



...from the December 12, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF 2017 CERTIFICATE OF LEVY

A levy is the formal request by a school district for a certain amount of revenue to be generated by the property tax. This formal request must be sent to the County Clerk prior to the last Tuesday in December.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Chris Whelton reported that the 2017 tax levy was determined based on an estimated 7.00% increase in EAV and a more-than-expected estimate of \$67M in new construction EAV. The estimated 2017 extension and rates were based on an estimated 7.00% increase in EAV and an estimated \$42M in new construction EAV.

"We levy enough to cover an additional \$25 million in new construction EAV to provide for the possibility of underestimating. Remember that no matter what amount the District levies, the counties will only extend the increase allowable under the tax cap," Mr. Whelton explained.

"The total levy is greater than the actual extension by 1.1% over the last five years, on average. This translates to an increase of \$105.18 (or 2.20%) for the owner of a \$300,000 house with no new construction."

Due to the tax cap, the District is limited to the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for its increase in operating taxes, regardless of the valuation of property in the District. New construction is the one exception to that. CPI was 2.1% in January of 2017. The average over the past five years is 1.36%.

Tax rate increase does not equal property tax bill increase. There is an inverse relationship between Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) and tax rate under the tax cap formula. When EAV is rising, the tax rate goes down. And when EAV is going down, the tax rate goes up. The tax extension is the EAV times the tax rate.

Final EAV and tax extensions will come out in March of 2018. New construction money will be coming in from TIF 2, which has reached maturity – estimated to be about \$7M (Churchville/Lake Street area).

STAFF RECOGNITION

Shining Star Awards

Congratulations were extended to the latest Shining Star award winners, Todd Mooney, a member of the District 205 media staff, and Linda Fehrenbacher, principal of Sandburg Middle School.

Todd was nominated by Christy Gumbach and the students of the Sandburg Middle School Spartan TV Club, who wrote that:

A few years ago, a couple of teachers at Sandburg, along with the help of Mr. Mooney, created the Spartan TV studio to broadcast daily announcements. Every year Todd has updated, maintained and

serviced the studio. Due to changes in the building or changes in technology, each year he is challenged with finding new ways to broadcast the announcements for all Sandburg students.

Todd always comes ready with new technology ideas to not just maintain, but enhance the Spartan TV experience. He personally problem solves in a quick and efficient manner. The Sandburg students and staff are very fortunate to have Todd Mooney on their Spartan team.

Linda was nominated by Sandburg staff members Kelly Frederick, Brittany Joslyn, Ben Loduha, Maureen Schroeder and Elizabeth Marcellus. The nominators stated that:

Principal Fehrenbacher goes above and beyond to make sure that students are receiving the best education possible. With a continued focus on a learner-centered culture, she advocates for students to be engaged and part of the learning process. While supporting students and student achievement, Linda has continuously been an advocate for positivity and kindness. She is a respected leader in the building who is constantly recognizing the teachers at Sandburg for the great learning opportunities that they are providing our students. Linda inspires teachers to try new, innovative, research-based practices and is driven to help teachers reach their potential in all they do. She does everything she can to ensure that teachers feel valued and that the students of Sandburg are provided the best learning experience.

The purpose of the Shining Star Award is to recognize those employees who have made significant contributions to District or school culture; improvement priorities; professional accomplishments; or otherwise have gone above and beyond the "call of duty" to serve students, parents, the community, or the education profession.

PRESENTATIONS

International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE)

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Kathleen Kosteck and Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Growth Dr. Mark Cohen, along with York Assistant Principals Ryan Doherty and Melissa Moore, as well as York Special Education Supervisor Brandon Mixon, gave a report titled [ICLE Leadership Academy](#).

Dual Language Recommendation

Dr. Mary Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Leadership, and Ariana Leonard, D205 Coordinator of English Learners (EL), Bilingual and Biliterate Programming, presented recommendations for the establishment of a [dual language](#) program at Fischer Elementary School in 2018-19.

"The District has been studying and preparing for this for a long time. There's been a lot of preliminary work done: site visits to comparator districts that have a dual language program, Focus 205 discussion and input from the Dual Language Study Committee (comprised of administrators, teachers, and parents), which has been meeting for about three months," said Dave Moyer.

Dual language emerged as a priority during Focus 205, a multi-year community engagement process, and has been under consideration by the District for years. The Board authorized the administration to move forward with planning for implementation when the administration presented its 2017-18 student achievement objectives at the July 2017 regular Board meeting.

In this model, native Spanish speaking students receive their English Language (EL) services and native English speaking students have access to enrichment opportunities. Both groups ultimately graduate from high school bi-lingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural, exemplifying the District's commitment to future ready learning and ensuring that all graduates are college, career, and life ready. Students who speak a language other than Spanish or English will equally benefit from a two-way dual language immersion program at Fischer.

Dual language is the best equalizer known to close learning gaps for EL students and increase access to gifted programming, which is next to impossible for students under traditional Transitional Bi-Lingual Education models.

