

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

Minutes of the Community Finance Committee  
held at 7:00 p.m. September 12, 2012  
Hendee Educational Service Center  
164 S. Prospect, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Community Coordinators Ares Dalianis and Genie Taddeo called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Also present were six CFC members, Board of Education liaisons Tony Borrelli and Eric Uhlig, Superintendent Philip Bender, Business Manager Becky Allard, Assistant Business Manager Brian Imhoff, and Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm.

**Board Direction for Study Groups**

Mr. Dalianis reviewed the activities over the summer. He noted that all the studies had been presented to the Board of Education either on May 21 or June 25. District 64 administration had offered its response and recommendations to the Board on August 20; all CFC members received that report via email. Board liaisons Uhlig and Borrelli then shared insights into the Board discussion about the reports and the administration's recommendations. Overall, the Board was very pleased with the work completed thus far, and had just a few additional requests for CFC in terms of timing and emphasis on certain items.

A discussion followed about the status of each study, which resulted in the following additional directions for activities this fall:

▪ **Taxpayer Education (Study Group 1)**

Ms. Tramm reported that the Board and administration were in agreement on moving forward with the proposed steps. She will be working on the recommended updates to the website this fall with Mr. Imhoff, and will email study group members for direction as needed. She will likely need additional help from the study group to update the Fact Book chapters, after the website work has been completed.

▪ **10-Year Financial Projections (Study Group 2)**

The Board and administration are looking for further input on the assumptions to be used in the annual updating of the District's StratPlan financial model, and would like that conversation to occur at the October 22 Committee-of-the-Whole Finance meeting. Jason Smee said that he would also like to update the model based on the terms of the new employee group contracts when they are settled. Ms. Allard suggested it would also be helpful for the group to meet with the StratPlan consultant to review the model further; she will work to arrange that session.

▪ **Financial Transparency (Study Group 3)**

Administration's response to this study group noted that three of six topics overlap other study areas and are being addressed. Many of the recommendations are being implemented as noted in the administration's report. Adoption of the 2013-14 tentative budget will be moved forward so that it occurs before June 30 as recommended by the study group and accepted by administration. Administration did not recommend adopting the final budget earlier than September as required by law. This allows time for staffing changes due to actual enrollment and the use of actual expense/revenue information for the fiscal year closing June 30 to be utilized. The Board consensus appeared to be behind this approach for now. Ms. Allard noted the Board would be readopting its budget this year in 2013, once all the employee contracts are settled. This experience might provide additional insight for the Board of going through the final adoption process twice for the same fiscal year. Ms. Allard also pointed out that tentative budget information had been posted on the District 64 website in a de-

constructed format this year to draw attention to 5-year comparisons, as suggested by the study group. She confirmed that monthly “dashboard” reports provided to the Board of Education also are posted to the District website.

▪ **Student Fees (Study Group 4)**

Board liaison Uhlig reported on his request for expanding the list of comparable districts that would be helpful for Board members to see in the final report. The direction to CFC would be to utilize the standard list administration consistently uses, and then adding others that would offer valid comparisons that may have been overlooked. Districts should be elementary, have similar enrollment, and primarily from suburban communities with similar socio-economic profiles. Mr. Dalianis suggested that EAV per pupil or EAV per taxpayer might be a good metric to use; Ms. Allard said available fund balance might also be worthwhile to consider.

Annie Jerome and other study group members will need additional data from District 64 to move forward; Mr. Imhoff will be working with the group to develop information requested.

All agreed that the study needs to build from the CFC work completed in 2008-09, and be completed by January 2013. The timing is crucial so that the CFC input can be factored into the Board’s consideration of student fees for the 2013-14 school year that are set in the spring.

Regarding bus transportation fee, so few families are paid riders that the CFC should give this a lower priority at this time. Board liaison Borrelli asked about the busing services provided to parochial school students and whether information could be added to the website; Ms. Allard noted that it is part of the information reported on an annual basis.

▪ **District Borrowing Options (Study Group 5)**

Board liaison Uhlig noted that several Board members have expressed concerns about issuing additional debt to finance facilities projects, however, this would not necessarily preclude CFC from exploring options to develop information for Board discussion. The District is faced with millions in expenditures related to facilities in coming years and will need to evaluate funding alternatives. Dr. Bender and Ms. Allard noted that looking at how to use our existing funding creatively is extremely important to the Board. Ms. Allard reported that she and Director of Facility Management Scott Mackall had made an initial presentation to the Board on September 10 describing performance contracting; she offered to meet with Renate Stolzer and others to go through the details so they could evaluate this option as part of their fall activities.

**Timeline**

Members discussed timelines for final completion of each sub-group’s tasks and consideration of new tasks to undertake. Group 4 is asked to be ready to present findings to the Board at the January 2013 meeting. The other groups will target the spring of 2013. It was determined that new ideas may come out of the work being done by the current sub-groups. No official subcommittees will be started at this time until after the next Board election, but the CFC will continuously brainstorm new topics.

**Next Meeting**

The next full CFC meeting will be on Thursday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the District 64 Educational Service Center for an update on each sub-group’s progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Bernadette Tramm