

# **Spotlight on the Board**

## **Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings**

### **August 8th, 2007**

This was a Regular Board of Education meeting. Board member Wendy Rowden was absent. **Board Member Nancy Lee Carlson was absent – (5<sup>th</sup> consecutive absence).**

#### **Superintendent's Reports**

##### **Student Assignment**

**Jim Garwood, Asst. Superintendent, Admin. Svcs.** - Briefly explained what was happening with the student assignment plan and class sizes. Open enrollment was held last week and continues on – sometimes through Labor Day for some schools. His department is not recommending any new positions at this time. The only positions being added at this point are four sections of kindergarten (two bilingual and two regular). Class size averages overall are below the Board target averages of 24 students per class for grades K-3; 26 for grades 4-6; and 28 for grades 7-8. Kindergarten numbers are on par with last year. Kindergarten typically sees the biggest increase in enrollment – the other grades tend to be a re-enrollment and those numbers can be anticipated. It is harder to plan for kindergarten.

##### **Update – Two-tier Transportation Program**

**Bob Anderson, Co-Interim Transportation Director** - Stated that the ten newly purchased buses will be arriving on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and that the pay bus riders have been loaded into the system and bus routes are now being finalized.

**Don Skinner, Co-Interim Transportation Director** - Letters will be sent to parents early next week designating routes and pickup times. Bus drivers will come in next week for selection and assignment of bus routes. The department's most challenging task this summer has been hiring bus drivers. It is an extremely competitive field because there is a shortage of qualified drivers. The district provides four to six weeks of training for those drivers without a driving background. Twenty-four in training right now and still need to hire a few more.

Currently the longest a child could be on the bus is 45 minutes while attending his/her home school – however, the transportation is still fine-tuning the almost 700 bus routes. There are more children on the buses resulting from going from four to two tiers.

**Board member Kelly Keenan** – Indicated that the reason the Board chose transportation Plan A (instead of Plan B) was to not have children on a bus for 45 minutes if they were attending the school within their home's boundaries. She understood that if a child was in a gifted program and attended a school outside their boundaries, that that ride may take longer. **Dr. McKanna, D15 Superintendent** – The transportation department will be coming back to the Board in September with an updated 10 year bus plan. A full presentation will be presented at the October BOE meeting as the Board requested.

##### **Citizens Address the Board**

**Elaine Marcus** – Rolling Meadows resident

Wanted to speak regarding the tax abatement program being proposed for a development at the corner of Meadow Drive and Kirchoff Road in Rolling Meadows. She has not been in favor of this particular development since its inception although she fully appreciates the changes the developer has made to improve the layout and make it more community friendly. Thinks the developer has gone to great lengths to accommodate the residents of our district. However, she doesn't understand why the school board would entertain the tax

abatement program that the district has been approached with by Rolling Meadows. Asked why would the district, as administrators and teachers, want tax dollars to be siphoned off to a private developer instead of being used for computers, classrooms and programs. Urges the Board to put the residents' tax dollars towards schools and education first and let private industry fund its own private developments.

**Brad Judd** – Rolling Meadows resident

Referred to a handout he provided to the Board regarding the tax issue that needs to be closely watched. Said that the Rolling Meadows city council has already approved this and is coming to District 15 to cover a gap in financing in order to continue with the project. Judd said that if D15 gives a tax abatement of 50% for up to ten years, it will be giving up approximately \$134K a year that could be used in a variety of ways. He has been an opponent to the apartment aspect of the project – but is in favor of condo development so that the district would not have to give up tax money and D15 would receive about \$330K a year. Judd said that Joe Kiszka (District 15 staff) addressed the city council last year and stated that D15 would be in favor of the project but would not be in favor of any TIF extension. Rolling Meadows city council also stated that they are not in favor of any TIF extensions. Understands the legal differences between the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) extension and the tax abatement but says that they are essentially the same thing. Tax dollars would be funneled from the school district to a private developer for private profit. Would really like to see his tax dollars go to the schools to purchase new computers, more books, etc.

**Victor Micelli** – Palatine resident, business owner

Offered to donate \$350K of business equipment to District 15 and the donation was refused. The equipment was rated #1 by different consumer sources. The District 15 business manager was not receptive to Micelli's donation. Usually non-profits are open-armed for any donations. Felt he jumped through a lot of hoops and was frowned upon for even offering the donation. Thought the school board would be better served by working with local businesses in this community who are willing to come up with equipment or services just to help better the district. Knows that this particular issue comes up later in tonight's agenda.

