



BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes

February 22, 2018

THE PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 37 BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SELL \$7,600,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS

The Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Avoca School District 37 Board of Education to sell \$7,600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds was called to order by the President, and upon the roll being called, Rick Zelinsky, the President, and the following members were physically present at said location: Louise Dechovtiz, Vice President; Dan Garbis, Gil Gibori, Joel Raynes, Sheryl Swibel and Jamie Taylor.

The following members were allowed by a majority of the members of the Board of Education in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the Board of Education to attend the meeting by video or audio conference: None.

No member was not permitted to attend the meeting by video or audio conference.

The following members were absent and did not participate in the meeting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever: None.

At 6:31 o'clock P.M., the President announced that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing (the "Hearing") to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$7,600,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District (the "Working Cash Fund Bonds") and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

The President opened the discussion and explained that the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds were as follows: To address life safety and facilities plan at Avoca West and Marie Murphy School.

Whereupon the President asked for additional comments from the members of the Board of Education. Additional comments were made by the following: None.

No written testimony concerning the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds was read into the record by the Secretary.

Whereupon the President asked for oral testimony or any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds. Statements were made by the following: None.

The President then announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds.

Vice President, Louise Dechovtiz, moved and Member, Joel Raynes, seconded the motion that the Hearing be finally adjourned.

After a full discussion thereof, the President directed that the roll be called for a vote upon the motion.

Upon the roll being called, the following members voted Aye: Dan Garbis, Jamie Taylor, Sheryl Swibel, Gil Gibori, Joel Raynes, Rick Zelinsky and Louise Dechovitz.

No members voted Nay.

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and the Hearing was finally adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board of Education met in regular session on February 22, 2018 at 6:37 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 members were present:

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

Also Present:

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

Visitors:

Beth Haugeberg
Roula Karcazes
Tammie Beckwith Schallamo
Phil Gerner

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE PLACE ON THE AGENDA

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, requested that Discussion items B. Research and Device Committee Update and C. Avoca Website Update be combined into one discussion item B. Technology Update.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

◆ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES- January 22, 2018
- BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES- January 25, 2018
- BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES- January 25, 2018
- COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES- January 29, 2018
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES-February 5, 2018
- CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES- February 5, 2018

◆ **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

● JANUARY TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF	\$	11,173,905.25
● JANUARY PAYROLL	\$	841,863.08
● JANUARY FIXED CHARGES	\$	152,286.73
● FEBRUARY EDUCATION FUND	\$	143,697.91
● FEBRUARY O&M FUND	\$	44,077.92
● FEBRUARY TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$	9,142.37
● FEBRUARY DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$	475.00

◆ **FEBRUARY PERSONNEL REPORT**

◆ **JANUARY ENROLLMENT REPORT**

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Working Cash Bond Issuance

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, introduced Tammie Beckwith Schallamo from PMA Securities, Inc., who is assisting the district with the working cash bond sale process.

Ms. Dever reviewed important dates pertaining to the bond issuance. The 30-day Petition period will end on March 5, 2018. During the month of March, Ms. Dever will work with PMA to draft the Preliminary Official Statement. A rating and due diligence call will be made to the district on March 14, 2018. At the March Board of Education meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the parameters and escrow resolutions.

Ms. Schallamo reviewed the parameter and escrow resolutions with the Board. Ms. Schallamo indicated that the purpose of the parameters resolution is to authorize the Board to issue bonds. Approval of the parameters resolution at the March Board of Education meeting enables the district to sell the bonds at a time that works well with the fiscal calendar and offers flexibility. The parameters are valid for 6 months so the sale can be made when the market is favorable. The parameter resolution allows for bonds to be sold not to exceed in \$7.6 million in new funding, and \$1.1 million in restructured funding for the 2015 bond issuance. The restructured portion is not the entire remaining funds from the 2015 bond issuance. The restructured funds will have a new interest rate as this will be a different market. The restructured bonds are taxable, the new funding will not be, as it is currently outlined in the parameter resolution. The maturity can go no longer than 2034. The district will be able to maintain its current debt service payment of approximately \$730,000. Ms. Schallamo indicated that the parameters resolution allows for the Board President, Vice President, the Superintendent and the Chief School Business Official to be approved delegates, at least two delegates need to be available to sign at the time of the sale.

Ms. Schallamo gave the Board an update of the current bond sale market, indicating that the proceeds from the sale at the current interest rate would yield approximately \$7.26 million. PMA will continue to watch the market and update the district as necessary.

Ms. Schallamo also presented the Board with information regarding an option to sell a portion of bonds as taxable to mitigate the risk of penalty for using the tax exempt proceeds to raze Avoca Center in the event the Board decides to sell that property in the future. The Finance Committee discussed selling \$250,000 of taxable bonds combined with the 5% lenience for such instances. This would result in an approximate \$15,000 loss in net proceeds from the sale. Based on the advice of Ms. Schallamo and the attorneys assisting PMA in the process, the Board agreed to allow the Finance Committee to make the decision regarding whether or not to sell a portion of the bonds as taxable.

B. Technology Update (SP 1&4)

District Technology Coordinator, Beth Haugeberg, gave the Board a report regarding the district's technology plan, in particular the new district website and an update of the work of the Research and Device Team. At this time, the template for the new website has been adopted; the navigation framework, logo and some starting photographs have been sent to the developer. The next steps will be to review the navigation and make necessary modifications, add content not included in the migration, train the webmaster and other website administrators, and plan the professional development for rollout to staff and the public.

