

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205
Thursday, June 3, 2010 (7:00 PM)

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Lockport Township High School District 205 was duly held at the East Campus, 1333 East Seventh Street, Lockport, Will County, Illinois, and was called to order by President Ronald Svava. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Superintendent Garry Raymond.

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Michael Lewandowski
Cindy Polke
Angela Kamely
John Lukasik
Susan L. Forbes
Lou Ann Johnson (Entered the meeting at 7:18 p.m.)
Ronald Svava

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

ADMINISTRATORS:

Garry W. Raymond
Todd P. Wernet
Peter M. Sullivan
Richard A. Lesniak
K. Brett Gould
K. Patrick Olmsted
Kerri A. Green
Dennis P. Hicks
Thomas J. Kurzawski
Brian L. Klene
William J. Thompson
Randall J. Konstans
Julie M. Hulbert
Matthew R. Dusterhoft

Public Hearing and Petitions

Members of the public wishing to address the Board of Education under this portion of the meeting can do so at this time. Petitioners must complete all information requested on the sign-in sheet prior to speaking. (A five (5) minute time allotment is allowed for each speaker.) Although the Board does not immediately reply to the concerns presented at the meeting, it does not imply in any way that the public's comments are not valuable or important. The Board's policy is to listen to the public's concerns and then gather adequate information to objectively discuss them.

Name: Sue Foster
Address: 13226 W. Farm View, Homer Glen
Topic (Brief Description): Proposal for Homer Glen High School

Ms. Foster had concerns about the proposal being presented to the Board and the information that was circulating that Homer Glen would be footing the entire bill for the new school building and wanted more detailed information before the Board would vote on the proposal.

Name: Clyde Stevens
Address: 13303 Doede Lane, Homer Glen
Topic (Brief Description): Questions about the New High School

Mr. Stevens felt that the taxpayers said no to a new school five times and is opposed to the proposal that will be presented to the Board that will put more burden on taxpayers as a whole.

Name: Kathleen Koscianski
Address: 14454 Renmore Road, Homer Glen
Topic (Brief Description): Questions about the New High School

Ms. Koscianski stated she had the same concerns as the previous two speakers but also about another matter with Homer Glen having Home Rule which could allow local government to pass these proposed bonds. She felt that Homer Glen and the School District are trying to go through the “back door” similar to the way the Democratic Party did with the Health Care Bill. Many people are on fixed incomes, property values have gone down, but our taxes have not gone down. She felt that we need a high school but did not feel that Homer Glen should foot the bill. All areas should foot the bill.

Name: Tom Buckley
Address: 13628 Kickapoo Trail, Homer Glen
Topic (Brief Description): New High School

Mr. Buckley asked the high school board and residents to keep an open mind regarding the proposal to be made by Mr. Polke because it is very intriguing, has some promise, and perhaps an opportunity of building a four-year campus that is much needed by the District. He wanted more details and hoped the Board, residents of Homer Glen and all residents of the towns affected to consider all the facts before passing judgment. He stated that this was just an initial proposal and more details will be coming.

Name: Lisa Mikolajczak
Address: 18021 W. Hunt Club Drive, Homer Glen (Mokena Post Office)
Topic (Brief Description): New High School

Ms. Mikolajczak was in favor of a new school but did not see anything on the high school web site regarding this proposal. If it isn't—it should be or a link directing residents to have access to this information. Why isn't it on the Community TV channel for resident to view at their

leisure this template of information? She felt that whatever was being proposed it should be equitable to all residents not just Homer Glen.

Name: James Hagan

Address: 13606Wolley Hill Drive, Homer Glen (Sylvan Hills) (Orland Park Post Office)

Topic (Brief Description): Questions about the new high school

Mr. Hagan felt that maybe the Board has been redistricting wrong. What is now Romeoville High School use to be Lockport West. Did we get too big so it went to Romeoville? But, who paid for it? Same with now, if the builders build houses, they supply money to the schools. Am I wrong or am I right? I would like to know. And not only that, maybe some Superintendent's and Board members could take a pay freeze instead of always coming back to the citizens. Many people in his subdivision are retired and on a pension. Should it be up to all of the people of the school district?

President Svara stated that just for clarification, this is the first time that the entire Board would be hearing this proposal.

Build America Bonds Proposal – Tom Polke

Mr. Polke explained that the purpose of presenting this proposal to the Board was to see if the Board might be interested in considering such a plan, and if so, then collaborate with the other municipalities and the District to host some community forums to get feedback from all residents within the boundaries of the District and to answer any questions they might have. In other words, get the input, modify the proposal accordingly, and then take it to a vote, provided the input shows that it is worthy of it.

