

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Minutes

Avoca Center Community Update

November 8, 2017

The Board of Education met in special session on November 8, 2017, at 7:03 p.m. in the Joseph M. Porto Community Room 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 Board Members were present:

Louise Dechovitz, Vice President
Dan Garbis
Joel Raynes
Sheryl Swibel
Rick Zelinsky, Vice President

Absent:

Gil Gibori
Jamie Taylor

Also Present:

Beth Dever, Chief School Business Official
Tim Furman, District Technology Specialist
Suzanne Harris, Board Recorder
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent/Board Secretary

Registered Visitors:

Jan Barkis	Joel Kurzman
Kathy Brown	Jeff Lasky
Lourdes Cornelius	Susan Lasky
Jasmina de la Torre	Cheri Meisels
Dorthy Elfring	Brian Moloney
Greg Gleason	Anne Nagle
Chuck Hirsch	Maria Neihus
George Karcazes	B. Rothholtz
Roula Karcazes	M. Rothholtz
James Kerwin	Kathy Routliffe
Paul King	Franke Zijlstra
Richard Koenig	Beatrice Zijlstra
John Komnenich	
Mary Sue Komnenich	

Avoca Center Community Update

Board President, Rick Zelinsky, opened the Avoca Center Community Update presentation with an introduction of the Board members and district administrators present at the meeting. Mr. Zelinsky informed the attendees of the purpose of the meeting, which was to give a contextual background about Avoca Center, the current status of the Avoca Center tenants, the district's current facility priorities, the research conducted for various options for the property, as well as, collect feedback and answer questions from the community. The Board has not made a decision regarding the future of Avoca Center, but is still gathering feedback and pursuing multiple options. At this time, the BOE does not have a scheduled meeting to act on this matter.

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, shared information in regards to the history of Avoca Center, Avoca School District facility investments and the timeline of how the Board has arrived at its current position on Avoca Center.

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, gave an update of the current Avoca Center tenants. As of November 1, 2017, Arlyn Day School had vacated Avoca Center and relocated to Highland Park, Illinois. One Hope United also found a new location in Wilmette. They are currently renovating their new space and have asked the district for a month to month extension to the current facilities use agreement.

Ms. Dever then presented information regarding the Avoca School District facility and capital priorities which include: fire safety; heating, ventilation and air conditioning; technology infrastructure; asbestos abatement; flooring and cabinetry replacement; plumbing replacement and bathroom renovation; and parking lot replacement and upgrades. These facilities projects were determined by a new life safety and facilities survey conducted by DLA Architects, Ltd. (DLA) in summer of 2017 for Avoca West and Marie Murphy Schools. The estimated total cost of the projects listed in DLA's report is \$17 million. The Board Finance Committee is currently meeting in special session to prioritize that list and research funding options.

Next, Dr. Jauch presented information regarding the research conducted to identify other potential mutually beneficial options for Avoca Center. Dr. Jauch indicated that pursuant to the requests of the community, the district reinitiated conversations with several local municipalities, including the Wilmette Park District, the Village of Wilmette, the Wilmette Public Library and even the Winnetka Park District to revisit potential mutually beneficial options for the property. These discussions were not fruitful. The district has also considered options with Loyola Academy, The Organic Gardener and Go Green Wilmette. There has not been an affordable, mutually beneficial option presented at this time. The district continues to look and is open to discussing further options to partner with other organizations for a reasonable opportunity and use of the land.

President Zelinsky then presented the current options under consideration for Avoca Center. When the Board began discussing options for Avoca Center several years ago, they had three considerations on which to base their options; educational needs, financial impact, and community impact. Thus, the current options under consideration include razing Avoca Center and keeping the land, selling the entire property to a developer, and subdividing the property to sell a portion to a developer and preserve the remaining portion.

President Zelinsky concluded the presentation by giving the next steps for the Board in order to arrive on a decision regarding the future of Avoca Center. The Board is continuing to gather input and plans to do so into 2018. The Board will continue partnership discussions and host meetings to update the community and gather feedback. However, the Board does not want to

leave the building vacant for an extended period of time, therefore a decision is imminent and action will be taken sometime in 2018.

The next portion of the meeting invited attendees to ask questions and provide feedback.

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 Special Board Meeting for the Avoca Center Community Update adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Board President
Rick Zelinsky

Board Secretary
Kevin Jauch