

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

April 14th, 2010

This was a Public Hearing on the Issuance of Bonds & the Adoption of the 2009/10 Amended Budget as well as a Regular Board of Education meeting. All Board members were present. The meeting was held in the Sundling Junior High gym. There were over 200 people in attendance including members of the media, D15 administrators, the district's architectural firm and a Palatine Police officer in uniform.

Board President Gerald D. Chapman – On March 10th, the BOE issued intent to issue Working Cash Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$27 million dollars. In the intervening period, a petition was filed prohibiting the BOE from issuing such bonds unless issuance is approved by a referendum vote at the November election. The BOE cannot now consider any other bond options until after the referendum date has passed. He wants the audience to understand that there is a freeze on that until after November.

Public Hearing – D15 Issuance of Bonds

James Teufel – Palatine resident

It is time for the educational industry to join the real world and live within its means. Teachers, staff, bus drivers, etc. continue to get their annual increases, inflated pension and health benefits while we take pay cuts and hits to our pension plans. My social security check is less than it was two years ago. We are getting higher taxes at all levels to continue to pay for school employees' salaries and benefits. For example, D214 counselor retired at age 57 with \$90K pension, now over \$100K – now works at a parochial school for \$70K and will get social security when she finally retires. D214 math teacher retired at age 58, pension now over \$100K, teaching at a parochial school and will receive social security when he retires again. Double dipping takes jobs away. The school commissioner deferred salary in order to boost his pension, this costs taxpayers over \$1M over his lifetime – "etc, etc." School districts allow this, doesn't cost them anything, they dump it on the State. Now the State wants an increase in taxes to pay for it. They keep saying "it's for the children". Baloney! The money goes right into the teachers' pockets. Teachers' pensions are unfunded by \$1.5 billion dollars. The NEA is bankrupting the country with its demands. Let the school boards tighten their belt that is what we have to do. Feel some pain as we do, work for 50 weeks a year and work until 67. Said that there is no such thing as life expectancy (of a capital project) it is only as good as it is, if it is 10, 20 or 30 years old. Spoke about his own work on parking lots, etc. that he owned and their good maintenance. Teufel said "this is what you get when you have teachers running the business. Put them back in the classrooms and get business people to run this operation". Emphasized "No more money – enough, enough, enough." We the taxpayers cannot afford it.

Teri Paulson – Hoffman Estates resident

Has spent the last several weeks personally researching the bond issue in an effort to truly understand both sides – read newspaper articles, talked to BOE members, watched the video, looked at the budget and spoke with the district business manager. After this research, she has concluded that those that voted for the bond issue really dropped the ball in their role as the representatives of children & taxpayers. The plan, as proposed, is wasteful – their support of it shows a blatant disrespect for both taxpayers & their hard earned money. She came to this conclusion after gathering basic information and then called the D15 business manager. It became apparent during their conversation that the manager was surprised by the community's uproar about the bonds. She said she had not even considered using Tax Anticipation Warrants (TAWs) and that issuing working cash bonds under these circumstances is considered "good financial practice". Question: How can spending millions on a problem that can be solved for a few hundred thousand be considered good practice? The answer is rather disturbing and there is not time tonight to explore that. She said the manager can be forgiven for her lack of concern over wasting taxpayer money – she was hired to straighten out the district's finances, not worry about the community or protect the interests of children and taxpayers.

That is your job (BOE members). She works under your direction. If good stewardship of taxpayer money were a priority for you, it would be a priority for her as well. If not, well, you get a financial plan like the one you voted for. Add to this the obscene waste of refunding current bonds, borrowing money for light bulbs and giving teachers and bus drivers a raise – with money you knew you didn't have – during a time when the rest of us are losing our jobs or taking pay cuts . . . It adds up to a picture of blatant disrespect for taxpayers made all the more painful by the fact that you are the people we have elected to represent us. Is this simply a matter of not doing your homework, not understanding the proper role of a BOE member or having another agenda? The proposed bond issue was a wasteful plan that should have been rejected and rewritten. As a taxpayer, I feel completely used and disrespected by the recent decisions of this school board and that is why I personally collected nearly 100 petition signatures. She hopes that they take their role in representing the children and taxpayers more seriously in the future.

