

**COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 46
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

The Special Board of Education Meeting of the Community Consolidated School District 46 Lake County, Illinois was held at Grayslake Middle School, 440 N. Barron, Grayslake, IL 60030 on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

President Garcia called the meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: **Members present:** Facklam, Carbone, Millington, Garcia, and Weinert.
 Members absent: Linder and Surroz.
 Also Present: Superintendent Ellen Correll, Assistant Superintendent Lynn Barkley, and Chief School Business Official Brad Goldstein.

Quorum was established and the Pledge of Allegiance took place at this time.

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Facklam, seconded by Weinert for the approval of the September 8, 2009 Special Meeting Agenda as presented. **Ayes:** Facklam, Carbone, Millington, Garcia and Weinert. **Nays:** None. Members absent: Linder and Surroz.
Motion carried.

PUBLIC

COMMENT: There was none.

Board Member Weinert left the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Garcia welcomed the community to the forum and explained there are some 3x5 cards for questions and asked the audience if anyone had any questions to please write them down, it may be answered during the presentation but if not, there will be time provided for Brad to answer questions at the end.

Superintendent Correll asked that if those that are present could fill out the surveys because this would help to prepare for future forums. The next forum is scheduled for November and it will be on curriculum. At this time Superintendent Correll turned the discussion over to Brad Goldstein.

Brad prepared a PowerPoint presentation to show and discuss in laymen terms, information regarding Property Taxes and School Finance 101. The discussion included local, State and revenue sources for Illinois School districts, major school

funds, District 46 tax rates, property taxes, how do our total tax rates compare, and a budget and levy cycle.

Approximately \$47.54 million would be received from local property taxes for District 46.

- \$28.76 million from property taxes
- \$11.74 million from state funding
- \$2.78 million is flow through for TRS
- \$1.56 million in state categorical aid
- \$1.13 million in other funding
- \$1.06 million in federal funding and,
- \$500 thousand in interest.

Brad explained the expenditures for the 2009/10 school year for District 46 would be broken down as follows:

Approximately \$48.98 million in expenses will be incurred in FY 2010.

- \$23.48 million will be spent on salaries
- \$7.96 million will be spent on benefits and payroll taxes
- \$6.53 million will be spent on purchased services
- \$3.32 million will be spent on supplies and materials
- \$1.03 million will be spent on capital outlay and
- \$6.56 million will be spent on other objects including bond principal and interest

The Education Fund is used to pay the regular expenses associated with providing education to our students and these expenses include teacher's salaries, textbooks, computers and other classroom supplies. The Operations & Maintenance Fund is used to pay for the regular operations and maintenance on the seven buildings in the District. Bond and Interest Fund is a debt service on all the District's general obligation debt, which is paid from this fund. The Transportation fund is only revenues and expenditures related to transportation. The Tort Fund is maintained to pay for property, liability and worker's compensation coverage.

Brad also discussed the District's partnership with PMA, which is a company that specializes in school district funding and does the investing for District 46.

For a more in depth breakdown of the presentation – please see attached.

The presentation was completed and questions from the audience were accepted.

Q: Why do we pay yearly registration fees and taxes, who determines the registration fees and what happens when families do not pay theirs?

A: All Districts have fees and the philosophy is there should be user fees. We do have a collection agency and we try to work with parents. This

year we had a promissory note and if you qualify for free or reduced Lunch then your fees were reduced accordingly. The fees are set by the Board of Education with recommendations from the administration.

Q: Of the \$6,190, how much does each student actually use?

A: The State foundation level is \$6,190, we actually spend more around \$9,500 to \$10,000. It's used to provide textbook, computers, and staff salaries, teachers, it pays for their benefits - we actually go beyond the foundation level.

Q: How often are outside services i.e., food service, Jani-King, competitively quoted out?

A: We bid out and it's dictated by law. Food service – you sign on for a one-Year agreement and it can be renewed for up to four-years after that or five-years. Janitorial service for up to three-years. And if we don't go with the lowest competitive price, the Board has to establish a reason.

Q: Did District 46 receive the last million dollars owed to it by Illinois?

A: Not yet – we're still waiting. We haven't heard from the State, haven't received any guidance on what's going on with that.

Q: What does next years budget look like?

A: We have a balanced operational fund with a surplus overall due to difference in the bond cycle.

Q: Do you anticipate reductions to be made in the spring to alleviate any anticipated dept?

A: We have to look at that after we get the PMA Analysis to see what we look like and then we could be working with the Administrators and the Board as to how we would deal with that. If there is cuts after that need to be made, we would discuss them and I imagine we would share that with PMA before we make any of these final decisions.