**Questions/comments:**

**Keenan** – Asked Micelli what he was donating?

**Micelli** – Said he was donating 19 brand new color copiers to the district which had a value of over \$350K. Micelli said that we could make this work in this organization or not make it work. It's a choice of the people who use the equipment.

**McKanna** – Said this will be discussed later in the evening, asked Micelli if he could stay. Thought there were other aspects on the cost per copy. There is more to it than just the purchase price. The district did receive his email and the business department took a look at it. Thought there were two sides to the story that needed to be shared here.

**Action Items (Moved up to accommodate those in the audience)**

**Request for Proposal – Office Copiers**

**Bob Strande, Co-Interim Business Manager** – Provided background information on this RFP for 19 55-page per minute office copiers. A committee was formed of school personnel who would be the users of the copiers (secretaries and principals). Bids received were ranked from low to high and the district is now recommending the Ricoh product as the machine best suited for the district and meeting specifications. Machines that were rejected had been tested and for various reasons, did not meet specifications and what was needed

for the district's network. Stated that this was a several month long process and very thorough. Said that there is a wide variety of copier products in terms of capabilities.

**Strande** – The RFP asked for a purchase price which included the cost per copy (maintenance). The proposal submitted by the gentlemen who addressed the Board earlier said that there would be no cost to purchase the equipment because it was donated. However, there would be a cost per copy of 1 cent for black/white copies and 8 cents for color copies. He was offering a b/w and color copier. The one cent for b/w was higher than the cost per copy of the other machine. Without including the purchase price, his price was lower. However, if you put in a blend of so many color copies, then you can mix and match and get a price that is higher overall. Strande is not trying to manipulate things but at 8 cents per copy for color – if you do/allow color copies, then it would be higher. Strande said it would then be \$45,600 a year maintenance cost for those donated machines based upon a set number of copies projected.

**Board President Tim Millar** – Said that it is still significantly lower than the Ricoh machines being recommended. **Strande** – Agreed. The district did perform some field tests and that machine did not respond well. It did not print on the network as required over extended days of testing.

**Board member Gerald Chapman** – Stated that there was also another lower bid that was not acceptable because of not meeting specifications. The District is just not taking the lowest bid – it also needs to meet our field tests and specifications.

**Millar** – District appreciates the generous offer of the donated machines. Said that there are other bids for copiers coming up and hopefully some of these issues can be worked out. The district does have an unique network environment.

**Strande** – In two to three months, there will be another proposal to the Board to replace additional copiers. Copiers do come down in price, technology has lowered the per copy cost. These copiers are expected to be in the district for a minimum of five years.

#### **Vote taken for office copiers –**

Approved 5:0 (Rowden and Carlson absent)

### **Rolling Meadows TIF District – Dominick's Property**

*Reference* – Tax Increment Financing (TIF) explanation

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax\\_increment\\_financing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax_increment_financing)

**McKanna** provided some background information concerning this issue. The developers of this project came to District 15 about 3 to 4 months ago with a request for D15 to take a look at the possibility of extending the TIF. At that time, the district understood that it would take a legislative change for the TIF to be extended and D15 has gone on record that it would not be in favor of extending the TIF. Then came this other idea for a 10 year reduction or 50% of what D15 might receive in taxes. McKanna indicated that this is just another way to get at a financing plan (for the developer) but it is not extending the TIF. McKanna does not see it as District 15's job to approve or not approve the project – D15 does not do that for Palatine which has had numerous townhome/condo projects.

McKanna said that recently both Rolling Meadows and Palatine have raised the acreage value in their areas and the district appreciates that. The school board needs to take care of the school district and not try to tell the city what needs to be approved/not approved.

McKanna said that something needs to be done with that property, shouldn't be sitting vacant. There is about \$800K income to the current owner based on the income from Dominick's. In two or three years from now, if nothing happens, McKanna's perspective is that D15 would be worse off than we would be if the project goes through.

**Ken Nelson, Rolling Meadows mayor** – Referred to a three page memo that he had sent to the school board with details on the financial issues of this project. Basically, the TIF on this property is expiring in 2012 – so instead of trying to extend the TIF and go through a long process, the developer came up with a proposal that Rolling Meadows found interesting.

