

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

May 27th, 2009

This was a Committee of the Whole meeting. All Board members were present.

Citizens Address the Board

Vicki Wilson – Paddock School parent

She is here on behalf of 138 Paddock parents that signed a petition indicating that there is a problem with the length of lunch periods at the school. With 660 full day students, it is the only school that pushed through 220 students through each of the 20 minutes lunch periods. Why is it necessary to push all of these students through in one hour? Other schools take over an hour. The actual time at the table for eating is nowhere near 20 minutes; many students do not buy hot lunch due to the length of the line. Over 28% of the Paddock population is on the “free and reduced” hot lunch program and going through the line is their only option. She had provided the BOE links to Web sites regarding nutrition and student learning. She also provided information on lunch schedules for nearby school districts and private schools. Wilson asked the BOE to consider this as a district policy issue and not a site based decision. She stated that 20 minutes for over 200 students just doesn’t work.

Kathy Van Brunt – Paddock School parent

She stated that she is a new family in the district, will have four children going through Paddock and has heard complaints from neighbors about their children coming home famished. First graders have indicated that they do not have enough time to finish their lunch. Van Brunt has heard this complaint multiple times in the neighborhood. She is very concerned as a new family, is a health care provider herself and agrees that 20 minutes is not adequate. She is a working parent and there will be times when her children stay at school for an extended period. It is extremely important for them to have an adequate lunch; has heard that children can wait up to 10 minutes in the hot lunch line and then also a milk line. As professionals, adults are allowed at least 30 minutes for lunch; labor laws in this country do not allow for less. Some teachers in order to accommodate this problem allow students to take their lunch into the classroom; this is disruptive, kids cannot focus on the topic while eating their meal and disrupt other children in the classroom. Believes a better solution would be to propose 30 minute lunch periods and have them staggered.

Superintendent Daniel Lukich – Wanted to comment to the citizens and thank them for their communications through email and hard copy. There has been a review with the District Cabinet and Mrs. Allard (Business Manager) has gathered data for the BOE. A presentation will be made at the June 10th meeting. This issue will be talked about for the district and specifically Paddock. Paddock Principal Guy Hermann will also be there with his thoughts and ideas. We will also talk about Wellness and Nutrition.

Discussion Items

NOTE: Copies of the Presentations given at this meeting are posted online at the link below.

They include: *Review Draft of 2008-10 Budget, Review of 5-Year Financial Projections and Summer Opportunities.* **Board member comments/questions/discussion are listed below each agenda item.**

http://www.ccsd15.net/AboutDistrict15/BoardOfEducation/AgendaAttachments/2008-09/2009-05-27_COWAgendaAttach-2.pdf

Financial Updates

Review Draft of 2009-10 Budget

(PowerPoint Budget Presentation given by **Rebecca Allard, Asst. Superintendent for Business** can be found in its entirety at the link above.)

Board questions/comments/discussion –

Board member Sue Quinn – Asked if the Palatine Village Manager was still expected to attend a BOE meeting to talk about the TIF. **Allard** – He will be at the June 24th Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the TIF. **Board member Tim Millar** – Has two questions. First is the \$500K increase in salaries. He doesn't recall what positions had been added. **Allard** – She doesn't have that information, will have to get back to Millar. **Millar** – The second question is his concern about deficit spending. If it comes out to be what Allard presented, the district would be in the same position it was on June 30th, 2005. It is pretty much identical to 2005; that wasn't a banner year. He is very concerned. **Allard** – As the district's Chief Financial Officer, she would also be concerned if the district continued on that trend. We are watching that. **Millar** – It is harder to change later, especially with recurring deficits.

Review of 5-Year Financial Projections Reductions of Expenditures Plan

Allard – The 5 year financial projections are pretty much the same as were presented at an earlier meeting. She stated that there are so many unknowns right now to make predictions. **Lukich** – Wanted Allard to talk about the possible reduction of expenditure plan and see if there were any questions from the BOE.

