcommittee members about Open Meetings regulations, lobbying policy, and other legal matters that would be helpful for their work. Ms. Lawson noted the Board was scheduled to approve the subcommittee's mission statement at the next Board meeting on April 7.

### **Communications**

Mr. Elderkin reported that work had begun on drafting multiple new chapters of the Education Finance Fact Book on a wide range of financial topics. He also noted that a section on frequently asked questions would be expanded using background material developed in preparation for the referendum last year.

Following these reports, Dr. Pryor distributed copies of the Board of Education Highlights from January-March 2008, which offers a handy synopsis of the important Board reports and actions taken during this winter period.

The next full CFC meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23 at the ESC, and is open to the public. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.; members then stayed until 9:00 p.m. to work in subcommittees.

Minutes submitted by Bernadette Tramm