

Continuation of regular Board meeting held on August 6, 2007

By law, the Board must designate the responsibilities of a tentative budget to a designee.

A motion was made by Sandy Walden and seconded by Scott Stuewe that the Board designate the Superintendent to prepare the tentative budget.

Motion carried.

Mr. Root presented the 2007-08 tentative budget to the Board, along with historical data that was discussed last month at the finance committee meeting. A budget handbook and other documents relating to the budgeting process were also given to the Board members. A formal presentation on the budget will be given at the August 20 meeting when all members are present.

A motion was made by Judy Lazar and seconded by Dave Lemme that the Board adopt the 2007-08 tentative budget to be on public display for 30 days prior to the official approval at the September 17 Board meeting.

Motion carried.

Information Items:

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Root shared information regarding State Budget News. The previous record for the State operating without a budget was July 24th. Public schools are waiting to see what the new foundation level will be. It is currently \$5334 per student.

He spoke to the Board about the need for a Strategic Planning Committee to establish goals and projections for our future. The last report of this type was done by the Parent Advisory Council in 1993.

Another area for review, after our annual audit is completed this fall, relates to analyzing where we stand regarding our auditing practices with respect to our internal controls and fund management. It is good business to review this practice and it would be prudent to begin this process this fall.

Mr. Root stated he would be meeting with PMA Financial Network, Inc., who handles the Illinois Liquid Asset Fund, which we utilize, to review the 5-year history of our district funds. In addition, he should be able to provide us with a further examination of our financial status and future financial projections. Mr. Root stated that he will keep the Board updated on what our analysis yields.

Elementary Staffing was discussed. Mr. Root's recommendation was to fill the open position, which is currently P.E., but not to add additional staff unless it is absolutely necessary.

We will be looking at the Federal Lunch Program in the near future as a way to address the perpetual financial shortfall within our lunch program. Mr. Root stated that we are 1 of 8-10 schools in the state that do not participate in the Federal Lunch Program. He will be coming to the Board with more information on this in the near future.

Mr. Root stated that the Wellness Policy will be revisited in the coming months. The district is required by law to have one and although the district has worked on one, it is not complete.

Mr. Root requested that we revisit the Clean Energy Grant with another performance contractor, BLI (Budget Lighting). We have until August 15 to secure the grant with no strings attached.

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A list of our vehicles was presented to the Board. The buses that are on the regular routes are leased from Central States but we still own three buses, which are used as spares. The ages and reliability of our spare buses and some of our vans is becoming a concern. We will need to look at a replacement plan in the future.

Mr. Root reported that, as expected, the health insurance rates have increased for the renewal period, but within the projected budget for this year.

Chris Wherley, Technology Coordinator; Bob Tibbs, Head of Maintenance; and Mr. Root will be working together in the coming months to review phone rates and energy cost savings ideas for the upcoming year.

Another area that will be addressed is professional development expenses. Mr. Root intends to work with the WEA to set some reasonable limitations.

We need to update our Safe Schools Plan and establish appropriate measures in the event of an unforeseen emergency.

Mr. Root informed the Board of the possible leave of absence for the first semester for a teacher requesting a family leave. This leave does not require Board action as it does not involve any unpaid days.

Mr. Root reported on the status of our buildings and grounds and thanked our custodial and maintenance crew for their hard work in getting our schools ready for the start of school. He also included a schedule of upcoming events as we approach the first week of school.

Mr. Root stated that the Board will need to make some decisions regarding the IASB III Conference in Chicago, Nov. 16-18 (How many will attend? Who will attend?). This will be discussed at the August 20 meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Root reported that Goodman Fence will be installing the fence around the five acres at Sherman Elementary on August 13. He will do some research to find the best way to utilize the money from the Attorney General Grant that includes the fencing and possibly working the ground into a playable surface, backstops, movable soccer goals, etc.

The Board will hold a special meeting on August 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the district office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2007.

_____, President

_____, Secretary