

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 2010 (6:00 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 a member of the public, Roy Adcock.

**THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:**

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

**Public Hearings and Petitions**

Name Roy Adcock  
 Address Lockport  
 Topic Referendum

Roy Adcock brought up another reason not to go for the referendum in April. He informed the Board that the City of Lockport won their arbitration last week with all the three districts. All of the Lockport area will see a 66% increase in their monthly sewer and water bills—approximately \$700 a year. Next year they will get another 15%, and the year after that will get another 10% increase. Lockport also just voted in a sales tax. He believes that Homer Glen just had another sales tax increase. All this along with Quinn's 33% increase tax increase.

**Action Considerations**

Action Consideration #1011-01 – Adoption – Resolution Providing for the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$4,275,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District

President Svava entertained a motion to approve the \$4,275,000 in Working Cash Bonds. Member **John Lukasik** moved, Member **Lou Ann Johnson** seconded the motion to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Issuance of Not to exceed \$4,275,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District.

Discussions ensued regarding what happened to the \$3.9 million? In reply to Member Cindy Polke's question, Rich Lesniak stated that you never get around what you are asking. He explained the process that was used to come to the \$4,275,000 figure. He also explained that you never do the bid process first and then sell the bonds. The estimates from the architects are what will be used to determine your prices, and then you go out and sell the bonds and get the funding. This is how all school projects are done. It was noted that just because we go out for the \$4,275,000 doesn't mean that we have to spend it. It means that we have to spend less than that. You can't actually tell what it is going to cost until you get bids in. They took the two estimates from the architect and put them together. They also wanted money to pay the closing costs, so that amount was also added into this figure.

Bob Lewis, PMA Financial, further discussed how this process works. If the Board adopts the resolution tonight, they can sell the bonds tomorrow. He was recommended that this issue be shortened to 20 years to help the marketing of the bonds and lower the rate. The bonds are callable after ten years and then you can start to prepay. The cost now for the first seven years is \$6.00 instead of \$5.00. The negotiated fee is \$4.625 per bond. Bob also explained how the bond sale would work. The company that PMA is working with to sell the bonds is Stifel Nicolaus. He asked the Board to delegate its authority to the President, Secretary, and Superintendent, to approve this sale separate from the Board meeting.

Upon a roll call vote being taken on the motion for Action Consideration #1011-01, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**.

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

A five-minute recess was called to allow time to sign the paperwork.

#### Board Self-Evaluation with Attorney

Attorney Terry Hodges explained that this was Self-Evaluation Part 2. The difference compared to the last session is that we do not have the IASB representative present. That means that for the purposes of general discussion, we cannot go into Closed Session. However, if the discussion is moved into personnel matters, or you feel you need to move into personnel matters, the Board would be able to go into Closed Session for the personnel section only. Member Michael Lewandowski suggested if the topic does go into personnel matters, the discussion would be stopped at that point, and the Board would continue the discussion by going into Closed Session at the end of this meeting after everything else had been discussed. Consensus of the Board was to go along with Member Lewandowski's recommendation.

Because there were three members of the public present Terry asked them to identify themselves. They were: Roy Adcock, community member; George Brecheisen, AFT Union President; and Nia Ryan – parent of a first grader at Taft Grade School.

Attorney Hodges stated that for this type of discussion, some time frames should be set for the agenda items. She assigned Member Lewandowski to be the timekeeper. She asked each Board member to express their feelings regarding their Board meetings. Some of the things that were brought forth were:

- 1) The tone of some Board members toward other Board members.
- 2) The Board does not always get all the facts or background information on items prior to the meetings.
- 3) Board members need to all be on the same page as to what is best for kids and the communities.
- 4) Meetings are too long and if Robert's Rules were enforced, you can set a time limit as to how long each agenda item can be discussed.
- 5) The tone in the Board meetings themselves. Find a way through this forum or some other as to how we can discuss items on the agenda, take a vote, and then move on to the next topic. Stop rehashing at a particular meeting or bringing it into another meeting.
- 6) The Board needs to look at the big picture—we are one school district and that is what the Board needs to focus on in order to move ahead. They are here to serve the public. No agendas. The interest should be on the children of the District, the taxpayers, and the District. Some members

try to influence not only the general public but other Board members, and if not given their way, they are mad at everybody, because they are smarter than everyone else.