Chris Blum noted that, at bottom line, this about parent choice. Dr. Henderson assured the Board that no Fischer family would be forced to make a choice they don't want to make. The anticipated change in Full Time Equivalent teachers is zero.

"The students are the (implementation) driver," said Mrs. Leonard. "We have 40 incoming Spanish language kindergarteners next year, and we think this is the best program to support their needs."

On the English speaking side of the coin, many districts with dual language programs have experienced waiting lists and have expanded programs to multiple schools to meet the demand.

"This a huge opportunity to level the playing field for our kids," noted Dr. Henderson. "It's a great opportunity for English speakers in a global society and for Spanish speakers to close achievement gaps and open doors to higher-level opportunities, such as REACH."

In a recent study of dual language programs in North Carolina, students who participated out-performed their grade-level peers by sixth grade on traditional standardized measures of achievement in both math and English language arts by one full grade level, irrespective of any other factor, such as race, gender, poverty and native language.

If approved at the January 9, 2018 Board meeting, the District will hold a series of parent meetings over the remaining months of the school year to verify interest, inform parents* and solicit input to ensure successful implementation. Should the Board approve the program, priority for native English speaking students will be given to families who reside in the Fischer attendance boundary. All interested D205 students will be eligible to participate via a lottery system, based on space.

*Author Karen Beekman ([Teaching for Biliteracy](#)) will model how a dual language class works at a parent meeting (date pending Board approval of the dual language recommendation) and has been working with the D205 Dual Language Study Committee. Parents from other districts whose children have been learning in a dual language setting will discuss the benefits and lessons learned. A Parent Dual Language Committee will be formed, similar to the District 205 Bilingual Parent Advisory Council.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – CONSENT

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items:

- Personnel Reports
- [Financial Reports](#)
- Open Designated Closed Session Minutes and Keep All Other Closed Session Minutes Closed
- Authorize Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes

- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - [Section 2: Board of Education](#) (Second Reading and Adoption)
- PRESS Policy Manual Updates - [Section 5: Personnel](#) (Second Reading and Adoption)
- PRESS Policy Manual Updates - [Section 8: Community Relations](#) (Second Reading and Adoption)

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – ACTION

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items, one at a time:

- [Resolution for 2017 Certificate of Levy](#)
- Donations to Bryan, Churchville and Field Schools – see details below

The following donations were accepted in accordance with Policy #8:80 – Gifts to the District:

Bryan

The Bryan Middle School PTA has generously offered to donate \$3,100 as the 8th grade class gift for 2018 to purchase a message display monitor for the cafeteria. This monitor will be used to share information with all Bryan students. It will be used to display daily announcements; to display student work; to watch quick clips connected to instruction; to share other important resources with students; and to augment instruction that occurs in the cafeteria.

Churchville

Matthew Winton, Churchville parent, has generously offered to donate \$1,675 to Churchville Middle School to purchase equipment for the girls and boys basketball and volleyball programs to enhance extracurricular programming at Churchville. This donation will improve student experiences in sports.

Field

The Field School PTA would like to support students at recess through the purchase of a buddy bench to replace the one that had broken and was removed this past summer. The cost of the buddy bench is approximately \$540, which the PTA is generously offering.

A buddy bench is a special place on a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to or play with. Field students have enjoyed using a buddy bench for the past few years to help all students feel included.

Board members Shannon Ebner, Karen Stuefen and Kara Caforio each thanked the individual donors/groups for their generous gifts to the District in support of students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

Freedom of Information Act Request

One Freedom of Information Act request was received that asked for specific invoices, which was granted.

Fullan Administrator Academy

On November 9, Elmhurst D205 welcomed Dr. Michael Fullan to Elmhurst to facilitate an in-house administrator academy for its leadership team. Approximately 75 D205 employees attended, including instructional coaches and teacher leaders.

Dr. Fullan is among the top international experts on change leadership, instructional excellence, and school improvement. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 2012. His organization currently consults with countries, provinces, states, districts, and jurisdictions around the world, including Ontario, California, England, Finland, New Zealand, Australia, and Uruguay.

Over the past three years, the administrative team has studied his books *Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems* (Fullan and Quinn), *Professional Capital: Transforming Teaching in Every School* (Fullan and Hargreaves), *The Principal: Three Keys to Maximizing Impact* and *Cultures Built to Last: Systematic PLCs at Work* (DuFour and Fullan). A prolific writer, his website credits 34 books to his name, but the number is much larger including his collaboration efforts, white papers, and other scholarly works.

The presentation focused on the elements of his recent work *Coherence* (Focusing Direction, Creating Collaborative Cultures, Deepening Learning, and Securing Accountability) with an emphasis on deepening learning and the implications of technology through the lens of healthy cultures. His practical approach creates and drives theory after consulting with successful practitioners in the field.

District 205 welcomed participants from DuPage 88, Lake Villa 117, Villa Park 45, Moline, Queen Bee and Fox Lake Grant. In all approximately 125 people attended the event at the Diplomat West.

