



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

MINUTES

GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2014 - 8:30 PM

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

Call to Order

Board President John Kenwood called the October 6, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 8:32 p.m. President Kenwood led in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Public Participation

- Jeff Cooper said that he recently learned the last time the District conducted a legal services review was 11 years ago. He noted that District 41 legal counsel, Franczek Radelet also represents the College of DuPage (COD) Board and said that in light of recent events around COD's Board, the District should consider conducting another review. Mr. Cooper also noted that the District was charged travel costs by its snow plowing vendor and suggested the matter be examined more closely.
- Stephanie Clark made the following comments related to facilities:
 - Full day kindergarten: Consider the data carefully; last year the Board said full day kindergarten is a want not a need and a year later is still talking about the achievement gap. Consider these questions: What are other districts in the area doing? What is their response to the rigor of the Common Core? What are other 21st century schools doing? What type of curriculum is being offered?
 - Special education: Emphasized the importance of appropriate facilities, staff and resources if the District brings special education back to the District. It is a complex issue that is not related to cost alone; consider an early childhood center as a part of the Phase II planning; shared some information from Easter Seals.
 - Space utilization: Consider adjusting the facilities plan for Churchill and Forest Glen and re-examining the way in which space is utilized.

Discussion Items

Facilities Planning Phase II: Superintendent Paul Gordon summarized the Board's work during a previous facilities workshop on May 5, 2014, wherein it established certain priorities around District facilities: eliminate portables, "right size" schools; full-day kindergarten. Dr. Gordon explained the purpose of the meeting was to gain Board consensus around full-day kindergarten and its commitment to "right sizing" the schools and/or Phase II of the Facilities Plan.

Dr. Gordon summarized the accomplishments of Phase I:

- Eliminated 16 portables
- Improved green space at Churchill and Forest Glen
- Installed underground detention at Forest Glen, Lincoln and Churchill
- Added 16 new flexible classrooms
- Created new art/music space, restrooms at Churchill
- Enhanced outdoor learning spaces at elementary schools

Dr. Gordon noted that the infrastructures at each of our schools are stressed in different ways:

- Four remaining portables at Churchill
- Ten remaining portables at Hadley
- No classroom space for full-day kindergarten
- Limited or no space for additional programs
- Interior circulation, storage

A discussion ensued around the benefits of full-day kindergarten. Dr. Gordon said that he supports full-day kindergarten and believes early intervention is the key to closing the achievement gap. There are varying studies around full-day kindergarten; some that strongly support it and some that suggest that academic gains recede in later grades. Dr. Gordon said that the matter deserves a deeper examination, noting that full-day kindergarten will move Phase II facilities planning forward.

Dr. Gordon asked Board members to rate their interest in full-day kindergarten on a scale of 1-5; 5 indicating full support. Board members asked clarifying questions and shared their individual insights, perspectives and level of support, but were unable to reach consensus on the matter. The Board emphasized the importance of community engagement and asked for more information on operational costs, whether all students or only at-risk students would benefit from full-day kindergarten, and what parents of neighboring districts are doing to subsidize costs. Between now and November, the Board asked Dr. Gordon for the following information on a full-day kindergarten program:

- Community engagement (conduct a survey to understand the community's level of support for the program, their willingness to pay for it, and, what would be an acceptable threshold.)
- Operational costs under two models (*see below)
- Space requirements
- Program eligibility
- Additional demographic data from Karen Carlson

*Models:

- Full day to all
- Full day to a lesser amount of kids (e.g. 100, 200, 300 based on a certain criteria)

A discussion ensued about possible next steps on Phase II facilities planning. The Board emphasized the importance of considering the space deficiencies at Hadley. Dr. Gordon said there is an exhaustive list that he will make available to Board members. He further noted his impression that eliminating the 10 portables at Hadley is a Board priority and this could be accomplished with a brick and mortar solution. He believes that a decision on full-day kindergarten will be an important driver of Phase II. Mr. Bochenski requested that space utilization at Hadley be explored as well.

Relative to next steps for Phase II facilities planning the Board determined:

- Hadley's deficiencies should be addressed in the plan
- Dr. Gordon will send Board members a preliminary Phase II Plan
- Dr. Gordon will contact FGM Architects and FQC for more information on space utilization

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business, Board members Bochenski moved and Escalante seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Stecker, Board Recording Secretary



John Kenwood, Board President



Dean Elger, Board Secretary

Minutes approved: October 14, 2014