



...from the April 25, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM

The Board voted unanimously to approve the employment of current Hawthorne Principal Nikki Tammaru as the new District 205 Director of Literacy, effective July 1, 2017 with a salary of \$129,522. (See [related news item](#) on the District 205 homepage.)

As a director, Mrs. Tammaru will facilitate parent education, lead professional learning, supervise department chairs, as well as other leaders and committee work, actively plan and coordinate curriculum development with a focus on interdisciplinary units of instruction, and play a more prominent role in the assessment development work in the District, which must be a top priority for the foreseeable future.

Jim Collins voiced support for building a culture of promoting internal candidates, so that they have a career path. "These are people we know and trust. I think this is a great decision. I congratulate Nikki and wish her the best of luck in her new role."

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

Out-going Board of Education member Emily Bastedo was honored with a plaque commemorating her four years of service to the students, staff and families of Elmhurst District 205. Board President Shannon Ebner read the following statement:

Emily Bastedo was elected to the Elmhurst District 205 Board in 2013. During the past four years, she has served on the following committees: Learning and Teaching, Finance and Operations, Policy and City/Park/School.

She became interested in becoming a Board member because she felt that she could contribute to the community. "I had experience in school finance and an interest in board policy. I was so thankful to be part of the great Elmhurst community and felt that this was a way to serve and give back," she said.

Ms. Bastedo believes that the Board's most important accomplishment during her tenure was the hiring of a great superintendent, Dr. David Moyer. In second place is the negotiation of the current teachers' contract. "I think those two things had the greatest impact on the District," she noted.

When asked about her most important personal accomplishment, Emily said "Navigating through tough times that could have divided the community. When I was first elected, there were challenges at Conrad Fischer School with the direction of the English Language Learners classrooms and District policy. It was a very tough time for the community, administrators, and the board.

"I tried to make the community feel heard. I made myself available at all hours to concerned community members. The same happened last year with an instructional classroom issue. The community may disagree with the decisions being made, but I wasn't going to let them feel like they weren't represented or that their voices weren't heard," she explained.

On a lighter note, Emily explained that she encouraged a more casual Board culture to encourage approachability. Before I got on the Board everyone was called "Mr. Collins" or "Mrs. Ebner." I suggested we go by first names. Also, people dress more casually. You can check the videos – Chris Blum used to wear sports coats. Now it's jeans."

Her parting thoughts and advice to new member Kara Caforio is this:

"I have gained so much respect for teachers and administrators. There is so much more to education than I ever could have imagined. And I am so happy to leave it to the professionals. I am confident in the ability of our staff and administrators to keep moving this district in the right direction. Trust your administrators. Hire great professionals and hold them accountable. And ask lots of questions.

"We're really doing to miss you," declared Mrs. Ebner.

John McDonough said "Emily, it's a pleasure to serve with someone who clearly and directly speaks her mind, always for the benefit of the people we represent – the kids, the employees, the people in this community, the taxpayers. I think a good word that suits Emily is fearless. She has always taken a 'walk the walk' approach. She's willing to speak on difficult issues and make difficult motions at times. I've also enjoyed the humor and the casualness. Thank you very much for being a leader in my family's community."

Margaret Harrell echoed Mr. McDonough's comments. "Without a doubt getting to know Emily and working with her was excellent. She's extremely courageous and very clear and concise on what she feels; she's a very open and willing to listen to everyone's opinion. She's a very open and warm person, which brought the group together and we are definitely going to miss that. We might not see you at many Board meetings, Emily, but knowing that you are in the community, still advocating for all of our students and the community, makes me sleep well at night. So thanks."

Jim Collins noted that "Emily has approached the job with a great deal of enthusiasm, insight, wisdom and humor and this district is far better off for having had her here for the last four years."

Emily Bastedo responded by saying, "I can't leave without saying thank you to everybody - the staff – all the employees of our district. We are very fortunate to live in this community with these schools. My husband and I picked Elmhurst, and I'm very proud of it. I'm proud of the administration, and I know I leave you guys in good hands. I'm not going to say everything I want to say because I'm feeling emotional, but I do have to acknowledge the Board members who sit up here with me, all of whom have served longer than I did. They're all in their second and third terms, and it's a tough job. All of these people are doing it for the right reasons. I can honestly say they want what's best for this community and they want nothing in return other than to have done a good job. And that's rare."