The proposal that Rolling Meadows is bringing to the major taxing bodies (D15 and D214) is looking at abating taxes past the TIF expiration – up to 50% - up to a maximum of 10 years or approximately \$2.4M which was the contractors agreed upon cap.

This abatement would only apply to the rental units and retail property. D15 has the opportunity to decide how it wants to abate the taxes – there are lots of options.

Nelson said that the important thing is that the shortfall needs to be covered (by the taxing bodies) or the development is not going to happen. Nelson has heard complaints that this is an apartment complex that is going to be built. Nelson said that no one is coming to Rolling Meadows to propose a condo complex because of the current market. Developers have pulled out of projects because of the current market.

Said time is running out since the TIF expires in 2012. Said if money is not generated now with the current TIF, it may end up as a derelict property that may or may not be developed in the future. Rolling Meadows is asking both D15 and D214 to approve this concept of tax abatement in order to move the project along.

#### **Questions/comments from the Board and Nelson's responses –**

**McKanna** – Asked what percentage of that \$2.3M (shortfall) is being taken on our shoulders (D15 and D214) vs. the town?

**Nelson** – It is based on your percentage of the tax bill – which is roughly 33% for District 15. So, the district would be taking about 15% - because they are looking at up to 50% abatement. Can't give exact number. Asking the two school districts to give up 50% of their revenues. The ratios would be kept the same so all (city, D15, D214) would be impacted the same.

**Keenan** – Asked who currently owns the property?

**Nelson** – It is currently owned by a corporation that is a shopping center developer. There are two partners in it and they have put the property up for sale.

**Keenan** – Asked why don't they lower their cost?

**Nelson** – Can't answer that question. Knows that they have been negotiating prices with a number of people but they are not going to lower the cost. The reason now is that for a couple of years they have rent coming in from an empty Dominick's store and they have no need to rent to lower their costs at this point. They have also used this property, leveraged it for some of their other developments so they have a fairly substantial amount of debt on this property.

**Keenan** – Understands that but the cost of the property may be too high.

**Nelson** – That's a possibility. **Keenan** – Especially in this market maybe that is who needs to take the hit right now not the schools or the other taxing bodies.

**Nelson** – The developer also has the option – at the end of the TIF – to apply to the county for a hardship with nobody in that property and get a 50% reduction in their property tax. It is not inconceivable that at the end of the TIF you could see 50% less income than you are seeing right now. Doesn't know where it will go.

**Chapman** – Said that the Board has received a tremendous amount of background information on this issue and it has been very helpful. But fundamentally, Chapman's belief is that it is really the village's responsibility to make these decisions. So Chapman would like to propose a motion that: District 15 leaves the decision on the development in the hands of the city of Rolling Meadows with an appeal to ask the city to negotiate an agreement that will be optimally beneficial to our school district.

**Chapman** – The Board has heard from residents and thinks there are pros and cons. Doesn't think the school district can make a decision on what is the best interest of the

village of Rolling Meadows relative to the development. There is a parcel of property that is now TIF'ed and ultimately if nothing is done there, the district is going to suffer financial negatives because it is not going to get a return. Wants to ask the village officials if they are going to develop the property, please keep in mind that the schools will be affected.

**Keenan** – Agrees but from what she understands, the village is not trying to go through the TIF channels but coming to the major recipients of the tax and asking us to give up our 50%. If they want to keep it a village decision, then they have to go through the proper channels. Thinks Chapman's motion would be giving away District 15's authority.

**Nelson** – Doesn't believe Rolling Meadows can accept that motion because it cannot assume the district's fiduciary responsibilities. Rolling Meadows cannot negotiate an agreement with the developer that would negatively impact District 15 without going through the TIF process.

**Millar** – Feels very uncomfortable giving up the responsibility to let someone else dictate.

**Board member Sue Quinn** – Said the Board has to decide what the impact on D15 is and has to decide on that alone. The Board has the responsibility to do whatever it can to promote the best interests of our district. In this case, the Board has to vote on this. Doesn't believe there is a legal opinion on this.

**Nelson** – What we are asking for tonight is not a legally binding agreement. Just asking for a sense from the Board that you are willing to negotiate an agreement with the developer based on these parameters.