His presentation opened with a quote from Aristotle, "Criticism is something we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing." He then read a series of newspaper headlines to provide some historical data regarding the District and various attempts to pass referendums. He explained that there is an opportunity for the District to obtain some financial support to build a new school to alleviate the overcrowding problem by using Build America Bonds and an intergovernmental agreement between the District 205 and the Village of Homer Glen.

Mr. Polke introduced Victor Chang, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Public Finance Group for Chicago, who explained how this could work for Lockport High School. He reviewed the basic conditions of the municipal market. He said that the Federal Government wanted to stimulate the economy and started a program called Build America Bonds. This program allows municipalities to get a rebate on their interest rates. In essence the Federal Government will subsidize the interest payments. He explained that because the interest rates were extremely low, this would be a great time to construct things because construction bids are coming in extremely low as well.

Mr. Chang explained with a collaboration of District 205 with the Village of Homer Glen, through an intergovernmental agreement, District 205 would contribute its land on Cedar Road, manage the facility, and pay the operating costs of the facility, pay rent to the Village of Homer

Glen based on an affordable pre-determined schedule, and issue bonds to construct and equip a four-year school. The Village of Homer Glen would issue bonds to construct and equip a four-year high school, provide a sewer line extension to service the area, construct recreation fields and build administrative offices. The District's contribution would be through payment of a lease to the Village of Homer Glen. Homer Glen would issue a sales tax as their contribution. Also, if the Village of Homer Glen would put their Administrative Offices in the new school building for a period of time, it would contribute whatever they are currently paying to lease their facilities towards reducing the debt.

The Village of Homer Glen can issue non-referendum general obligation bonds to construct a school building within its corporate limits and lease the building to the District through the terms in the intergovernmental agreement. This type of transaction would be based on the legal authority of Homer Glen's "home rule" powers found in the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, which would allow a longer extension for payment of these bonds. The 35¢ on a dollar subsidy only extends to December 31, 2010, and is available through the Village, not the District. The Village costs versus the District's cost for the issuance of bonds would be about a million dollars lower per year. The impact on the taxes for the residents of Homer Glen would be minimal. Incremental cost to the Village of Homer Glen residents compared to the District's existing levy "high point" is approximately \$120 over the first 10 years.

More detailed information regarding this plan is on the District's web page under the heading Recent News—"Homer Glen Proposal on New School."

Special Board Meeting with Summit Steering Committee

RECOMMENDATION: President Svava asked for a motion to hold a Special Board Meeting with the Summit Steering Committee on June 24, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Member **Angela Kamely** moved, Member **Michael Lewandowski** seconded the motion to tentatively schedule a Special Board Meeting on June 24, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., as recommended.

VOTE: By voice vote, all members present voted aye. The motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**. The tentative Special Board Meeting on June 24, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., will be held with the mayors the Board has been meeting with at the Summit Steering Committee meetings.

Information Reports

CEC Strategic Planning Committee Report – Allan Alson

Superintendent Raymond provided some background information by explaining that this has been a very special process that began about a year-and-a-half ago with the Board joining the Consortium for Educational Change, commonly referred to as the CEC. The CEC offers a huge variety of services to school districts mainly to improve student academic learning experiences.

The Board contracted with the CEC for a site visit, which consisted of a sizeable group of professionals that came in for three days last year to conduct what they call a System Assessment. Those results were shared with the Board and posted on the District's web site. The Board further contracted with the CEC to conduct a Strategic Planning Process. A committee of approximately 40 people was formed, which consisted of parents, community

members, teachers, administrators, students, and school board members. Six official meetings were held—each meeting lasting about five hours. Two of the meetings were dedicated to a thorough data analysis of many different variables within our school district. Two additional meetings were for visioning—looking at the future and where the group would like to see the District headed in both short-term and long-term fashion. And the last two meetings were to start drafting a strategic planning document.

Superintendent Raymond introduced Dr. Alson, who was the head consultant for these meetings. Dr. Alson presented a first draft of the Strategic Plan, the result of some of the Committee's work. Tentatively scheduled between now and June 21, we will refine that plan, and get it ready to present it to the Board again on June 21. Next year Dr. Alson will help us put together an implementation strategy to help accomplish the goals of the plans.

