

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH SUMMIT STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205**  
**Thursday, June 24, 2010 (7:00 PM)**

The Special Joint Meeting with the Summit Steering Committee was held at Lockport Township High School District 205 – East Campus, 1333 East Seventh Street, Lockport, Will County, Illinois. Ronald Svara, Lockport Township High School District 205 Board of Education President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dev Trivedi, Mayor of Lockport, led the Pledge to the Flag. Thirty-one people were in the audience.

Introductions: Laurel Ward, Trustee of Homer Glen; Robert Perretta, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman of Lockport; Ray Soliman, Mayor of the City of Crest Hill; Jim Daley, Mayor of Homer Glen; Dev Trivedi, Mayor of Lockport; Ron Svara, Board President; Michael Lewandowski, Board Member; Cindy Polke, Board Member; John Lukasik, Board Member; Angela Kamely, Board Member; and Garry Raymond, Superintendent; Gloria Mickulas, Board Recording Secretary.

President Svara explained that the leadership of all the mayors have been meeting for about a year now reviewing the various options that they have along with the Summit Steering Committee Members, and were here this evening for a presentation summarizing the work of the Summit Committee.

Laurel Ward began the PowerPoint Presentation by explaining that the Steering Committee prepared this presentation for the school board but have also included some information from the general public as well. She explained that the school summit was organized by Mayor Trivedi, City of Lockport, who hosted the first summit meeting on August 25, 2009. He brought together officials from the City of Lockport, the City of Crest Hill, Village of Homer Glen, and the High School Board to address the concerns of the overcrowding in the school district.

At the first Summit, Superintendent Raymond announced that the high school would be completing a safety audit. Although there were no public hearings at this meeting, all of the officials spoke and voiced their questions, concerns, and issues regarding the school situation. At the end of that meeting, there was general consensus that we should listen to the public in all of our communities, and it was decided at that meeting to hold summit meetings in each community. Shortly after that meeting, a steering committee was formed from each of the governmental bodies. There were nine members on the steering committee representing Lockport, Crest Hill, Homer Glen, and the school board. The question was posed—How do we provide a safe environment while protecting the interests of taxpayers? The goal of the committee was to work together to find a solution.

The tasks that the Steering Committee took on were more on the public input side.

- Planning Future Summits,
- Collecting and Reviewing Data,
- Gathering Public Input, and
- Reviewing Information and Options.

On November 19, 2009, Ray Soliman, Mayor of Crest Hill, hosted the second school summit. The primary objective was to listen to public comment. More than 25 people were in attendance, and 11 residents spoke voicing a number of questions and concerns.

On February 11, 2010, Mayor Jim Daley and the Village of Homer Glen hosted the third high school summit. The objective again was to listen to public comment. More than 80 people attended and 26 residents spoke.

On April 22, 2010, Mayor Dev Trivedi and the City of Lockport hosted the fourth high school summit. Again the objective was to listen to public comment. More than 40 people were in attendance and 13 residents spoke.

What was predominately heard during these summits fell into four different areas, and some miscellaneous comments which fell into the Other category:

- Education
- Safety
- Finance
- Politics

She reported on the various comments that were made regarding educational issues related to overcrowding and how it affected academics and test scores and the desire to keep those test scores high. Public Concerns e.g.; detachment issues, finances, increase in costs of property taxes, safety, decreasing property values, boundaries, trust issues, communications, Central Campus, Freshman Center Concept, cocurricular activities (not just sports) and concerns about the image of our communities with public perception of a struggling school district. It was also noted that a life-safety audit was performed and is available for public viewing.

Some alternatives suggested to alleviate the overcrowding were to build an addition onto East, exploring the Build American Bonds Plan, and going for a district-wide referendum in 2013, or 2014, or 2015. The State of Illinois said that the school construction grants will be approved.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Discussions

Ron Svara recommended that the school board work with Homer Glen regarding the Build America Bonds Plan by drafting an intergovernmental agreement stating specifically who will own the building, what the lease payments would be, use of State of Illinois money to put additions to the building, etc. That agreement would then be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Member Polke said she supports Build America Bonds and that Homer Glen is the only municipality that can receive the Build American Bonds. This would be a way to minimize taxes.