She thanked her boys, who were in the audience. "While this is a bittersweet moment for me, they are absolutely elated that I'm going to see them a lot more because this does take a lot of time.

I'm so glad that Kara has stepped up to take my place. I think she's going to be a great representative of the community. Just like everyone else up here, I know that she's going to put her heart in this and do what she feels is best for the students. That's a great thing."

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

As part of this reorganizational meeting, receipt of the Certified Election Results was acknowledged. The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected Board of Education member Kara Caforio by Board President Shannon Ebner.

The old Board was adjourned and the meeting of the new Board of Education was called to order. The election of the new Board officers was then held. Shannon Ebner was nominated for President; Margaret Harrell was nominated as Vice President; and Karen Stuefen was nominated as Secretary. Since there were no challengers, these nominations stood and the officers were declared elected.

A regular [meeting schedule for 2017-18](#) was established (as posted on [BoardDocs](#)) and the reaffirmation of all existing contracts and policies was confirmed.

Board Committee appointments were announced as follows:

Board Improvement Committee – Shannon Ebner, Karen Stuefen, Margaret Harrell
Learning and Teaching Committee Members – Kara Caforio, Jim Collins, Margaret Harrell
Finance and Operations Committee Members – Chris Blum, John McDonough, Karen Stuefen
Performance Management Committee Members – Chris Blum, Jim Collins, Karen Stuefen
Policy Committee Members – Kara Caforio, Margaret Harrell, John McDonough
LEND Representative – Karen Stuefen
IASB Delegate – Margaret Harrell
Lizzadro Museum Representative – Karen Stuefen
City/Park/School Representative – John McDonough
SASED - John McDonough

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Bond Options Presentation

Elizabeth Hennessy of William Blair presented an [outline of bond options](#), looking at the market and where the District now stands. This was an exercise in looking at the District's current debt and thinking about prioritization of capital facility projects.

The good news is that there is significant bonding capacity available with little to no change in annual tax payments for debt service.

"Long-term rates are pretty low again for right now. The statutory debt limit is 13.8% or \$229M for District 205. The past Board and administration are to be complimented for the over \$15M in interest savings achieved over the last four years, as well as shortening the term of the debt. That has put you in a good position for future facility needs. The highest annual debt service payment is \$15.9M, down from \$18M before the refunding plan.

Ms. Hennessy's presentation reviewed possible funding options ranging from \$100M to \$151M of bonds issued over the next 5 years. She stated that these options are non-project specific and are just examples to show the Board a range of financing options.

"The District would be completely debt free by 2025 if the District does nothing," she noted. "These options allow us to infuse money (to address facility needs) and keep payments on par with where they are now."

Mr. Blum noted that "Focus 205 put a lot of ideas on the table. We don't want to increase the annual tax burden. If we go to zero, even the basic needs don't get met, let alone Lincoln (School). As we work to put numbers around the various Focus 205 options, we need to ask what it would look like. This is an exploration of the options around funding to further inform the process."

Update on Levy, EAV, Tax Extension and Rates

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Chris Whelton presented the [Final 2016 Tax Extensions and Rates](#), having received the final figures from DuPage County.

The 2016 tax levy was determined based on an estimated 11% increase in Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) and an inflated estimate of \$65M in new construction EAV. The actual EAV is \$2,350,326,828 - an increase of 8.66%. New construction came in at \$38.436M.

"As usual, the actual extension is about 1% less than we levied. The tax extension is going up 2.46% on a .7 CPI. Most of the increase is related to new construction EAV, which is 1.76%. Of the \$38 million, \$34 million is residential new construction EAV and \$420,000 is commercial new growth," Mr. Whelton reported.

"Most of the commercial new growth is tied up in TIF areas," said Mr. McDonough.

Mobile Learning Implementation (MLI) 2017-18 Updates

Dr. Mary Henderson-Baum, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, presented "[Technology Integration in the Classroom](#)."

During 2016-17, elementary MLI has resulted in one-to-one Chromebooks in fifth grade; two-to-one Chromebooks in fourth grade and an increase in the number of K-3 devices.