Q: How accurate are the PMA Projections and did PMA projections two or three years ago forecast the short fall we're experiencing in 09?

A: That's a question I'll have to go back and look at a little bit deeper. I haven't gone back and looked at PMA's analysis.

Q: What is the percentage of families receiving reduced lunches and registration?

A: These are pretty much last years totals – they have gone up. District wide we currently have 18.02% for low income with a low at Meadowview of 1.5%, Avon is pushing up to 40%, so it's pretty despaired across the District. But District overall is about 20%.

Q: Is there a bar graft to show relationship between budget and school ratings?

A: No – Report Cards come out in the fall.

Q: Can the bonds be evaluated to reissue at a lower rate?

A: Most of them are locked in when you sign for them.

Q: Is it possible to issue new bonds and pay off the other ones early?

A: No – there's bonds that are set. It's just like a mortgage and there's penalties fees if you pay them off early and these are similar.

Q: Have you ever thought of having a community task force where parents and community have a say in prioritizing cuts and what's important, what's not?

A: We haven't discussed that at this point. The last time that we made cuts, we had a discussion in public, where we were looking at the cuts. Ellen came up and she explained which cuts would be made and why. And then the Administrators talked, we talked, she talked and they by conscience, we came up with which cuts would have the lease amount of impact on the learning of the kids. Discussion followed.

Q: With regards to the District getting information out to the public, what about using the messaged boards outside the schools?

A: Those are venues that we will use in addition to now several schools have facebook, Twitter, and some of those other things we haven't had in the past. Discussion followed.

Comment/Question: In January that meeting that discussed the possible reductions was not staff related, so that was all operations and those types of things. I know you can't discuss staff specifically but class sizes are bigger this year and I think that was something that was a big concern to the parents and has become more of a concern even though they have been started to be managed and I think that while you can't discuss the staff specifically, if there's a possibility of reducing staff and class sizes increasing, I think the community would like to be a little bit better informed

and maybe a little bit more pro-activeness in the way of adjusting. During the last forum we didn't really want to see classes adjusted after the school year started and that happened.

Superintendent Correll responded: All of our classes fall within the Board parameters. That was one of the reasons for central registration – was to try and get a better handle without having to add a teacher in October. We still have to wait to see if those bodies come across our doorsteps the first week of school. But the Board supported adding staff, as we needed it to get those parameters. But in fact in some areas, we have less than we have in any year since I've been here. Class sizes are very good.

Comment/Question: One thing I would be more interested in learning more about is, what information is now going to be shared with the Board and to the public with regards to specific decisions that should play a role in whether or not the new budget is adopted and the information that I'm wondering about and I would expect that this Board would take into consideration is a variance analysis of our year over year expenses for this coming school year versus our last year and I think that it's important that the Board, before they adopt a budget and eventually the public understands what are the differences in our revenue. And also, what has changed this year in the proposals versus last years.

Brad Goldstein responded: The variances have been shared with the Board from what we have in the system as of today of the last presentation line by line. Lengthy discussion followed.

Q: With regards to the TRS Funds, once the Government is in the rears, is the School District trying to cover the rears?

A: No – the school district is not responsible for covering that.

Q: How much would enrollment have to go down be for we have some of the elementary schools can be consolidated and maybe get rid of some of the extra properties and maybe off load some big monies.

A: Not sure – we could assume 300 to 400 students.

Q: What's going on with the little white building, are you going to be auctioning it off?

A: Everyone is out of the building, we're still headed towards that discussion and it will be on he next agenda for discussion.

Audience Member commented in length in regards to the Boards lack of transparency. It was asked of the Board to individually commit to doing something more to increase the transparency. It was also asked of the Board to set a plan to improve the communication with parents and the community.

Board President Garcia responded by elaborating on some things that are being done to increase transparency and communication.

Vice President Facklam responded with elaborating on the efforts that have been put into the increasing the minutes with more information.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Q: Who is responsible for the District's PR?

A: The District's has no PR Department.

Comment: Give kudo's where do. Ellen, Mary and Sue have responded to all my questions and I appreciate you.

ADJOURNMENT: President Garcia called for a motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Motioned by Millington, seconded by Facklam to adjourn the September 8, 2009 Special Meeting at 7:24 p.m. **Ayes:** Facklam, Carbone, Millington, and Garcia. **Nays:** None. Members absent: Linder and Surroz and Weinert. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

MARY GARCIA, Board President

LOURIE SHIPLEY, Board Recording Secretary