Lisa Neal – Rolling Meadows resident

As one of the citizen-moms that organized the petition drive, she wanted to take her hat off to every one of the circulators – all 168 of them. Without their dedication, this petition drive would have been unsuccessful. They represented the Village of Palatine, City of Rolling Meadows, Village of Inverness, and Village of Hoffman Estates. Whether their petitions contained 1 signature or 560 signatures, the outpouring of thanks from voters here made it clear that every effort they made for this cause was greatly appreciated. Each and every one of our signees that chose to stop and talk to us, who listened during the early morning hours at the train station, who drove to the post office or other locations – so that we could file this petition – Thank you. You are to be commended for exercising your right in holding the school board accountable to the taxpayers – combined you totaled over 7,000. You overwhelmingly decided that this should be voted on in November. As the Daily Herald said in their editorial on April 14th, this is the beginning of democracy in District 15. It is important that all of the residents and registered voters that signed this petition and those that didn't, educate themselves on this proposal and be ready to vote on the November ballot. Our elected Board of Education must now explain the bond issue. Stay connected to the Bonds on the Ballot group as there is much more to come.

Dr. Bryan Neal – Rolling Meadows resident

It is obvious that our district is in serious condition. It is the board's responsibility to resuscitate our budget and nurse this district back to stable financial health. He hopes that the Board reflects on three alternatives before they try to saddle us with tens of millions of dollars of debt payable over decades. First – cut teachers, cut staff, cut student activities, cut student programs. Bitter medicine? Yes – because I have two children in this district, I say this with flesh and skin at stake. This surgeon knows that sometimes one must cut to cure. Even amputate – sometimes a necessary choice amid unpleasant options. Cut to cure. Borrowing will kill. He suspects that some BOE members cannot stomach such medicine. To which he suggests, a second alternative. Address who we pay. This Board should re-negotiate union contracts that the teachers' union extracted disproportionate pay and benefits in times of extreme economic turmoil. You (BOE) have immunized teachers to any adverse financial consequence during the worse recession since the Great Depression at financial peril to the taxpayer and educational detriment to our children. Union leaders will not willingly share in the sacrifice until facing a sharp budgetary scalpel. Show it to them. He suspects that some of the Board cannot stomach dispensing such medicine. To which he offers another alternative. Address the taxpayer with the same rationale, reasoning and persuasive argument required to convince a minimal majority of this Board to mortgage our future. Ask the taxpayer for these funds in November. Do not fear the ballot box. Find comfort in the will of the people. In conclusion, you (Board) face the proverbial fork in the road. He hopes they choose the less traveled path that requires hard choices and sacrifice which this community is willing to endure. He fears that they (Board) will choose to follow Dr. Chapman down the seductive and well worn path of borrowing money today with the promise to pay back later. Then you may have to face charges of financial malpractice.

Jane Van Wolvelear – Palatine resident

Recently read an article at the Palatine Journal & Topics online (newspaper) about a meeting that was held to discuss this bond issue. At this meeting, a BOE member simply tried to educate everyone as to why it was a poor decision on the part of the majority of this Board. At the end of this article, one of the majority members was asked by the journalist to comment on this bond issue. That BOE member said that she did not wish to comment but then went on to say and she quotes "there was a resolution from the Board to go forward with this. We are there as a unit." This member also suggested that comments regarding Board decisions should only come from Board President Chapman – not individual Board members. Van Wolvelear said, "I'm sorry but the last time I checked. The United States of America was a democracy – where we vote individuals into specific offices to represent the people." We do not vote into office – units of people. We do not give up our right to speak on our own behalf once we take office. Since when did the School Board of District 15 become an entity where only one person may speak for all? Why was it when this bond decision was held at the last meeting, only one majority voter asked any question and that question was simply "do you think this is a good idea?" Not one person in the majority vote asked why they were not presented with alternate solutions. She said that there is not one person in this room tonight that would go and get a mortgage on their house without talking to numerous lending institutions in order to get the best possible rate and the least expensive mortgage. Yet this majority Board was willing to take out a \$27M dollar loan on the taxpayers' behalf and they were advised by one financial institution. IF a public board meeting is honestly the only time you discuss issues with the district, how can you possibly think that one presentation, by one financial firm is the only solution and there would not be further investigation. She is asking all Board members to listen to the people who voted you on to the Board. You have been presented with multiple thousands of signatures by voting taxpayers of this district asking you to put this to the vote of the people. Taxpayers and voters are simply saying "we expect and deserve a fiscally responsible use of our tax dollars." The majority of this Board is not doing what they were voted in to do. And that is to represent the people who voted them in. This is not the entity of one man. This is a democracy of District 15. Speak your own mind; don't let another speak for you.