Allard – Deficit spending in the long term does harm the district. The leadership team has had discussions over the last several months about what recommendations we could bring back to the Board to start discussions with the Board. Because our largest expenditures is staff, she does believe that they are past the point of "no return" for reducing staffing further. There will be some modifications hopefully that can be made to the 2009/10 budget. As a leadership team, they will be coming back with a framework and some recommendation as to modifications that can be made to the 2010/11 school year budget when we will realize, because of the CPI factor (0.1%) it will affect our budget for the 2010/2011 school year. We will be bringing back a framework to the Board to begin a dialogue. To be honest, those decisions/dialogue will occur between now and the end of December 2009 so we can implement any changes that the Board sees fit for us (administration) to do. So it is just a timeline right now.

Lukich – Said that he and Allard have been having conversations. For this (new) Board, we feel that it is really our (administration) responsibility to begin an internal discussion about a lot of "what ifs?" and there are many things that we don't control and a few things that we do. We think that depending on how contracts are settled and all of the Federal and State and everything else that goes into the expenditure revenue. Eventually we (administration) may be asked by this BOE – we are anticipating the question – What if we had to in some way reduce, not so much for next year but over the course of the five year plan? What can we reduce to control expenditures to keep the five year plan on an even keel? That is what we have been brainstorming about, we don't have a plan at this point but we think it will be important at some point to be able to discuss with the BOE some things that we think are important. Hopefully it will not affect the educational program but at least put us in a solid financial position.

Summer Opportunities

(Presentation in its entirety by Mary Zarr, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Josh Carpenter, Principal of Central Road Elementary – see the link above.)

Board questions/comments/discussion –

Board President Gerald Chapman – Asked what the eligibility criteria was for the Summer Blast Programs? **Josh Carpenter** – Stated that each school is guaranteed 120 slots and speaking for Central Road, they look at MAP scores below 50 percentile and recommendations by teachers. **Chapman** – So he assumes that the criteria have to be part of the grant application?

(Carpenter – Yes). Regarding the tuition based science program (Camp Invention), asked Carpenter if that program was by invitation? **Carpenter** – No, not for those programs. He has experience as a summer school principal and for the enrichment programs, those are by sign up (parents sign their children up for the program). For the remedial or academic programs, those are by invitation (schools invite children to participate).

Quinn – Has had personal experience with the Camp Invention program. She wanted to know what is it that limits the space in that program because it seems that it is paying for itself. She knows that there a lot more kids that want to be in the program but can't get in because if you don't get in early, you don't get in; thinks that there is a large calling for enrichment programs in the community.

Zarr – In terms of limiting the space, Camp Invention is provided by a private, non for profit entity. In partnership it came to D15 many years ago. It has to do with how many slots they are going to offer. In any given year, if a building is available for any length of time, we do have the opportunity to try to fill an additional piece provided that we can secure the teachers who are then paid by Camp Invention. **Quinn** – Are the limitations that there might not be enough teachers interested in staffing that program? She knows that it is a voluntary although paid position but you have to be available and interested in the work.

Zarr – If we get data from Camp Invention that shows that their waiting list is very long so that we can fill another section; that is definitely something we can look into. **Quinn** – Thinks we should look into something like that, not only with Camp Invention, but there are a variety of enrichment programs. It would be a great way to support as we talk about 21st century learners – with more advanced or just looking for broader enrichment opportunities.

Chapman – He thinks the district should provide programs for all of our kids whatever their special interests are. If the parents are paying, it is not costing the district. They just have to recruit the teachers. He would like to see us be far more aggressive in terms of getting more kids served.

Quinn – We have the facilities but thinks it is a matter of being aggressive, going out to recruit the companies to partner with them. We have the staff that may or may not be interested but the company provides the training, etc. **Chapman** – There are parents that would gladly pay the cost to have the opportunity for their kids to have these enrichment programs. He hopes that the committee continues its work and comes back to the BOE with recommendations to expand what we are doing.