John Lukasik expressed concern about not allowing the public to make a decision via a referendum and by giving this decision to the two cities and the Village of Homer Glen.

Jim Daley said he supports moving forward with the intergovernmental agreement and believes that the Village Board would also support it. Their meeting will be held next Tuesday. He reiterated that this program is only offered for a short period of time, and it would bring substantial savings to taxpayers. He explained that Homer Glen is a Home Rule Community and that is the one catalyst that makes this opportunity available. All communities must be in agreement with this intergovernmental agreement.

Michael Lewandowski said he needs to see all the details. He needs to know what the hard figures are for the three proposals and needs more specifics on the Build America Bonds. He is not against it—he just needs more information to make an informed decision.

Three proposals: Addition to East Campus, Build American Bonds, District-Wide Referendum

Jim Daley explained that the Village of Homer Glen passed an ordinance stating that the Village cannot bond without a public forum. They will not pursue this unless the school board and village board feel that the proposal has merit. Homer Glen has 3000 acres of development property. A full, four-year school will be needed in a short period of time. Homer Glen has Home Rule and he believes it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make this happen. Everybody would be involved in the process. Everyone must understand the timeframe. If the school board agrees with this, Homer Glen will put all of their resources and expense into preparing the documents and putting the figures together by working with the school board.

Angela Kamely said she too would like to see all the figures. She said if the school board doesn't like it—then it stays on the table. Mayor Daley stated that was correct. The numbers are pretty much valid at this time. What they are concentrating on is, will we be able to come up with an amicable intergovernmental agreement that all three communities can agree on.

John Lukasik reiterated that the ultimate decision as to whether or not something gets done should be the decision of the taxpayers—not the Board.

Ray Soliman stated that an educated decision as to what can be done needs to be made. The federal government might extend the program. He suggested doing a survey throughout all three communities. Propose the three options and put it into a survey form. Find out from all voters of the District.

Garry Raymond stated that you could put an addition onto East Campus using Build America Bonds. The District can easily put these figures together for an addition onto East but would need to know the specifics, e.g., the size of the building, how many students the building would hold, etc. It's up to the Board—whatever it would be comfortable with. Bonding is limited without a referendum. He appreciated Laurel Ward for her work, and commended the mayors for taking a risk with the school district to try to solve a problem. The Summits were long and arduous. Their work has been fruitful along with the Committee to reach that kind of a

consensus. The key issue is to take care of our kids and grandkids for the future and what is best. We need to, as a group, take these ideas to a next step. Look deeper and get hard numbers. We need to lay it out and look at it. If all three communities could weigh in on an intergovernmental agreement, that would be significant. We've heard through the Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee that communication is huge. We need to be transparent, correct some misinformation, and rebuild some trust with some of our constituents. We all must realize that there is no perfect solution out there. Maybe one of those three alternatives or a combination would be doable.

Dev Trivedi also commended the mayors for coming together. The goal was very simple—to listen to our public. What the Board has to do is look at the community and the five unsuccessful campaigns in their past referendum tries, and look at what is the practical solution, look at the economy and where the residential growth is going. It will be a slow process. The high school enrollment went down by 69 students, and he believes the enrollment will continue to go down, and be around the capacity of 3700. We need to look at what is the practical way of addressing the issue of overcrowding. The issue is not building a school—that's the solution. The issue is overcrowding. The Steering Committee was given the task to find out what the peoples' opinions were regarding the issue of overcrowding. The three solutions are all viable, but look at it in practical terms, and address them within the Campus here right now, and go for a year or two or three or four years, and when the high school bonds retire in 2015-2016, then look at going for a referendum. He believes that this is a community goal and the one, he believes, would resonate well with the residents and voters of the communities. The long-term solution we need to address is exactly what Mayor Daley said here. They have 3000 acres of land and it will bring a lot of residential development. We need to look at the long-term plan to build a new school building not for 1800 students, not just for 3600 students, but a campus that will accommodate the growth which will be coming here for years to come. He felt this was the most responsible way for a school board to make a decision. He agreed with Mayor Soliman, he is not worried about the timeframe. He feels that if the President wants to continue with the stimulus of the economy, he might continue with the Build American Bonds Program. He felt that Member Lewandowski put it very well in that we need to look at all three options and get all the information, but he also feels we need to get feedback from the public, whether it is with an advisory referendum or in terms of getting the votes on the online system—anything like that to help the Board make the decision. He felt that a strong bond has been built through this process and is very proud of that. The main goal is to build trust with all three communities.