Jen Zold – Palatine resident

What she wants to communicate to the Board is this – The resolve of the people of this community. The people you (BOE) are accountable to. She logged many hours asking the citizens a single question "do you want a voice, a vote in the matter of the district issuing bonds on the peoples' behalf?" In doing this, she sought to educate people on the mere existence of the issue. However what she did not expect was to get the education of a lifetime. She learned that 168 people would volunteer to spend hours helping to inform their community members about the important issue affecting them all. She learned that as far as this school district is concerned – there are no divisions such as Democrats or Republicans or Libertarians – or East, West, North, South fiefdoms. She saw that it was just as difficult for the young moms with babies and toddlers as well as the older people with canes to get to a petition signing location. She heard commentary from the great majority about how mismanagement must end. She marveled at the teachers and bus drivers desire to sign as well as many of their retired counterparts. And she anguished over stories of hardship involving job loss and even foreclosure. She seeks to convey (to the Board) respectfully tonight is the sense of all of this. The lack of public accountability and the lack of transparency must be in the past. The over 7,000 signatures presented to the administration were not intended for a file cabinet or the courtroom. You must understand that they were intended for you, our elected representatives. The power of this unprecedented number of signatures should send a very clear message. The people are overburdened. Times have changed. Finally to the Board Majority Block: You have awakened the sleeping giant in this community. Lack of accountability and transparency will not be overlooked. May this wakeup call be heard by you, around the State and throughout the Nation.

Ingrid Henderlight – Palatine resident

In light of our current economic times, the D15 administration and BOE need to use every dollar wisely. The way this bond issue was approached was not wise for several reasons. To begin with, to even consider refunding existing bonds at a cost of \$5.5M dollars on top – certainly calls to question the Board's understanding of this move. This is a significant amount of money to pay out in penalties.

Second – bonds were not bid out to several companies. This should be key to any financial decision. This Board majority does not bother to take the time to research before voting on this issue. Third, the fact that \$10M dollars was to keep money in cash is another concern. Bonds are not to be used for such a purpose. Bonds are for buildings, for long-term improvements. Borrowing \$10M at 5.5% interest for 20 years just to have it available for a few months at a time is ridiculous. There are short term loans and funds available to cover the gap when the State or County does not pay on time. The fact that this money would earn 0.5% interest rate during this time only magnifies the question of whether the Board even understands basic financial principles. Paying 5.5% outright and only getting a half of a percent in the bank is not what a financial planner would call profitable or wise. The Board was not clear on how to spend the money on these bonds. The \$17.2M dollars in capital improvements was not even discussed by the BOE. Less than one third of these projects leading up to this vote was even discussed by the Board - Projects such as roofs and curtain walls which are expected and planned for years in advance. In addition, the \$1.2M dollars for energy efficient light bulbs should not be included in a capital improvement plan. This should come from the daily operating budget. When this bond issue was brought up in March, BOE member Sue Quinn brought up the issue of \$6M dollars in bonds to cover the capital projects that had been previously discussed. Unfortunately, four BOE members did not want to compromise. They want it now and do not want to answer to the community. The Board majority voted this \$6M dollars down. It is unfortunate because she believes by doing it this way; it has decreased their chances of passing the (referendum) vote for bonds in November. They (Board majority) were greedy, wanted too much, didn't plan properly or were above board. So now people do not trust them in light of how this situation was handled. She certainly doesn't. It is her hope that a reasonable referendum on a bond issue will pass in November. This will take work on both sides to convince the public that the funds will be spent wisely and that the projects are planned properly. It is her expectation that the Board will be held accountable in these financial decisions - Decisions that affect every taxpayer in Palatine (Township) as well as teachers and students in the district.

