



Board of Education

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President Joe Sonnefeldt called the October 11, 2018, Special Meeting of the Board of Education for the Purpose of a Community Forum on District 57 Finances, Facilities, and Referendum Funds to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members present: Vicki Chung, Dennis Composto, Jennifer Kobus, Eileen Kowalczyk, Brian Maye, and Joe Sonnefeldt. Absent: Gerald McCluskey. There were five District 57 administrators in attendance and approximately 23 audience members.

President Sonnefeldt welcomed everyone to the special meeting for a Community Forum on District 57 Finances, Facilities, and Referendum Funds. He gave an overview of what would be covered during the presentation. He said one reason for the Community Forum was to gain community input. He explained that the Board is made up of seven elected volunteers that meet twice monthly. He said Board decisions are based on data, best practices, district resources, community input and recommendations from administration.

Presentations on District Enrollment, Referendum Funds, Financial Outlook, Facilities, and Board Elections

- President Sonnefeldt presented information on District 57 enrollment statistics. He included historical information and projected student enrollment.
- Mr. Adam Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented on the use of referendum funds and the financial outlook of District 57. He also spoke about anticipated facility needs.
- Board of Education Vice President Eileen Kowalczyk shared information about Board of Education elections.

Questions and Answers

President Sonnefeldt opened the floor to questions at 7:30 p.m. The following are questions and comments from the audience.

- 1) What constitutes a reasonable class size and is there research to back this up?
Response: Board of Education Policy Committee is currently working on a class size policy. Currently, the district strives to have not more than 27-28 in a class at the elementary level.
- 2) What is the process for determining the master facility budget for the future?
Response: President Sonnefeldt said the facility budget was limited to \$750,000 due to financial restrictions. This year the Board has increased the amount to \$4 million in an attempt to do significant maintenance projects that have been put off for a long time due to the limited budget. He said the longer you put off these types of construction projects, the more expensive they become. The Board is also looking at moving up the timeline for the annual bidding process.
- 3) Will the Board continue to budget \$4 million per year in the master facility budget?
Response: It is expected to spend a bit more in the first few years as opposed to equally distributed amounts over the next 10 years to catch up on projects that have been delayed.
- 4) Do the enrollment projections shared include the proposed construction of new multi-family homes in downtown Mount Prospect?
Response: Not enough information is known at this time to reasonably plan for new student estimates. As more information becomes known, the Board will determine a plan for responding to a scenario of an unexpected increase in student enrollment.

5) What is an example of the response plan?

Response: Potentially using mobiles to address an unexpected influx of student enrollment.

6) Are there plans for the Board and District to work with the developers of these proposed residences to determine financial concessions for the school district?

Response: There have not been conversations about this specific topic. There will be ongoing discussions with the Village of Mount Prospect about the potential release of funds for District 57.

7) What will be the cost of the Fairview expansion of the proposed \$4 million budgeted for the master facility plan?

Response: It will depend what the Board determines to be the priority for projects to be achieved using the \$4 million amount budgeted.

8) How old is the Master Facility Plan and is it available online?

Response: It was first created in the district nine years ago and is updated annually by administration and the Board of Education. It is not currently available online as the document is large; however, it is available at the administration building.

9) What is the total new revenue from the referendum?

Response: Approximately \$5.7 million in this fiscal year.

10) In the aggregate view projection summary, are the proposed master facility funds included?

Response: Yes, the forecasted budget figures factor in the proposed master facility budget.

11) If the Board of Education approves the expansion of Fairview, will this project be completed prior to the start of the school year?

Response: Yes, this would be the expectation.

12) Someone commented and thanked the Board for this opportunity to learn more about the district's plans as well as them seeking the community's feedback. The person said the plans presented tonight accurately reflect the community's interest in full-day kindergarten and are equitable in addressing needs of each school within District 57.

13) Can you comment on the immediate impact of expanding Fairview on Lions Park?

Response: We would look at different options and programming including SOAR.

14) What would be the different class sizes if the Board decided on a 2-classroom versus 4-classroom expansion at Fairview?

Response: It is difficult to give a precise class size figure as student enrollment is difficult to predict based on a variety of different factors. The Board will be examining this issue at the upcoming Board meeting next week.

15) What criteria will you be using as a Board of Education to determine 2 versus 4 new classrooms?

Response: Each Board member will use a variety of different information and criteria for determining their position on this matter.

16) Will Lincoln be able to accommodate the projected enrollment for the next five years?

Response: The space at Lincoln as a middle school allows for the projected number of students to be housed within the building.

17) Is the Board considering addressing the administration building?

Response: This will be a challenge for the Board to address as money spent on updating administrative space will likely not be positively perceived by the community. The Board will be continuing to investigate options in the future to address the administration building needs.

18) It is my understanding that there are some classes at Lincoln with over 28 students.

Response: At the middle school level, classes may be over 28 for a variety of different reasons, but this is not the norm.

19) Will the district be receiving approximately \$9,000/student in the proposed construction plans in TIF district in downtown Mount Prospect? Will this result in a deficit in the per pupil cost?

Response: That is the Board's current understanding; however, keep in mind that as the cost per pupil will be increasing as a result of increased spending from referendum revenue, this may not match our previous per pupil amounts.

20) Who is the current construction manager for the district?

Response: Nicholas and Associates, who has served in this role for the last seven years.

21) Someone commented that the district should do a 4-classroom expansion versus a 2-classroom expansion and move up the construction of Lincoln in the ten-year timeline. The Board should consider taking a negative public stance on the proposed housing project in the TIF district now so it can be used as leverage down the line for more money from the construction deal.

22) Another comment was made that the Board's Maple Street Loft student numbers seem conservative and the Board should formulate a demand from the developers of this project to secure concessions for the district to help accommodate the cost of new students coming to the district.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Sonnefeldt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Chung made a motion, seconded by Member Maye, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote resulted as follows

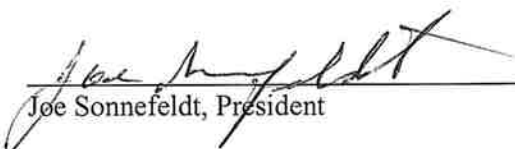
Yes: Chung, Composto, Kobus, Kowalczyk, Maye, Sonnefeldt

No: None

Absent: McCluskey Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Virginia Webster, Secretary



Joe Sonnefeldt, President

Date of approval: November 15, 2018