**Board member Jim Ekeberg** – What I am hearing Nelson say is that the Rolling Meadows position is that you would like us all (taxing bodies) to share equally. The village is not in a position to take on all of it. **Nelson** – The city can't take on the full responsibility. In many ways, this looks like a TIF but in many ways it is not. He is asking if there can be a sharing beyond the end of the TIF (in 2012)

### **Motion to approve up to 50% tax abatement up to 10 years.**

#### **Board discussion-**

**Millar** – We do work with the village of RM and respect your decisions. What concerns him is the projected number of students for District 15 from this project. 21 students for D15 would be \$210K a year and the district is taking the downside risk of that.

**Nelson** – Said the developer has agreed that he would reimburse the district at certain levels. He is willing to take that on. **Miller** – The other challenge that he has is the precedent setting of this. Doesn't want other developers coming to the district.

**Quinn** – Doesn't think it is just the financial downside risk - which is substantial. But also the impact on class sizes. When we have a concentrated number of students going to one school or another, there is an impact on that school's environment. That is a potential downside that she would be concerned about. Sympathizes with Rolling Meadows problem – But as a board member, her concern has to be with the impact on District 15.

**Ekeberg** – So we don't have a final agreement, you (Nelson) are just looking for a sense of whether we can work with this.

### **Vote to approve a 50% abatement for up to ten years on the Dominick's property site. Details would be worked out when the project moves along.**

Rejected 3:2 (Millar, Quinn, Keenan voting No; Chapman, Ekeberg voting yes)

### **Reciprocal Agreements – Palatine and Inverness Park Districts**

Approved 5:0 (Rowden and Carlson absent)

## **Board Discussion and Reports**

### **Board Committees/Administrative Committees**

**McKanna** – Stated that the district’s attorney has not quite finished a report that he was presenting to the state’s attorney office about what is a committee, what is not a committee – and what needs to be posted. What the attorney is telling the district is that if a committee is established by the Board, then those committee meetings must be dealt with as an actual public meeting. They have to be posted, provide an agenda and there must be minutes. McKanna wanted to advocate for the Board to look at some of the committees that are now listed as Board committees to see if the Board wanted to make them administrative committees. The committees would still have the same makeup and still accomplish the same goals but would reduce having to approve minutes for 8 or 10 meetings at each BOE meeting.

**Quinn** – Thought it was okay to leave the Policy Committee as administrative but said that many districts have it as a Board committee. Thought this would fall into a discussion later in the evening when Board Policy is discussed.

**McKanna** – Asked what would be the reason to make a committee a Board vs. Administrative committee? What would be the rationale?

**Quinn** – Thinks that the Communications Committee should be a Board committee. Purpose is to improve communications to/from the BOE to the public/school community which includes parents and staff. Goal would be to provide an informal committee setting for Board interaction with the public/school community and an opportunity for input on ways to improve communication from the public/school community. Believes this should be an open meeting, public would be invited, meeting would be posted. Thinks it could be every other month so not to be a burden on Board members/staff. Can be open to public but can also concentrate on a local community and their issues. Thinks it works well with the format of a Board committee and with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

**Keenan** – Thinks Policy should be a Board committee because that is the major function of what the Board of Education does. Also thinks that Communications, Finance and Facilities should be Board committees.

**Chapman** – Believes Legislative committee should be an administrative committee.

**Quinn** – Said if the Board is going to have a Board committee, the Board needs to respect the idea of what that is. It is supposed to be open to the public. The reason why BOE meetings are open to the public is because the Board needs to operate and make decisions in public. Regarding the Communications committee – the public needs to be there because the Board is communicating with the public. Quinn said that there needs to be a value add for taking it to the level of being a Board committee – because there needs to be a commitment from Board members and staff to be at the meeting.

**Keenan** – Regarding the Policy committee, said it is helpful to have the background information. It is harder when the Board is just handed a policy. She looks at policy making as the main function of the Board.

**Chapman** – Stated that at the BOE meetings, the Board is getting the Policy committee’s recommendation and then discussion takes place. That is why there is a first reading and then the Board has the opportunity to come back to respond.

**Keenan** – Believes the Facilities Committee should be open to the public. There may be discussions concerning land and/or building use, 20 year plans for 6/7/8 junior highs or all day kindergartens. All of this information is pertinent to the community. They should have the opportunity to be involved and be privy to the information from the onset.

**McKanna** – Believes that if that was going to be discussed, then an ad hoc committee should be formed – not a Board committee where a lot of people will not attend.