Technology infusion has increased the amount of writing our students are doing. It has also increased student choice for research and project work.

The use of [Zearn](#) – an online support that mimics the standards and allows for self-paced learning – to accompany the adoption of Eureka Math has enhanced differentiation and the ability to accelerate student learning in the general education classroom.

There has been some teacher frustration in grades K-4, due to the need to negotiate for devices.

Through D205 University, 121 K-5 teachers participated in introductory courses such as Google apps, using Chromebooks for feedback and the use of dynamic resources. Instructional coaches

provide ongoing support for integration of technology into instruction, recognizing that technology isn't the goal; technology is an accelerator of learning.

Proposed for 2017-18 Elementary MLI:

- 3rd through 5th grade: one-to-one Chromebooks
- Decisions on primary grades will not be made until more thorough investigation, pilot and vetting to see if alternative devices are more relevant to younger learners
- Continued offering of D205 University courses, driven by teacher interest and need
- Modeling of effective technology integration by leaders and coaches
- Exploration of learning management systems (LMS) to compare to Google classroom with a potential small pilot

District 205 is using dynamic resources and Google Apps for Education to help lower the cost of textbooks and print materials. In doing so, it is following the SAMR model of technology integration. SAMR is a model designed to help educators infuse technology into learning and teaching. It stands for substitution, augmentation modification and realization. The lowest level is substitution, where technology simply replaces traditional methods of instruction. The highest level is the use of technology to create something that demonstrates knowledge. "That's when we really begin to transform learning," said Dr. Henderson-Baum.

"The curb jumping aspect of technology is when you get rid of textbooks. How far away are we?" asked Mr. Blum.

Dr. Henderson-Baum noted that progress is slower at elementary level. "We are shifting to dynamic resources at the high school level. One hiccup is that as we continue add ACP (Advanced College Prep) classes, we are required to use their (Indiana University) textbooks."

York High School Curriculum Materials for Display

The following proposed York High School educational materials will be on display for 30 days:

- Sports and Entertainment Marketing – *Sports and Entertainment Marketing*, 4th edition
- Personal Finance – students can earn 3 semester hours from College of DuPage
- Business Law – Business and Personal Law, 2016
- Advertising – Text and Project Workbook
- Auto Collision Repair – Chromebook/computer access
- Biology Honors – e-text and additional resources
- Business Management – Text that COD is using in order to maintain dual credit
- AP US Government and Politics – *American Democracy Now* – updated with 2012 & 2016 presidential elections and Supreme Court decisions in the past 6-7 years
- AP Psychology – *Myer's Psychology for AP*, 2nd edition
- AP Sociology – *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology* 5th edition
- Pre-calculus Honors – *Pre-Calculus Enhanced with Graphing Utilities*, 7th edition
- Functions and Finite Math – *Finite Math*, 5th edition
- Advanced Algebra with Trigonometry – *CME Project Algebra 2*

"Again, we need to mirror resources necessary for York's ACP classes (Advanced College Prep, based on Indiana University requirements). The courses were approved, but we are now asking for approval

to put the materials on display. We are also presenting updated content for some AP resources," explained Dr. Henderson-Baum.

Mr. Collins noted that the AP Biology is an e-text and asked if that the first time it's been offered. Dr. Henderson-Baum responded she didn't think so and that there is still a charge, versus using a dynamic open resource.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA - CONSENT

With all members present, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items*:

- Personnel Report
- [Financial Reports](#)
- 2017-2018 [High School Student Fees](#)
- 2017-2018 [EC-8 Student Fees](#)
- 2017-2018 Lunch and Breakfast Fees – no increase
- 2017-2018 [Facility Rental Fees](#)*
- Amended [2016-2017 School Calendar](#)
- Foreign Exchange Student "B" from Spain
- Purchase, Installation, and Disposal of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Equipment
- 2 Gbps AT&T Internet Service Agreement
- Contract Renewal for Special Education Transportation – 1 year extension of Cottage Hill contract at a 5% increase
- Proposal #17-06 [Restroom Partitions](#) at Sandburg Middle School
- Appointment of School Treasurer – Adrian Gaerlan

*Dr. Harrell removed Item F, facility rental fees, in order to discuss it. She wanted to highlight the changes. The main change was a 1% overall increase in fees, which supports the practice of being reimbursed for costs incurred.

