



Glen Ellyn School District 41: Ignite Passion. Inspire Excellence. Imagine Possibilities.

MINUTES

GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 5, 2014 - 7:30 PM

**CENTRAL SERVICES OFFICES
793 NORTH MAIN STREET
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS**

Call to Order

Board President Sam Black called the May 5, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Vice President John Kenwood led in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Upon the roll being called, the following answered present: Patrick Escalante, John Kenwood, Dean Elger, Joe Bochenski, Erica Nelson, Drew Ellis and Sam Black.

Others Present

Superintendent Dr. Paul Gordon, Assistant Superintendent Karen Carlson, Director of Human Resources Laurie Campbell, Director of Communication Julie Worthen, Assistant Superintendent Bob Ciserella, Board Recording Secretary Maureen Stecker, Ron Richardson of FGM Architects and Jack Hayes of Frederick Quinn Corporation.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Discussion Items

Facilities Planning-Phase II: Dr. Gordon referred to the Board's work during a previous facilities workshop on January 22, 2014, specifically, the Board's discussion around its values:

1. Eliminate portables
2. "right size" schools
3. Return outplaced Special Education students when possible
4. Support full-day kindergarten
5. Expanding preschool opportunities for 3, 4 and some 5 year olds
6. Avoid land acquisition

Dr. Gordon noted there was a strong consensus at that time to eliminate portables and right size the schools and varying levels of support for the others.

Based off new data (satisfaction survey, Phase I feedback) the Board continued its discussion around defining the facilities deficiencies Phase II addresses, and providing direction to the administration for short and long term solutions. Below is a summary of the Board's discussion.

I. Review values from the January 22, 2014 Special Board Meeting: Board members engaged in an activity to identify the value they most strongly support and discussed their findings.

1. Eliminate portables (12)
2. "right size" schools (means capacity) (12)
3. Support full-day kindergarten (8)
4. Return outplaced Special Education students when possible (3)
5. Expanding preschool opportunities for 3, 4 and some 5 year olds (0)
6. Avoid land acquisition (0)

The Board discussed additional value questions related to full day kindergarten.

- All District 41 kindergarten students
- Only at-risk students
- Only tuition-based students
- Both at-risk *and* tuition-based students

The Board asked for additional information/clarification:

- What is our market data?
- How many would take advantage of full day kindergarten?
- Comparable data from other school districts
- What are the costs?
- What is the likelihood for full day kindergarten to be state-mandated?

II. Facilities site options: Dr. Gordon reported the following:

- Wheaton Christian Grammar School: Confirmed Wheaton College will be using the land and facility for the college's use. It was the consensus of the Board to remove this parcel of land as a consideration.
- Newton Park: Spoke with Glen Ellyn Park District Manager Dave Harris. Early indications are the Park District has no interest in selling the land. The Park District has an intergovernmental agreement with District 87 as of February 2014. It was the consensus of the Board to remove this parcel of land as a consideration.
- Spalding: District 41 property, 4.8 acres of land (similar to Forest Glen); there are preliminary plans that show a 4 section school of 550 students.
- Spring Avenue: The Park District seems willing to discuss options for this property; current facility would require upgrades, underground storm water detention.

II. Other aspects to consider:

- Traditional vs. Magnet school vs. Early Childhood Center
- Costs:
 - land acquisition
 - new construction
 - renovating existing structures

Below is a summary of the Board's ensuing discussion.

- Can we use an asset outside of District 41 boundaries?
- How many children are home schooled?
- How many kids are bused (K-5)?
- Where is the growth now?

- Is it less cost prohibitive to run a school that has a focused mission (e.g. Early Childhood Center)
- What does a magnet school do to the other schools? Have we benchmarked other local districts? What is a compelling reason to have a magnet school? 80% of the D41 residents do not have children. A magnet school might be an attraction to pass a referendum.
- Is the former Dominick's property at Baker Hill an option?
- Leasing is an appropriate option that should be explored.
- Spring Avenue is a more economical choice. Ron Richardson of FGM Architects displayed a topographic image of the Spring Avenue property (approximately. 8 acres) and noted that he can acquire some updated information from FEMA.

III. Outcomes and direction to administration: The Board determined that the definition of a "right sized" school is a school that comfortably accommodates its students in instructional spaces and infrastructure and identified Spring and Spalding as the site options to pursue. The Board directed the administration to refine its work on Spalding and asked for more information on the Spring Avenue property and full-day kindergarten. Dr. Gordon said that the Administration will provide the additional information requested at a future meeting.

Adjourn Meeting

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Board President Sam Black announced that his wife is taking a job in Florida and his family will be moving in June. In light of that, he will submit his formal resignation at an upcoming Board meeting. The process for filling Mr. Black's vacancy and filling the position will be discussed at an upcoming meeting as well.

There being no further business, Board members Kenwood moved and Nelson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Stecker, Board Recording Secretary

Sam Black, Board President

Dean Elger, Board Secretary

Minutes approved: May 12, 2014