**Conclusion** – The following committees will be established as Board committees and meeting dates/times/agendas will be posted on the district’s Web site:  
Facilities/Architectural/Real Estate; Communications and Finance

**\*\* The Facilities Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Agenda posted at: [www.fcwpta.org/pdf/d15\\_facilities\\_8\\_14\\_07.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/d15_facilities_8_14_07.pdf)

## **Communications Committee Report**

**Garwood** – Referred to a draft chart provided to the Board of what types of information could be posted on the district’s Web site so that community members would know what our class sizes look like. This information would not be available until after the 6<sup>th</sup> day enrollment numbers were available when class sizes are more established.

**Quinn** – This information is good so the community knows that our class sizes are dropping and they can have some idea of what the smallest/largest class size is by grade level and where their child’s class fits in the spectrum.

**Millar** – Wanted to make sure that a good explanation was provided on how class sizes work. **Quinn** – Principal Carmody was part of the Communications committee meetings, had great ideas and was very receptive to giving feedback on how the principals would be able to respond to parents about this information.

**Garwood** – Principals were given a heads up on this at the leadership meeting yesterday. He talked about the concepts of what the committee was doing and how Carmody explains the process to his parent community. Said that the key part is that after the District determines the number of class rooms, it then goes to the building level to determine how many staff members are going to be at each grade level. One consideration buildings use in determining sections is if a grade level has been at 30 students the prior year. They try to not have that grade level bare the brunt of larger class sizes for multiple years.

**Garwood** – Said that there are only about one or two class sizes at 30 students right now. District is waiting to see if that may change as enrollment continues.

## **Well-being Committee Report**

**Keenan** – Its goal is to look at the emotional well-being of children during non-instructional time such as: lunch, recess, bus, hallways. This would include making sure all children feel included and are ready emotionally to learn at their highest level. Make sure that they don’t feel they are being left out of situations. Includes the shy children in the back of the room that don’t talk or gets talked to by others. The children at recess that are being excluded and that is impacting the rest of their learning day. In the junior highs, it may be different and they would look at hallway issues. This also would include cyber-bullying and girl cliques.

The committee has met twice to assess which each school is already doing; going to go school by school to see how each handles different scenarios. Hopes to be done by Columbus Day.

## **Financial Stability Plan**

**Quinn** presented a 3 point financial stability plan for the district. Detailed charts were available to audience members.

**Quinn** – The plan essentially talks about three different aspects of trying to set and hit a target to ensure a small growth, smoothly operating, financially stable school district from a financial perspective. The first point talks about setting a stable revenue estimate. Revenues do go up and down but rather than riding the wave over time – try to set a steadily rising target and sticking with that when the district does its budgeting.

The second part is reforming the budget and the facilitation of that – setting the budget, setting the target and monitoring it. Quinn has already spoken with Bob Strande on how to make the budget a decision-making tool for the Board. It is more than just changing the graphs or the information that the district has, it is also about the process by which the district develops the budget itself and the timing of it.

Would like to reform the budget so that financial decisions are made first – before the budget is put in place. Quinn would like the district to be nimble in addressing its forecast for its expenditures. If something changes, then the forecast can be changed based on that decision.

Third point – the district’s level of reserves. Would like to see the Board set a target for the district’s total fund balance – what the district would like to have in reserves at all times. The IL State Board of Education gives the highest financial health indicator rating to school districts with a total fund balance equal to 25% of revenues, or more. Right now, the district is at 37% - so that is reasonable. However, doesn’t think the district’s job is to accumulate wealth. Our job is to educate children. So if the district is substantially above our target reserves – whatever is thought as financially prudent – Quinn would like to see the district turn that excess reserve money and leverage it into the educational environment to educate children.

Quinn thinks that be combining these three parts can help maintain a steadily growing and stable school district. Believes the stability aspect is important not just financially but emotionally morale-wise. If we know that when we hire new teachers this fall, that we can keep them and not have to lay them off next year – then there is more of a sense of well-being for everyone in the district.

Referred to graph of revenues/expenditures in the past. Revenues have been pretty steady – they go up and down but stay near the mean. There is relative stability to the district’s financial source.

#### **Questions/comments from the Board –**

**Keenan** – Likes the idea of developing a calendar. Has felt that the district was backing into things – hard to function that way.

**Chapman** – Would like to see the district go through a year with Quinn’s ideas – which he does not object to. Said to use this year as a planning year to see how it unfolds. Then once there is success, develop a policy because the district might run into something that may not work if it is already a policy.