Mr. Whelton pointed out that on page 2, under requests, there is a new booking penalty of \$100 for each space requested at the last minute (same day) in order to encourage advanced planning. "It tends to be the same organizations that do this on a recurring basis; they will be notified of this change," he said.

"On page 7, we increased equipment rental for groups E and F that are non-Elmhurst groups (both non-profit and for-profit). We increased the charges because some of our equipment – batting cages and the nets - are getting really worn out," Mr. Whelton explained.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

With all members present, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items, voting on each item separately:

- Purchase of Chromebooks, iMacs, and Carts for Student Use
- U.S. Bancorp Master Tax-Exempt Lease/Purchase Agreement for a three-year lease and purchase of Acer Chromebooks, Dell laptops, and Konica Minolta MFP Machines in an amount not to exceed \$780,000
- Display York High School Curriculum Resources

- Donation (Hawthorne) – from Hawthorne PTA, a gift of \$10,000 to complete classroom library needs
- Donation (Edison) – from Edison PTA, a gift of \$3,000 to purchase Guided Reading Levelled Readers and Guided Reading Instruction in grades K-5

Mrs. Stuefen, the Board liaison to Hawthorne Elementary School, thanked the PTA for its generous support of students and teachers. She also thanked the Edison PTA and community for supporting the new English Language Arts (ELA) materials.

“We do have a Learning and Teaching budget that supports curriculum, but because we are shifting to the workshop model, it will take a while for us to build up all of those libraries at the schools. When different entities are interested in supporting us and want to know what our needs are, typically our principals have been guiding them in this direction,” said Dr. Moyer.

“The concern about equity of resources comes up. We do have Title money that helps balance out resources. We have examined existing libraries and balanced out the allocations accordingly in an effort to make sure that all of our students have access to rich materials,” he reported.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMUNICATION

Freedom of Information Act requests

There were five Freedom of Information Act requests filed:

- One requesting information regarding length of a specific class, which was granted.
- One requesting information on AP tests and classes, which was granted.
- One requesting information on class exemption, which was granted.
- One requesting information on specific staff practices, which was granted.
- One requesting information on parent-teacher conferences, which was partially denied and partially granted.

Focus 205/Operational Plan – Next Steps

Dr. Moyer explained that a draft timeline for Phase 2 of Focus 205 is in process and that the administration was working with its current architect and construction firm of record – Wight & Company and James McHugh Construction Company – to present some general concepts and global numbers to the Board at its May 9 meeting. These will be very broad estimates.

“The biggest thing we need to do, in the administration’s opinion, is secure the services of a construction manager and an architect. Your Board packet contains an explanation of the [RFP versus the RFQ process](#) and gives a typical range of fees, often a percentage, based on the totality of what the community decides to support,” said Dr. Moyer.

Typical fees for a construction manager and architect are as follows:

- Construction Manager - range from 2.5-4.0%
- Architect - range from 6.5-8.5%

“This is a draft timeline, depending on what kind of direction we get, which will shape the input and feedback process in terms of how we disseminate information to the community. As the feedback

comes in and as the Board authorizes us to make certain decisions, the process will continue to evolve," he noted.

Draft timeline for Focus 205 Phase 2

April 25, 2017	Hennessy/William Blair bond presentation
April 26, 2017	Begin process to secure services of Construction Manager and Architect (to put prices with possible needs scenarios)
May/June 2017	Secure services of marketing consultant to develop a formal communication strategy
July 2017	Operational Plan presented to Board
August 2017	Construction designs and cost estimates developed in relation to bond scenarios
Aug.-Nov. 2017	Community input on designs (Focus Groups, surveys, etc.)
Aug.-Nov. 2017	All-Day Kindergarten Feasibility Study with facility implications (consulting services likely required)
Sept.-Dec. 2017	Regular reports to the Board regarding findings of community input

"This timeline is tentative, based on the Board authorizing certain aspects of the work and recommendations that may come from consultants once their services are secured. We would not be committing to an exorbitant amount of money up front. This would be done as part of a total project scope that would be negotiated through the RFQ process," said Dr. Moyer.