Mayor Daley stated that what he was hearing is that the school board is open to the idea of the Build America Bonds with Homer Glen doing that with Home Rule Status. President Svara stated that he was going to put forth a motion to that effect, so he wanted Mayor Daley to hold that thought until then. Mayor Daley reiterated to those present that taxpayers within the Homer Glen boundaries pay the most to the school district in tax dollars. Homer Glen is willing to hold the debt for a new school, and is willing to commit a half of a million dollars of its 1% sales tax increase to make this happen. He made clear to everybody that they cannot go any further than this, bending over backwards to make this school happen for the safety of our kids for the overcrowding. He said this is a “once in a lifetime” opportunity from Homer Glen to take advantage of this. He hopes the school board would vote to move forward by looking into this concept. He said he would get the Board all the details that it needs, but what the bottom line is,

Homer Glen cannot go any further. They were willing to have both of the other communities involved in the writing of the intergovernmental agreement so Homer Glen can move forward on this. His final comment was, "Let's make this happen for the kids."

Laurel Ward explained that she wanted to address the timing of this opportunity. She stated that the Build America option, right now, expires December 31, and bond counsel tells us if we are to take advantage of it, action would have to take place in November. If we don't, and we still want to pursue Build America Bonds, it's uncertain if the bond will still be available after December 31. Also, she is hearing is that Congress might extend this type of program, but the discount would go from 35% to 25%, and, therefore. It is possible that this opportunity might still be available at a later date, but the percentage would go down from 35% to 25% or less on the bond rates. So, when you are talking about timing, it could be still available, but it may no longer be attractive to Homer Glen. She said keep in mind that this is a tax on Homer Glen property, and with that discount, the preliminary numbers show that the property tax would be less than what the school referendum was the last time, which was approved by Homer Glen residents. In the future, if that discount is not there or is at a lesser degree, it may no longer be attractive to Homer Glen. If the school board feels no way—we're not interested at all—then—it's end of discussion. If the school board feels it would like to explore it more to see what the actual numbers are and what all the details of the intergovernmental agreement are, then they will provide that to the Board and get input from the residents of Homer Glen to see if they would support it.

Bob Perretta commented that once all this information is gathered on all the options, he would recommend that the Board consider putting an advisory referendum on the November ballot which might be pretty good timing as far as the Build America Bonds.

President Svava entertained a motion from the school board to Suspend the Rules and go back to Public Comments. Member John Lukasik moved, Member Cindy Polke seconded the motion. Whereupon a voice vote was taken, and the vote was: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. The motion Carried 5 - 0.

#### Public Comments

Seven residents addressed the Board:

Fred Marino—Homer Glen  
Russell Jones—Crest Hill  
Lynn Lindeau—Lockport  
Diane Wagner—Homer Glen  
Kathy Gibbons—Homer Glen  
Brian Boheneck—Lockport  
Tom Polke—Homer Glen

#### Next Steps

President Svava made a motion that the Board does want to see an intergovernmental agreement. Member Angela Kamely seconded the motion. Member Lewandowski stated that he would like to see all three options evaluated. President Svava stated that he would like to see all three options with amortization schedules and what the details are, and then put it out there and let the people decide.

President Svava made a motion to amend the Original Motion to read that data would be obtained to include all three options presented to the Board. Member Michael Lewandowski seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote being taken on the amendment to the Original Motion to get data on all three options presented to the Board, the vote was: Ayes: **5** Nays: **0**. The motion **CARRIED 5 – 0**.

Upon a voice vote being taken on the Original Motion, which would be get the data on the Build America Bonds, as amended. The vote was: Ayes: **4** Nays: **1 (John Lukasik)**. The motion **CARRIED 4 – 1**.

Adjournment

Member (**Michael Lewandowski**) made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member (**John Lukasik**) seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nays: **0**. The motion (**CARRIED**) 5 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Ronald Svava, President

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Lou Ann Johnson, Secretary