Bill Nicks – Palatine resident

He agrees wholeheartedly with everything that has been said so far and wants to thank the people that brought this to the public's attention. He doesn't believe that the Board members can look the public in the eye. He also mentioned the Daily Herald's article that said "the Board will meet tonight" but didn't give the location. No where in the story does it tell the public where the meeting is, what time the meeting is. The Daily Herald needs to do its job of reporting to the citizens as to what is going on around here.

Robert Detloff – Palatine resident

He is a registered voter in the district, has 3 daughters in the district – two at Hunting Ridge and one at Plum Grove. He said that when he found out that for \$27M dollars that there wasn't a bid – he was aghast. He has been in business for 33 years, our company wouldn't buy a stack of paper unless they knew they were buying from the best dealer they could. There is not a single person in this room that wouldn't examine a newspaper, look through some magazines, and look for the best price they could on a TV, a car or any other item. In fact, women are the best shoppers we have – period. They buy more food and more items for the home and children than anybody he knows. But to hear that we (district) didn't go out for a bid? That's all he has to say.

Scott Herr – Palatine resident

To District 15 Board members – I am waiting for a response from the district administration on some questions. He has also reviewed the attachments for today's meeting and could not find the answers to many of his questions. In the meantime, he has these comments for the Board. 1) Can some capital projects be scheduled to be completed after December 1st, 2014? This is when Series 2006 bonds become callable and avoids the need to pay the costs of refunding. 2) Have all options been considered to avoid refunding these Series 2001 bonds? For example, has the total cost of CAB (Capital Appreciation Bonds) been compared to the total cost of Build America Bonds (BAB) including the associated Series 2001 refunding bonds? Are there any options to avoid extra costs of refunding the called bonds? 3) Have the bond proposals been structured to avoid the need down the road to

refund non public bonds? - to not put us in the same problem as we are today. There is a tradeoff between offering callable bonds that provide more flexibility than D15 and a higher interest rate that a bond holder would expect from callable bonds. Currently the next window for this issuance of bonds is in the 2014 school year – when the Series 2006 bonds became callable. He is not saying that the district should postpone all capital projects, obviously some are needed now. Let's find the right way to do it. 4) He did an analysis of a working cash bond vs. tax anticipation warrants and it is at the website www.d15pie.org Note that the advantages of TAWs is even higher than stated in that analysis because a working cash funds requires additional Series 2001 CABs that were not include in this analysis.

Jenny Bennett – Palatine resident

Just because things go on sale doesn't mean we should go crazy buying to fill our need. We need to confirm that we actually need it. To spend \$51M dollars for \$27M million today doesn't seem right - with the hope that the economy gets better. But if it doesn't, where are we going to get the money to pay it back down the road? It will become a downward cycle. There needs to be a financial accountability now and in the future. She believes the best solutions need to be sought out for the financial issues and needs we have today.

Robin Serafino – Representing the group C.H.A.T.

The democratic process – transparency is first and foremost in avoiding in arriving at these places. Our group has had the privilege and honor to be able to debate the issues on recess in Springfield. We opened up a room at the (Palatine) library on these (bond) issues. Some board members were very helpful in informing the community and getting information out to them. She thinks that there is a lot of misinformation being passed around. Teachers are being misinformed. Residents are being misinformed. Scare tactics are being used which is of no use and no help in moving forward as a successful school district. A successful school district of quality education does ensure core values and it is a guarantee for a future for all residents - no matter what their age, no matter if they have children in the district or not. We want to be careful about black & white, about throwing the baby out with the bathwater. We need our teachers, we need good administrators, we need people to work for pay – however, we need to do it responsibly – and with transparency, we can insure that will happen going forward. If you are interested in moving forward as a community to get information in the future, come to the library C.H.A.T. You will be assured to get accurate information that we have available. All perspectives are welcome. She thinks that an improved quality of education can be had without necessarily an extra cost.