**Quinn** – The Board can always amend policy. Right now, the Board has no policy on this and no real approach. The district can keep doing what it has been and that has been to ride the wave (of revenues).

**Keenan** – Likes Chapman’s suggestion to fine-tune before making policy. Clarified that it meant to take action on the budget now but not write the policy until next year.

**Quinn** – Stated that the only reason to write the policy now even if it has to be amended along the way, is because the business managers need a policy to direct them on how to reform the budget. Understands that this is a lot of information right now because she is proposing a sweeping change from the way the district has been operating. Quinn suggests changing the order of events and the format of the documents which should include a five-year forecast. **Keenan** – Said Quinn’s graphs are enlightening and hopes the district can get a lot of them up on the Web site.

Reference: *Financial Stability Plan Graphs*

### **D15 Total Revenue and Expenditures**

[www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_revenue\\_expenditures.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_revenue_expenditures.pdf)

**Property Taxes** [www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_property\\_taxes.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_property_taxes.pdf)

**Interest on Investments** [www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_interest\\_investments.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_interest_investments.pdf)

**Total Federal Aid** [www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_federal\\_aid.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_federal_aid.pdf)

**Total State Aid** [www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_state\\_aid.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_state_aid.pdf)

**Staffing and Class Sizes** [www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_staffing.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_staffing.pdf)

### **Historical Spending/Revenue Sources**

[www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph\\_d15\\_historical\\_spending.pdf](http://www.fcwpta.org/pdf/graph_d15_historical_spending.pdf)

## **Financial Report Card**

**Quinn** – Sent the Board a revised version of the financial report card she previously proposed. It has the actual numbers from FY2007 and graphs. Quinn wanted to discuss how to deliver this information to the public – the district’s Web site and possibility a newsletter. Palatine Township has a professional newsletter that is approximately 26 cents each (includes printing/mailing) to its 58,000 township residents. Said that Bob Strande has given her estimates on the in-house efforts to do this. Quinn would like to get direction from the Board as to whether they want to move forward with the financial report card. The Board would have to authorize going out to bid for this – if the Board wants to contract it out.

## **First Reading – Board of Education Policy**

Attachments (in draft form) for this agenda item are provided on the District’s Web site at: [www.ccsd15.net/AboutDistrict15/BoardofEducation/AgendaAttachments/AgendaAttach\\_2007-08-08.pdf](http://www.ccsd15.net/AboutDistrict15/BoardofEducation/AgendaAttachments/AgendaAttach_2007-08-08.pdf)

Dr. Jean Sophie provided an explanation for each policy item for the first reading to the Board. The bulk of the Board discussion revolved around **Policy 2:240 Board Policy Development**. Board members were concerned over some of the policy’s language in regards to adopting policies via the consent agenda or emergency/special conditions. Some board members thought that by putting a policy on the consent agenda, it would give the wrong impression as to the importance of the Board’s policy decision-making.

Sophie will be reviewing this policy with the district’s attorneys again.

## **Action Items**

### **Personnel Report**

Approved 4:0 (Keenan abstaining, Carlson and Rowden absent)

### **Semi-Annual Review – Closed Session Minutes**

Approved 5:0 (Rowden and Carlson absent)

**Bids – 2008 Ford F350 Pick-Up Truck** - Approved 5:0

**Consent Calendar** - Approved 5:0

## **Correspondence**

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Received a fax request from Mario Bartoletti of the Pioneer Press for all correspondence between District 15 officials and the Board of Education regarding the use of video surveillance between June 1<sup>st</sup> and the present. At that time, Mr. Bartoletti was advised that there was no correspondence between district officials and the Board.

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Received an updated fax request from Mr. Bartoletti clarifying the June 19<sup>th</sup> request for all correspondence between District 15 officials and include Board members to any and all parties involved including union officials relating to the use of video surveillance taking place between June 1<sup>st</sup> and the present. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Bartoletti was advised that there were 20 pages of information in response to his request pending his payment for copying charges. To date, Mr. Bartoletti has not picked up the information.

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Request received from Interplex in PA requesting bid documents and all tabulations relating to fresh bakery products and non-food supplies.

### **Executive Session**

The Board adjourned to executive session at approximately 9:50 p.m. to specifically discuss

- 1) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees;
- 2) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and
- 3) Probably litigation.

It was announced that voting was not expected to take place after executive session.

*Written: Jennifer Mondy  
fcwnews@comcast.net*

Posted: Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007