

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

Minutes of the Community Finance Committee
held at 7:00 p.m. November 6, 2008
Raymond E. Hendee Educational Service Center
164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Superintendent Sally Pryor called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Also present were CFC members: Kent Bergren; Assistant Superintendent Diane Betts; Michael Calahan; Craig Elderkin; Dave Goversen; Craig Harter; Board of Education Member John Heyde; Jerry Kenney; Sharon Lawson; Jun Lim; Business Manager Bruce Martin; Tom Nasshan; Board of Education Member Ted Smart; and Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm. Upon motion of Mr. Elderkin and second of Ms. Lawson, the minutes of the previous meeting of September 25, 2008 were approved as submitted.

Board of Education Report

Board Member Heyde provided a brief update of current financial-related Board activities. He noted that Mr. Martin had reported on the 2008 levy at the October 27 Committee-of-the-Whole on Finance meeting, and that the tentative levy would be adopted on November 10. A public hearing will be held on December 8 prior to Board adoption of the final levy later that evening. He noted that the total levy is expected to be a modest 2.18% increase over the 2007 levy. The Board does not have to levy further for debt service for the 2005 Working Cash Fund bonds, and so the amount to be collected for debt service is dropping by about 40%. The Operating Funds levy will again come under the tax cap following two years of a higher limiting rate made possible through the April 2007 referendum. He then noted that Board member elections would be held in April, and encouraged interested CFC members to step forward either by coming before the Caucus or going directly to voters. He and Mr. Elderkin both offered to talk further with anyone who may want to learn more about the process.

Update on Strategic Plan

Dr. Pryor offered a short recap of the District's new strategic planning effort, which will get underway this spring. She distributed the process and discipline flowchart that Dr. Howard Feddema of the Cambridge Group discussed at the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on October 6. She said the purpose of the plan is to engage the community in a conversation about its schools and its goals for 5-8 years ahead. She compared it with past strategic planning efforts utilized in the District. She encouraged interested CFC members to become involved either as members of the strategic planning group that will meet April 23-25 to draft the plan, or on one of the many strategic action teams that will work in late summer and fall 2009 to develop the detailed steps. She noted the goal is to have a final plan adopted by the Board in spring 2010 so that the first improvements can be implemented with the 2010-11 school year. She also encouraged members to send her names of other community members that might be good additions to either of the groups. Mr. Elderkin seconded the idea that energy, integrity and a caring for public education are the most important attributes for volunteers interested in working on the plan. He noted that the process would be data-driven, but that the planning model also encourages the planning group members to look at positive, aspirational goals.

Study Group Updates

▪ Spend Management

Mr. Bergren reported on the status of the student fees study. He noted that a survey had been distributed to nine other districts and that six had been returned thus far. He noted the group was now reviewing District 64's own expenditures and comparing them with fee revenues received. A community survey about student fees is still in the planning stages.

▪ Financial Structure

Mr. Calahan reported that he had met with Dr. Pryor, Mr. Elderkin and CFC Member Paul Sheehan on a list of brainstorming ideas developed previously through community and CFC brainstorming. A speakers' bureau of CFC members was being explored, and several fund-raising ideas, such as creating a college-style endowment from public donations, would be explored further. He said the group was interested in developing ideas that could generate monthly income from non-traditional sources. He said the District has already pursued other ideas for cash management and energy hedging. He mentioned the District's fund balance chart also had been discussed.

▪ Legislative

Ms. Lawson reported that the Constitutional Convention report to the Board had been extremely well received and should provide a model for such reports going forward. She noted the referendum had failed in the election on November 4. She said the group was now working on preparing for a town hall meeting on education finance for local legislators.

▪ Communications

Mr. Elderkin reported on the status of Fact Book chapters. He noted that the chapters updated last year were now in the pipeline at the Web site developer. Three new chapters are underway, including: special education – second draft completed and several fact-gathering meetings held; rates of return – now in second draft but chapter's focus will be broadened to include protection from losses in the marketplace as well as maximizing returns; facilities – in process but a lower priority. He noted the study group would spend the work session tonight on brainstorming ideas for communications in support of the new strategic planning effort.

At 7:38 p.m., Dr. Pryor adjourned the meeting to work independently in study groups until approximately 9 p.m., with no return to the general meeting.

Minutes submitted by Bernadette Tramm