Dr. Alson thanked all those who were present who were part of the Strategic Planning Committee for their dedicated commitment to this process. He emphasized some key process issues—"How did we get to where we are?" And, "Where are we going next?" He highlighted what was discovered—some of the strengths and opportunities for the District. He explained that one-third of the meetings was spend deeply studying the data of the District—academics to school climate and culture to finances. Two meetings were spent very deeply looking at creating an ideal set of circumstances for this school district and school community, if we could, what would they look like? The last third of the meetings were spent looking at ideas based on real life as to where the District is now, and where would the District like to go, and what were the first set of recommendations that might help us look forward in that direction? He provided some broad-based recommendations to the Board and stated that they were not very defined action plans. The action plans will not be ready for the meeting on June 21, but they would have some refined recommendations that hopefully will enable the Board to say, yes, let's go forward with building the defined action plans. If the Board approved what he presented, or modify it, he would work with Dr. Raymond or his designees, and hoped it would continue to be a broad-base of the stakeholders who were represented thus far. Based on the recommendations that have the highest priority, they would then begin to create very, highly specified action plans—what would be done, by whom, when, and how in order to reach each recommendation, what goals will be necessary for those recommendations, and how would they measure those goals to know that they have been achieved. The Action Plans would be presented to the Board and the Board's responsibility would be to monitor the progress that is made on those action plans, to look at whether the goals are being achieved. The Board would determine its own schedule as to when it wanted to monitor those goals. He highlighted some of the recommendations that the Committee came up with in each of the categories: employee development, stakeholder satisfaction, student learning, support systems, and fiscal resources. Based on the belief that you can't do everything at once, the Committee broke down each category into what they felt should be considered short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals. Dr. Alson urged the Board, when making their determinations, to take into consideration the priorities the Committee had determined. As an example, a common problem in a vast majority of school districts, not just at Lockport, are grading practices. For example, is an "A" in 8th grade algebra class the exact same "A" in every teacher's class? Does homework count the same in every teacher's class? Is extra-credit given or not given, should it be given or not given? He commended the teachers, in particular, who have recommended that this item be brought to the forefront and state that this

needed to be addressed. The evaluation system is also something that needs to be worked on and teachers and administrators agreed.

AT THIS POINT A FIRE ALARM WENT OFF AND ALL HAD TO EVACUATE THE BUILDING

RECONVENE MEETING

The meeting reconvened with a Roll Call at 9:26 p.m. All seven members were still in attendance.

President Svava stated that he would like to take the next steps to see the Board get more definitive objectives to use as Board objectives for 2011. Some discussion took place regarding the possibility of incorporating some of the recommendation into the District's goals for this year. Dr. Alson explained that he did not see how more detail could be given to the Board between now and June 21 being the Committee had disbanded. He stated that he does not want to own the work. He wanted to be certain that the stakeholders of the District owned the work and felt the commitment to it in terms of carrying it forward. Superintendent Raymond stated that the vision between now and the 21st would be to work with Dr. Alson to create a document format for the Board. They would then start working with administration and then through email with the 40 stakeholders, who were on the Committee, to make sure that what they thought would be in harmony with the Committee's thinking.

Dr. Alson felt that the Board wanted to take action tonight and suggested that instead of taking action to approve it, take action to accept it as a foundation report for going forward with the recommendations, and charge Dr. Raymond, his staff, and him to come back on the 21st with some shaping of this. He felt that what was important for the Board was to determine which of these recommendations were important to the Board as having the highest priority.

One of the Committee Members explained that the recommendations that were presented tonight were what the Committee felt were important and, if the Board looked at the first item under employee development, the Committee's determination after 24 hours was that there needs to be a committee created to review and assess the evaluation process for employees and support staff for District 205. He said that the Committee felt strongly about that, and what the Committee is saying to the Board is that if the Board felt the same way, then, the Board should create the committee. He explained that the Committee was not going to tell the Board exactly how to create that committee, but that it would be the Board's decision. He stated that the Committee had the same feeling as above for all of the other recommendations.

Dr. Alson stated that there were a number of things that could be started, but they wouldn't get resolved quickly. In August or September the Board would at least see outlines of key action plans if not specific targets, and at least what the measures would be used to shape those goals. President Svava stated that he felt the Board wanted to get to specific objectives which could be added at any time.

RECOMMENDATION: President Svava recommended that the Board adopt as Board Goals, every short-term recommendation in the Strategic Planning Committee Report.

MOTION: Member **Ronald Svara** moved, Member **John Lukasik** seconded the motion to adopt as Board Goals, every short-term recommendation in the Strategic Planning Committee Report.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **3**. The motion **CARRIED 4 – 3**.