Tricia Boyles-Bader – Palatine resident

Had her eyes wide opened when the Board pushed through a bond issue unbeknownst to the public. She was surprised and outraged that these things tend to fly under the radar and not in front of the public eye. Heard about the scare tactics of teacher cuts, leaky roofs? In all areas – in everything - You (board) represent the people and our children. We are crying out asking for transparency and clarity.

Proposed Expenditure Reductions for 2010-2011

(Slide presentation not provided to the public via the CCSD15 website nor as handout to the audience)

Merilee McCracken, Interim Asst. Superintendent for Business – Reviewed what was discussed at the March meeting. Maintain a fund balance of 30%, develop a cost containment culture - Developed a list of \$2.2M of budget reductions over several departments, not any one department for the 2010/11 year. Also what other reductions need to happen over the years to maintain that 30% fund balance.

Some direct comments/observations made by BOE members regarding reductions outlined -

- \$2.2M in budget reductions for 2010/11 will be carried through the following years, with an additional \$2.3M cut from the 2011/12 budget (total reductions from current year 2009/10 to 2011/12 would be over \$4M)
- Three full-time bilingual program assistant positions will be eliminated (\$65,000)

- Two full-time Title I teachers (JA and VL) eliminated. These positions were obtained through Title I funds and just added mid-year this current school year as support for the self-contained classroom teachers.
- Reduce transportation department overtime

Board member Tim Millar – The years after 2010/11 are just incredible to the number of cuts. The other truth is that if we actually had looked at opening up union contracts and putting them at just CPI this year for salary and benefits. That would be a long way to resolution to avoid these drastic cuts in the years. Next year (2011/12) will be exceptionally painful because you already have the easy stuff out of the way here. The following years will involve a lot of people being cut and the year after. That is a large percentage of your staff. He would like to urge the BOE to solve the problem now instead of just kicking it down the road.

Board member Sue Quinn – Asked where the budget was? The budget calendar said we should have it now and it isn't even scheduled for May.

McCracken – She is recommending that the budget not be adopted until August.

Quinn - Final adoption in August is fine, but preliminary adoption should be as soon as possible to have a first look. Can we have at least a first look next month?

McCracken – Will try, doesn't really know. We can certainly bring you what we have.

Capital Improvement Projects

McCracken – In the Board packet is a list of capital improvements and a timeline. In light of the fact that there isn't going to be a bond sale – the revenue source we thought we were going to have this summer – she is now recommending that the district complete the Lake Louise (curtain walls) and the church parking lot and hold off on the others until the Board decides how to fund those.

Chapman – So we could not fund those (extras) and still meet fund projections without bonds?

McCracken – The only ones included this summer without a bond sale are those two projects.

Quinn – Is confused because in February – carpeting was included in the list of projects for the summer. We went out for bids on the carpeting and are voting on it tonight.

McCracken – We are asking the Board to reject the bid.

Quinn – Doesn't understand why you are doing that. It was not her understanding that the list from February was predicated on the bond sale. Wasn't this budgeted in the 2009/10 school year?

McCracken – She is not aware of any of that being budgeted.

Quinn – So all of this is going in the 2010/11 budget which we don't have?

McCracken – Work performed in the summer of 2010 is paid for after July 1st so it would be in the 2010/11 budget. **Quinn** – Understands. Some of these things we should be moving forward with and doesn't understand why the recommendation is now to reject it.

McCracken – She can tell Quinn why she is recommending that because she is not recommending that the district continue to spend down fund balances for capital projects.

Chapman – That is the impact of not having the bond sale.