Dr. Harrell asked about our procurement practices and what they state about when we go to RFP or RFQ. "In this case, these are professional services, so are exempt from the bidding process. The RFQ process does not have price included. The downside of an RFP is that you have to go with the low bid," Mr. Whelton explained.

"And a low bid doesn't guarantee you're going to spend the least amount of money. I think it's very important we have someone we feel really comfortable with and would not recommend shopping this based only on price." Mr. Blum noted.

"It was loud and clear at the last several Focus 205 sessions that people were asking for prices. Tonight, we made a first step by asking William Blair to put some numbers around that. We also need a fairly detailed cost estimate. At that point, we need to go back to our constituents to find out what they would be willing to support, based on actual cost on the median property tax bill," said Mr. Collins.

Dr. Moyer explained that the development of a blueprint/organizational plan would incorporate all of the feedback from Focus 205, as it relates to student achievement, sustainability and facilities. "We would like to present that in July and would be communicating various aspects of that leading up to the meeting so that you would have ample time to look at it in advance and ask questions.

"Assuming we have an architect and construction manager on board, over the course of the summer, we would be working on designs and cost estimates so that we would have schematic drawings to present to the public in the fall to get additional input."

Mrs. Caforio asked if the administration will be costing out all 12 options presented in Focus 205 Community Engagement Session #6. "We will start out by grouping things into scenarios. Details

can be adjusted one way or another, but it will be helpful for people to begin to understand how things fit," said Dr. Moyer.

"If we are going to secure the services of an architect and construction manager, is it the Board's will that we negotiate with existing partners? Postpone that? Issue an RFQ (which would take at least a month)?" asked Dr. Moyer.

It was the consensus of the Board that the administration seek proposals from current vendors and then conduct a benchmarking survey using comparative data to assure competitive pricing. Dr. Moyer will bring a proposal to the Board on May 9.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Blum commented on the communique that Dr. Moyers sent out earlier this week regarding a grass roots campaign called [Pass Illinois' Budget!](#) The state is currently three categorical payments behind and owes District 205 over \$3.6M. "This is one of the reasons we carry the fund balance that we do," he noted.

Mr. Collins thanked the District's administrative professionals, recognizing that April 26 is Administrative Professionals Day.

On April 25, 2017, *US News & World Report* ranked York 18th best high school in the State of Illinois. "York is clearly in the top ten of Illinois public high schools that take all comers," said Mr. Collins, noting that the first ten schools ranked were selective Chicago Public School magnets.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

May 4 – Churchville Middle School Spring Choir Concert – 7:00 PM – Churchville Gymnasium

May 4 – York High School Symphony Orchestra Concert – 7:30 PM – York's Baker Auditorium

May 5 – Bryan Middle School Spring Band Concert – 7:00 PM – Bryan Auditorium

May 9 – **Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center**

May 10 – Sandburg White Concert & Prep Band Spring Concert – 7:00 PM – Sandburg Auditorium

May 11 – York High School Choral Concert – 7:30 PM – York's Baker Auditorium

May 12 – Sandburg Middle School Red Concert & Intermediate Band Spring Concert – 7:00 PM – Sandburg Auditorium

May 15 – Churchville Middle School Spring Band Concert – 7:00 PM – Churchville Gymnasium

May 15 – Bryan Middle School Choir Spring Concert – 7:00 PM – Bryan Middle School Auditorium

May 16 – York High School Cadet/Concert Orchestra Concert – 7:30 PM – York's Baker Auditorium

May 17 – Sandburg Middle School Spring Orchestra Concert – 7:00 PM – Sandburg Auditorium

May 18 – York High School Symphony Orchestra Concert – 7:30 PM – York's Baker Auditorium

May 21 – York High School Class of 2017 Commencement - 1:00 PM - Joe Newton Fieldhouse

May 22 – Bryan Middle School Spring Orchestra Concert – 7:00 PM – Bryan Auditorium

May 23 – **Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center**

May 24 – Sandburg Middle School Choir Spring Concert – 7:00 PM – Sandburg Auditorium

May 25 – Churchville Middle School Spring Orchestra Concert – 7:00 PM – Churchville Gymnasium

May 31 – 8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies for Bryan, Churchville and Sandburg Middle Schools