Ms. Haugeberg gave the Board an update of the work of the Research and Device (R&D) Team. Thus far, the R&D Team has surveyed teachers on their use of technology in the classroom, assessed the current realities and made a commitment to reduce the cost of student devices. The R&D Team prepared a cost analysis of popular technology devices used in education and is in the process of narrowing their selection. The team plans to have a student device pilot decision and a staff device refresh plan by mid-March. The R&D team will begin to plan for Professional Development for both devices using summer hours. They hope to have a refresh plan in place for student devices by April or May.

Ms. Taylor asked the technology committee to consider passing the cost of the devices to parents for incoming 6th graders, students would retain ownership of their device upon graduation to use in high school.

Mr. Gibori commented that the R&D Team should consider the global perspective of staying ahead of technology first rather than the impact and transition for students and staff.

Mr. Zelinsky inquired into when the R&D Team will be able to communicate any additional financial support the device pilot and refresh will require in terms of coverage, support and accessories. Ms. Haugeberg responded that those topics will be addressed by April or May.

C. Strategic Plan Update: English Language Arts Committee Update (SP-Goal 1)

Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Jennie Winters, gave the Board an update regarding the status of Strategic Plan Goal 1.a.2: Identify and align essential standards for K-8 English Language Arts (ELA). An ELA committee has been formed and is currently operating in subcommittees focusing on the areas of ELA Foundations, ELA in Literature, ELA in Informational Text, Vocabulary and Writing. The ELA committee has approved their underlying beliefs for the ELA program at Avoca, which include; fostering a love for reading and writing, encompassing the components of ELA across all content areas and ensuring cohesion within and across grade levels and content areas, cultivating student independence, providing sufficient instructional time, and establishing systems that support continuous improvement. The Goals of the ELA program are still fluid at this point, but focus on alignment of curriculum, assessment, instruction, terminology and resources. In order to achieve Goal 1.a.2, the ELA committee will define and determine the needs for Avoca's Balanced Literacy System (BLS) and the articulation of what that will look like for each subcommittee topic in Winter-Fall of 2018. The Winter-Spring of 2019 will focus on finding resources that support the objectives of the BLS.

Ms. Dehovitz inquired regarding a plan for training instructional staff on the BLS. Ms. Winters indicated that is in process for upcoming teacher institute days. Ms. Dehovitz also inquired into the grammar component of ELA and how the district plans to address those standards. Ms. Winters explained that the writing subcommittee will also be looking at the grammar standards and will look into resources to support those standards.

Mr. Zelinsky expressed that the progress of the ELA committee in terms of their foundational beliefs and the terminology should be communicated to parents to share the thinking regarding the program. Ms. Winters indicated that the Board can expect the ELA Curriculum website to be updated with that information once the committees

approves a formal statement.

D. Strategic Plan Update: K-5 Mathematics Implementation Update

Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Jennie Winters, gave the Board an update regarding Strategic Plan Goal 1.a.1: Systematically implement ISS/CCSS aligned Math program K-5. This winter, Ms. Winters administered a survey to the K-5 instructional staff asking them to rate their progress with the new math curriculum implementation in order for the C&I Coordinator to target the teachers' needs. This survey collected information regarding the instructor's standards-based resources and practices, data driven approach and differentiation. Ms. Winters took the opportunity to share some comments from teachers regarding their accomplishments thus far. Overall, the staff is still grappling with learning the new system, but they are achieving the anticipated results for student learning. Ms. Winters will present another update after a full year of implementation.

E. Draft Staffing Plan 2018-2019

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, presented the Board with a draft of the staffing plan for the 2018-2019 school year for the purpose of familiarizing the BOE members with the format. The staffing plan outlines the allotted instructional personnel and their full-time equivalency per grade level and at each school. Dr. Jauch indicated that these are preliminary numbers that align with current student enrollment. Current enrollment reflects low cohort size for first grade next year, due to a low number of student enrollments in the current Kindergarten class. Other considerations are the amount of FTE allocated to EL. The district hopes to have the Board approve the staffing plan at the March Board of Education meeting following further discussions in terms of class size, student enrollment and program structure at the March committee of the whole.

F. FOIA (1)

The district received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for review. An email was received on Monday, January 22, 2018 from Nathan Mihelich of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association requesting the name and email address of all teachers or administrators retiring in 2018. Dr. Jauch responded to the request on January 25, 2018.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Ms. Swibel reminded the Board that the Avoca Parent Teacher Council Fun Fair was taking place on Sunday, January 25, 2018 and encouraged everyone to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF 2018-2019 INSTRUCTIONAL, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION FEES

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2018-2019 INSTRUCTIONAL, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION FEES AS PRESENTED.

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

B. APPROVAL OF THE AVOCA PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Ms. Taylor moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE AVOCA PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND APPRAISAL SYSTEM AS PRESENTED.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Raynes moved that the Board move into Closed Session for the purpose of:

THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1).

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

The Board moved into closed session at 8:40 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:06 p.m.

Mr. Gibori moved that the Board return into open session, and Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried.

ACTION ITEM

A. APPROVAL OF BOARD NOTICE OF REMEDIAL WARNING AND SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY REGARDING TENURED TEACHER

Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF BOARD NOTICE OF REMEDIAL WARNING AND 5-DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY TO JENNIFER STEFAN.

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

MEETING ADJOURNS

Ms. Taylor 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 10:08 p.m.

Board President, Rick Zelinsky

Secretary, Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.