Quinn – Some of the things in there are for example are light bulbs which we were told pay back for themselves in terms of energy efficiency. **McCracken** – What you are referring to are not light bulbs. They are retrofitting the light fixture. She called for Craig Phillips to help her answer questions – NOTE: *he was not speaking into the microphone so it was difficult to pick up his voice*).

Board member Margaret (Peggy) Babcock – Asked Phillips when the savings of the light bulbs/fixtures would be recouped? **Phillips** – 12 to 18 months.

Quinn – So why aren't we doing that?

Chapman – Because it costs money to do that. If we are talking about maintaining a 30% fund balance, you would have to take money out of there to do it. He agrees that there is a payback on the light bulbs/fixtures. That is the tradeoff. *(Note: Phillips continued talking but difficult to hear because he was not using the microphone. He was explaining where funds for different projects came out of, mainly capital projects fund not operating funds)*

Quinn – Those were major capital projects, these are not (light bulbs/fixtures).

Chapman – On one hand, there are BOE members saying cut more. And then we have other BOE members saying spend more - some how we have to get that in balance. These were projects that were identified to be paid for from the bond sale. If there is not a bond sale, we can't incur these until after a referendum. So that is the issue.

Millar – From his experience, the cost of the light fixture is broken into a few different pieces. The balance which doesn't last 20 years and the light bulbs which don't last 20 years anyway. A large part of this is maintenance. *(Phillips responding but cannot be heard.)*

Millar – We do receive the TIF money from Palatine which is targeted for capital projects. Finishing the curtain walls was in last year's budget anyway. This has an 18 month payback and you are just shooting yourself in the foot not doing it.

Board member Richard Bokor – But you are talking about \$500K plus not for the schools.

Chapman – Doing those fixtures would add to the amount of cuts that we are projecting. We want to make good long term decisions relative to the monies that you have. He would not disagree with that at all. We need directions relative to that issue. Can we reach a consensus?

Millar – How much money do we have in the budget from the Palatine TIF? He knows that we projected \$500K for next year. That was more conservative on their part (Palatine). It could be \$1M. \$750K might be a better guess. It is the same pool of money whether we do it now or on a bond later. We have the money (TIF) for that purpose (capital projects).

McCracken – The money from the Palatine TIF should come in next spring (2011).

McCracken – just to update you, we will bring to the BOE the bid for the parking lot in May. Then we will know the cost of the church parking lot.

Options in 5-Year Projections with Bond Sale – Option I – No Bond Sale

Quinn – Dr. Chapman made some comments before the bond issue public hearing about the district not being able to consider any options for bonds until after November. There was also a quote from our attorney in the Daily Herald newspaper this morning stating that there is an option. Quinn wants the Board to get a legal opinion so that we know what all of the options are concerning the bond sale. Is that agreeable to the Board? ***No one disputed that and agreed.***

Citizens Address the Board

Karen Meadows – Art teacher at Plum Grove JH, retiring this year

She wanted to address the BOE on a different topic tonight – that is to always be mindful of the whole child. She is dismayed at the loss of so many fine arts programs in the district. One of D15's core goals is to develop 21st century skills. As elected officials, you are of course in charge of being fiscally responsible in these horribly difficult times – not of your making. But you are also policy makers. You decide what our curriculum is going to be. Too many decisions across the board are being made on the premise that a successful child and successful school is based on math and reading skills. She believes that every parent and teacher realizes that children have different strengths. We should all be screaming at our legislators for their narrow view of teachers and schools. Of course reading and math are important but not at the expense of all else. Who will be our next diplomat? Our next writers, directors, playwrights? Problem solvers, inventors and planners? We all recognize that computers have come to perform complex surgeries, fix machinery, etc. But we also know that a human must program the information into a computer. The difference between a computer and a human - humans

feel and create. We are programming our children like computers and they are becoming better and better on tests but they are losing the ability to problem-solve, to think and to plan outside of the specific information in which they have been programmed. We cannot go backwards, education is changing, we all know that but what we are doing now is really not in the best interests of the children. We are making decisions based on what she believes to be a wrong premise that math and science evaluate our children. How will we deliver information, encourage high level thinking skills? We need new and innovative ways to approach our curriculum. She is asking that they think, as an elected BOE, parents and teachers – are you going to allow legislators to dictate what a good education is? Reach out to other school boards. Reach out to some of the best and brightest teachers we have in our district. Look outside the box to find out what skills the children really need for the 21st century. Listen to your teachers and then see if there is something we can do to be part of the solution not a part of this problem. We must not leave behind a generation of children whose skills and talents might not reflect in our current testable areas.