Property Tax Freeze

As reported in Dr. Moyer's December 3, 2017 blog (<http://superchat205.blogspot.com>):

In August, the State of Illinois passed a budget that included significant changes to the way it funds schools. It is an attempt to bring more equity to what was one of the most structurally unsound systems in the country. The problem is that for equity to be truly realized, a massive influx of additional funds would be required, and it will be a long, long time before District 205 sees any consequential increase in the amount of general state aide it receives.

As it currently stands, D205 is almost entirely reliant on local revenue to fund its schools, with 89% of its revenue coming from local sources. Due to Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, or PTELL, the District's annual levy can only increase over the previous year by the rate of inflation not to exceed 5%, plus any new growth.

However, this could change as legislation on a property tax freeze passed the House this fall. Though the Illinois State Senate did not bring the property tax freeze legislation to the floor for a vote in the lame duck session, this legislation will be revisited in January. If a two-year property tax freeze were to become a reality, D205 would lose access to \$1,039,830 in the first year and \$3,171,266 in the second year of a freeze. What does this mean in translation? The annual athletic budget is \$1,462,000 adjusted for student fees and revenue. The first-year impact alone roughly equates to 13 full-time equivalent teachers. If 13 teachers were removed from the elementary level staffing, average class sizes would rise to 24.2, from 22.3. Thirteen teachers at the high school is the equivalent of 65 year-long or 130 semester elective courses.

According to Dr. Brent Clark, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators, the statewide impact in year one would be a net reduction of \$450M, which means that taking into account the \$350M additional allocation by the state in this year's budget, schools across the state would still be out \$100M. Howie Crouse, Sr., of Forecast5 Analytics, ran numbers for the six collar counties, not including the Chicago public schools, and found that the two-year impact in the area would be a net loss of access to revenue of \$600M, saving the owner of a \$750K home \$750 over those two years.

This is compounded by recent developments at the Federal level. The new tax legislation will increase the deficit by \$1.414 trillion by 2027, almost certainly reducing national support for public education. Included in the legislation is a significant reduction in the amount of money people can deduct from their federal taxes for what they pay in state and local taxes (this is commonly referred to as SALT deductions). When federal taxes rise, it is assumed that many taxpayers will be less inclined to support schools and other local entities.

The unfortunate reality, is that the next several years likely pose significant financial challenges for District 205.

School Administrator Magazine Article

Superintendent Dr. David Moyer was a contributing author to *School Administrator* magazine's December issue, which focused on Evaluating Evaluators. His article, entitled "Creating Coherence With Instructional Rounds," is about using learning targets to drive instructional gains. Access the article at this link: <http://bit.ly/2jP5kGr>.

Middle School Chromebooks

A district-wide Middle School Take-Home Chromebooks meeting was held on December 4 at Sandburg MS. Following are links to the information shared, including a video of the meeting:

- [PowerPoint Slide Presentation](#)
- [Student/Parent Information Packet](#)
- [Website with Tips and Instructions](#)
- [Video of 12/4/17 Meeting at Sandburg Middle School](#)

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Lacrosse

Dr. Mark Cohen, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Growth, has been working with York High School to construct a funding solution for lacrosse. Coaching positions are estimated to be five for both boys and girls and stipends would need to fall in line with other sports. Cost per participant is about \$600 per participant. Sports that have this cost tend to translate to a \$175 fee. A \$200 fee is accessed for sports that cost more than \$1,000.

The general consensus of the Board was that it needs to fund Lacrosse for this spring because of previous expectations and because of the IHSA sanctioning the sport. The Board will take a vote on the matter at its January 9 meeting.

Middle School Reorganization

The Board recommended that this matter return to committee for further consideration and discussion. The Learning and Teaching Committee will meet on December 13, with this being the only topic of discussion. No decision on implementation will be made until after the winter holidays. The PTA Council will sponsor *A Review of Middle School Recommendations* on Tuesday, January 16, beginning at 7:00 PM in the York High School Commons. The evening will feature an overview presentation and time for Q & A.

An acceleration survey was recently disseminated to the parents of middle school students; 141 responses were received within a couple of days.

ONCC

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission recently passed the Interim Fly Quiet Option A plan with a vote 51 to 8, meaning that if this plan is accepted by the FAA, night time flights over Elmhurst will continue every other week for the next 2.5 years.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

December 25 – January 5 – Winter Break, No School

December 27 – Public Hearing (Driver Education Waiver) – 9 AM – D205 Center

January 8 – School Resumes

January 9 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – D205 Center

January 15 – Martin Luther King Holiday – No School

January 22 – Teacher Institute Day – No School for Students

January 23 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – D205 Center

January 27 – Special Board of Education Meeting (Facilities Workshop) – 9 AM – D205 Center

NOTE: Video footage of all Board of Education regular meetings is usually posted on 205TV within 48-72 hours. Audio is posted within 24 hours at <http://www.elmhurst205.org/Audio> (please click on appropriate meeting date). Past editions of Board Highlights are posted/archived at www.elmhurst205.org/BOE_highlights.