Millar – Harper College has quite a bit of enrichments with their InZone Summer Program with writing, art, computer programming, etc. Thinks the district shouldn't duplicate too many programs for the same (pool) of kids. **Quinn** – Feels that a big difference with InZone is that it serves an older population, it starts around age 9. Camp Invention can take kids as low as first grade. So there is not complete overlapping. There is also a price differential. Camp Invention is a much more reasonable price; InZone tends to be more expensive and the classes are very short. Thinks it is a different market.

Chapman – Thinks that kids and parents would be more appreciative of having something in their neighborhood rather than having to go to Harper - the convenience of where our schools are located combined with our talent staff, there could be some golden opportunities for kids.

Quinn – What Chapman said goes with what she wanted to say later on about staff. Sometimes staff just needs to have that spark too. It (program) serves the kids but also serves the staff. If you see these Camp Invention staff come out, they are as excited as the kids are at the end of the week.

Chapman – Anything we can do to keep their (kids) minds working in the summer is tremendous.

Quinn – Referred to HS District 211's Freshman Academy where incoming Freshman that are struggling are brought in for summer school before they begin their freshman year (also done for Sophomores) – said that she thought District 15 talked about that once before about backing up (that program) one year into D15 between 7th and 8th grade to try to do some type of summer activity. Asked if that was still in the thought stage?

Zarr - Carl Sandburg JH and Winston Campus JH, those are the two junior highs that are targeted, will have programs this summer. The program is for incoming 7th and 8th graders (at those 2 junior highs). This will be the first summer that it is done. **Quinn** - Thinks there is some great potential there for the kids who are not the at-risk kids, not the accelerated kids - just those kids that are a little bit struggling. Then when they have to make that leap to the high school, they fall behind. So we need to boost them just a little bit more. **Lukich** - Asked how many kids are targeted this summer for the two junior high buildings? **Cheryl Wolfel, 2nd Language Programs** - 120 per building.

Draft Agenda for June 24th, 2009 COW meeting

www.spotlightontheboard.org/spotlight_pdfs/BOE_COW_agenda_062409.pdf

Lukich - Thinks there needs to be a review/status update of the budget process; he's not quite sure where the district will be a month from now. If the Board does adopt a budget on June 10th, Allard and he will have an update regarding next year's 2009/10 budget. And also the five-year financial forecast. Lukich said that a lot of important things can happen between now and then that will either more solidify that or create fragments. He is not sure which. Also joining Allard that night (June 24th) will be Reid Ottesen, Palatine Village Manager to address the BOE about the TIF update and some sidewalk issues. The second item is the opportunity of Federal Stimulus (ARRA). What they (administration) have been doing is preparing what they think will be a plan and a recommendation to the BOE to consider and implement for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years. There has been some good work done, there is some money involved obviously. We want to focus this on what the district's needs are and there are some pretty stringent guidelines (for the ARRA money) for what they can and cannot do with it. There will also be a discussion about student achievement results for this school year - 2008/09 - so you know where that stands, what impact that has on the district, where our buildings stand and what our thinking and plans are for next year. The agenda will end with a discussion about CCSD15's Vision 2010. It is a good time to look at the refinements being made and where this district needs to be led, where it needs to go.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. The Board then reconvened to a Special meeting to discuss the negotiation of the teachers' contract with the Board attorneys.

CCSD15 Summary of Board Actions and Official Minutes

A "Summary of Board Actions" will be posted on the District 15 Web site as quickly as possible after each **Regular** Board of Education meeting, usually within two days. Official minutes of Board of Education meetings cannot be posted until after they are approved by a vote of the board at the next regular monthly meeting. Board of Education meetings are open to the public, and all board actions, with the exception of closed sessions, are considered to be public records.

www.ccsd15.net/AboutDistrict15/BoardOfEducation/HTML/BOEMeetingDates.html

By: Jennifer Mondy fcwnews@comcast.net

Web site: www.spotlightontheboard.org

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