Vicki Wilson – Palatine resident

She wasn't planning on speaking tonight but when she just heard that the carpeting at Paddock was not going to be replaced this summer – it's 20 years old. If that is not a health hazard, she doesn't know what is. And for you (BOE) to sit there and say "well, we don't have the money for it" – There was a motion last month for bonds to fund the capital improvements that were preplanned. Had that motion passed, it is likely that the petition drive would never have happened. We all want capital improvements – preapproved by the Board and preplanned to be done. This carpeting is a huge health hazard. If you (BOE) don't pass this, she doesn't know how they could sleep tonight. How can you say you are for the children? How can you sign contracts you know the district can't afford? Then turn around and say "no you can't have carpeting." If that isn't punishment, she doesn't know what is. All we wanted was a reasonable, well thought out financial plan. That is why we did this petition drive. Do you know that a one year pay freeze would save this district \$2.7M dollars? Do you know that after five years the savings compounded would be over \$14M dollars? She also read in the newspaper that you could still do a bond issue for the Build America Bonds. So please don't sit there and say "we can't do this because of the petition drive." It's on you, it's your decision. Please don't sit there and say you are for the kids because it certainly doesn't seem that way when we have 20 year old carpeting at Paddock.

Bid Award – Carpet & Resilient Floor Tile Replacement (Capital Projects)

Chapman – Says that this recommendation was based on getting proceeds from the bond sale which is now on hold. If the Board wishes to proceed with this, it means that the reductions we talked about – the bottom line would change by this amount. He asked for a suggested motion to either reject or accept the award. **Quinn** – Made a motion to accept the bid as presented. It was seconded.

Quinn – This comes in under budget and understands that we don't want to spend money we don't have to spend but thinks we should keep on target with things that we were planning to do. If we want to start pulling back a little bit on our capital projects understands that. But we shouldn't immediately stop what we had already planned.

Babcock – Well if this is a health issue?

Chapman – Knows about Paddock's issues. But it isn't unlike the other list of issues like Pleasant Hill when the Board decided to put that off and it became a disaster. All of this is important. What becomes a tough balance for the BOE is to what extent can we afford, recognizing that when we make those decisions we are cutting into . . . (drifts off) but doesn't disagree either.

Millar – If the referendum passes in November or if it doesn't, the Board can do another smaller bond issue later for capital projects. If the Board is concerned over cash flow.

Chapman – Not concerned over cash flow, concerned over bond money.

Quinn – She is concerned about keeping on schedule with what we planned to do. Plus, the Board has not had a discussion about what happens after November. We need to have that discussion along with a planning process for all our projects. We can start our due diligence then.

Board member Mark Bloom – Looking at the numbers that have been up on the screen for the past couple of months, we are looking at numbers especially as we go forward we have to make some huge cuts. We have to look at the long term picture not the current cash flow. There are pros and cons to all of these projects. Obviously if we had the money, we would do them all in a logical manner. But in this situation where we are looking at these numbers and we have to make cuts – there are going to be some hard choices that we have to make. Every dollar we spend now is a dollar or \$1.50 we have to cut down the road.

Vote to award the bid

Chapman AYE, Ekeberg AYE, Millar AYE, Quinn Yes, Babcock AYE, Bloom No, Bokor AYE
Motion carries 6:1 (Bloom voting No)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 p.m.

Next Board of Education Regular Meeting – **Wednesday, May 12, 2010**

By: Jennifer Mondy fcwnews@comcast.net

Web site: www.spotlightontheboard.org

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For more information regarding the District 15 Bond issue, please visit the website www.d15pie.org
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