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| John Lukasik | Yes |
| Lou Ann Johnson | No |
| Cindy Polke | No |
| Susan L. Forbes | Yes |
| Angela Kamely | No |
| M. Lewandowski | Yes |
| Ronald Svara | Yes |

MOTION: Member **Lou Ann Johnson** moved, Member **Cindy Polke** seconded that at the Board Meeting on the 21st the Board will review in detail all of the goals and recommendations, and determine if there are any long-term recommendations to can be turned into short-term recommendations.

Dr. Alson interjected that he felt that the work of a school board is to drive student learning and achievement by supporting students and the adults who work with students, and the student learning goals were given long term and he would hate to see the Board's goals not include something about student learning. The Committee that did the work should have some say and feel for that, and he would want to talk with District folks to make sure that was not left off of this work.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**.

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| M. Lewandowski | Yes |
| Cindy Polke | Yes |
| Angela Kamely | Yes |
| Lou Ann Johnson | Yes |
| John Lukasik | Yes |
| Susan L. Forbes | Yes |
| Ronald Svara | Yes |

Some discussions took place regarding the SMS data system that the District plans to put into place which could be used by guidance counselors to access student data as quickly as possible to help with academic interventions which are really important.

President Svara stated that the Board had already adopted three Board goals and now I think we just adopted another four, so we need to get a list together for the Board to see what we have to get started. If we are happy with that list of seven, then give it to staff and say go do it.

Dr. Alson thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the report to the Board. President Svava stated that as you can see the Board is definitely interested in a lot of work that has been done on this, and we have adopted all the short-term recommendation as Board Goals. Dr. Alson stated the on behalf of all the people who worked so hard and long on it, I think it's a nice endorsement of their work. Member Polke stated that she would be happy to type up what was talked about and submit to the Board; but Dr. Alson said that he would appreciate it if it could be coordinated with Kim Brehm and Matt Dusterhoft, who did the writing, along with Todd Wernet, so that it fits into that format. The Board also thanked Dr. Alson for his direction in this process.

Superintendent Raymond stated that the Board did show its appreciation with a certificate that was presented last night, as a small token of appreciation of the work that the members of the Committee had done.

Board Self-Evaluation

MOTION: President **Ronald Svava** moved that the Board get evaluated by administration and faculty and that the evaluation device have two questions. One question would be, "What is the Board doing that is good and should be maintained?" The second question would be, "How can the Board improve?" That would be the evaluation devise distributed to administration and faculty. Member **John Lukasik** seconded.

To Member Kamely's question, Dr. Svava stated that this evaluation would be done when school is back in session. Member Johnson suggested that these questions be posed to the Board as well. President Svava agreed, but suggested that we take one step at a time.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**.

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| Cindy Polke | Yes |
| John Lukasik | Yes |
| M. Lewandowski | Yes |
| Angela Kamely | Yes |
| Susan L. Forbes | Yes |
| Lou Ann Johnson | Yes |
| Ronald Svava | Yes |

School Board Self-Evaluation

Discussion took place regarding Board Self-Evaluation. Member Polke stated that there are a number of firms, such as our attorney's firm, who offer this service for free. She would like to shy away from using the IASB because the Board has used them before. Member Lukasik stated that he was assigned the role of locating a source for the Board to do a self-evaluation and although it would be a good idea to use different firms to perhaps get different viewpoints, he thought that the Illinois Association of School Boards would be an excellent start.

MOTION: Member **John Lukasik** moved that the Board goes with the goal it adopted, that the Board will do a yearly self-evaluation, and establish one with the Illinois Association of School Boards as soon as possible. Member **Michael Lewandowski** seconded the motion.

Member Polke asked who the contact was at IASB, and if it was Jeff Cohn, she would not participate. She said she would participate if it were any other firm, someone from the CEC, or an independent source, but not with that individual from IASB. She felt that when the previous Board used IASB, the results of the findings were the exact opposite of what she thought a Board should be doing.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**.

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| Susan L. Forbes | Yes |
| M. Lewandowski | Yes |
| Lou Ann Johnson | Yes |
| John Lukasik | Yes |
| *Cindy Polke | Yes/No |
| Angela Kamely | Yes |
| Ronald Svara | Yes |

*Member Polke stated that if the motion is just for a self-evaluation with the IASB, her vote is yes, but if it's with a specific individual, her vote is no.

Superintendent Raymond asked if Member Lukasik could call IASB and look for some July dates instead of the proposed dates in June.

Member Polke asked if any Board members attended the IASB Conference. Member Johnson stated that she had attended the conference and would provide a report to the Board at its next meeting.

Adjourn

Member **John Lukasik** moved, Member **Michael Lewandowski** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Upon a voice vote being taken, all member present voted aye and the motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Ronald Svara, President

Lou Ann Johnson, Secretary