Terry asked the Board to tackle short chunks of the survey. It was very clear to her that category #6 Board Taking Responsibility for Itself was where the Board felt the most frustration. She summed up some of the other indicators that the members gave. The most frustration was also found in #84 Behavioral Indicators and #74 Shared Expectation for Board Members of that survey document. Discussion took place on the use of the Board Meeting Evaluation Form. Because it was only used once on November 15, the only comment that came forth was that the paragraph at the bottom of the form needed to be removed under additional comments and an addition of an extra column (N/A). Also, time needs to be set aside to talk about how this form is working. Consensus was that the Board should try to fill this form out that night and turn it in at the end of the meeting. If the meeting runs too late, the form could also be faxed within 24 hours. Because the form would be available to the Board before the meeting, Superintendent Raymond suggested that as the meeting goes along, members could jot down some of their comments. Evaluation forms will be filled out for every meeting. Consensus of the Board was to put the assessment of the Evaluation Form on the February 3, 2011, Workshop Agenda.

The Board reviewed the annual calendar that Superintendent Raymond put together. It was noted that topics could be added and subtracted, based on the amount of time that is needed for discussion. When a topic is brought up to add to the agenda, the Board should reach consensus as to whether the majority of the Board felt there was enough interest to add it as an agenda item or not and then determine to what meeting date. The top three items the Board felt important were Student Achievement, Superintendent Goals, and Board Goals. It was felt that more time needs to be added to talk about these important things and others, such as, our monitors, indicators, student improvement and measurements. Although it seems to need some tweaking, consensus was to keep this annual calendar to see how it's working, and to assess it at the February Workshop meeting. Member Polke stated that she thought the extra workshop meetings were intended for the Board, not administration. However, Member Forbes explained that workshop meetings still need to be held in public and minutes have to be taken.

Discussion also took place regarding the Board's opinions on the agenda. Attorney Hodges felt that discussion items should be limited to no more than three or four items. They should be listed under discussion items not information reports. What was really important to talk about and what doesn't need detailed discussion needs to be decided prior to the meeting. The Board should define the purpose for everything it wants to discuss, and it should have a consensus about what presentations it wants administration to make to fulfill the goals the Board sets. That's the Board's role to get the data needed to allow the discussion. It was felt that although discussion is good, it was the length of the discussion that causes the problem. It's important to know the difference between Board work and Administrative work. Some other items that were discussed about the Board agendas were:

- 1) Defining the difference between Board work and Administrative work
- 2) Define the purpose of discussion items
- 3) Putting more items into the Consent Agenda
- 4) Putting the minutes into the Consent Agenda
- 5) Closed Session should go first, before the meeting.
- 6) Student Government should go earlier in the meeting as well as AFT Report
- 7) If there are questions regarding any of the items on the agenda, Board members should call or email administration for an explanation prior to the meeting rather than waiting to ask questions or voice concerns. This will help to shorten the meetings.
- 8) Consensus was to consider holding Student Discipline Hearings prior to the Board meetings (6-6:30 p.m. was suggested).
- 9) The Board needs to speak in one voice.
- 10) Financial accountability

- 11) Giving opinions of what was expected of the CEC  
 12) In Public Comments, if a question is asked by a member of the public and the answer is readily known, consensus was for the Superintendent or President to reply to those questions.

Next steps were discussed. Consensus was to draft a Formal Board Agreement to be adopted at the February Workshop meeting that will set a Code of Conduct for this Board. Regarding a referendum plan, it would be discussed at the Special Meeting on December 2, 2010. The Board will have to compromise on the boundary issue. Once decisions are made, the Board has to commit to speak with one voice to the public. The Board's job is to determine what needs to be done, and Administration's job is to figure out how to do it.

#### Announcements

Member Michael Lewandowski stated that he attended the T&L Conference and had some information to disseminate to the Board. Member Lewandowski was asked to write a report and distribute it to the Board at the next meeting along with the information he had collected.

#### Adjournment

Member **Cindy Polke** moved, Member **Angela Kamely** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, all members present voted yea, and the motion **CARRIED 7 – 0**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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

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Ronald Svara, President

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Lou Ann Johnson, Secretary