



BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE Minutes

December 4, 2017

The Board of Education Committee of the Whole met on December 4, 2017 at 5:34 p.m. in the Library at Marie Murphy School, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The President called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll.

The following members were present:

Louise Dechovitz, Vice President
Dan Garbis
Gil Gibori
Joel Raynes
Sheryl Swibel
Jamie Taylor
Rick Zelinsky, President

Also Present:

Beth Dever, Chief School Business Official
Suzie Harris, Board Reporter
Jessica Hutchison, Principal, Avoca West
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent/Board Secretary
Matthew Palcer, Principal, Marie Murphy
Terry Sofianos, Director of Pupil Services
Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

Visitors:

Terry Haskins
Roula Karcazes
John Komnenich
Anne Nagle

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Avoca Center Update and Public Comment

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, gave the Board an update regarding Avoca Center. He stated that the district has continued to seek partnerships for the use of the land. Dr. Jauch met with a representative from Sports Made Personal (SMP), to discuss potential interest in the land. It was suggested that the district look into turf as an option for the land. To that end, Dr. Jauch talked to Steve Wilson at the Wilmette Park District and the New Trier Athletic Director. The cost of covering that area with turf is not reasonable for the district to consider at this time. On December 1st, Dr. Jauch met with Tom Gizynski of the Wilmette Wings. The Wilmette Wings

considers Avoca Park to be their home fields. This discussion centered around the potential of razing the building, landscape the area, and using the space for soccer. Mr. Gizynski felt there was potential for the Wilmette Wings to possibly fundraise to offset some of the expense of landscaping.

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, gave an update regarding the Avoca Center tenants. Aryln Day School has completely vacated the building and been given their security deposit. One Hope United executed and returned the monthly lease extension.

The next portion of the discussion opened the meeting to public comment. Longtime Wilmette resident, Kerry Haskins, informed the Board of his company's interest in developing the Avoca Center parcel as a rental facility for a continuum of care senior housing program. The Board asked a variety of questions regarding the scope of the project.

John Komnenich informed the Board that some community members are forming a Friends of Avoca Park group to support and possibly help finance the option of maintaining the land as greenspace.

Roula Karcazes commented regarding the Village of Wilmette's study of the water drainage and suggested using a portion Avoca Park for water retention by replacing that greenspace with the Avoca Center parcel.

B. Special Finance Committee Update: Facilities and Bond Issuance

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, summarized the work of the finance committee to prioritize items on the updated life safety and facilities plan for Avoca West and Marie Murphy Schools and look into potential funding options for those projects. The recommendation for Avoca West was to continue the asbestos abatement in the middle section of the building, which includes kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms, and replace the univents in rooms 52, 53, and 54. At Marie Murphy, the recommended priorities are to replace the heating system with new boilers and univents and replace the existing parking lot. Both schools will also need to prioritize the replacement of exterior lighting, fire safety devices, technology infrastructure and any remaining life safety mechanical items. The committee also recommended installing direct expansion air conditioning in the areas where the mechanical heating equipment is being replaced. The cost to address the HVAC needs is approximately \$1,235,000. There were several other needs that the finance committee thought were also pressing and would need to be considered including replacing kitchen equipment and classroom furniture, updating the technological equipment and devices, replacing other capital equipment, and potentially razing Avoca Center. The committee recommended including \$600,000 with the original bond issuance to potentially address those issues.

In the event the Board decides to sell Avoca Center, the finance committee recommended using those proceeds to balance the Education Fund over the next several years and address the lower priority items in the life safety and facilities plan. The committee recommends that the district sell non-referendum general obligation bonds and maintain the current annual debt service extension base payment of \$730,780 for a payback period of approximately 18 years. This option should generate around \$7,580,000 in funding for the life safety, facilities and other capital needs described above. The Board indicated their agreement with the recommendations of the finance committee and will take action at the December Board of Education meeting to approve that the administration prepare for the sale of general obligation bonds to address these needs.

C. Website Designer Recommendation

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, presented the recommendation of a website developer to revamp the district's webpage. The Website Revamp committee recommended SchoolMessenger: West (West) to design and host the new district website. West is an industry leader in educational website design. Dr. Jauch highlighted the various benefits of using West, including cost, ease of transition for users and administrators, complete ADA compliance, unlimited support for all staff and upgrades after three years. The new website will cost \$3,000 to design and there will be an annual hosting fee of \$1,800. The Board will be asked to approve this recommendation later in this meeting.

D. Summer School Tuition

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented the Board with a recommendation for the 2018 summer school tuition and bus fees. Ms. Dever explained the various summer school programs offered by Avoca, which include Extended School Year, which operates in cooperation with District 39, Basic, Preschool and Science. Ms. Dever recommends that the tuition fees for the Basic program be increased to \$175 The Science and Preschool program fees remain the same. Transportation fees will be increased to \$140 for the ESY and basic programs and \$95 for the science program. The Board will be asked to approve the summer school tuition for 2018 at the December 21, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

E. 2018-2019 Calendar- 1st Reading

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, presented several options under consideration for the 2018-2019 school year calendar. Dr. Jauch indicated that he has shared these options with the administrative team and Avoca Education Association and plans to discuss them with the Parent Teacher Council to gather their input. The Board discussed the various options and commented to the impact long breaks may have on some parents and the preference to follow New Trier's calendar as closely as possible. Dr. Jauch will provide the Board with the recommended calendar option prior to the December Board of Education meeting, and they will be asked to approve the 2018-2019 calendar at that time.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION FOR WEBSITE DESIGNER

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FOR A WEBSITE DESIGNER AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Dechovitz seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Garbis, aye; Ms. Taylor, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Mr. Gibori, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; and Ms. Dechovitz, aye. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNS

Mr. Raynes moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Garbis seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Board President, Rick Zelinsky

Secretary, Kevin Jauch