

## Sandridge SD172 Board Minutes

04/30/2024

Call to order 6:01pm

Special Board Meeting

Roll call Gray (p), Colwell (p), Krueger (p), Brown (p), Patricia Lee Absent, Kim Newton Absent

Nalls explained that Rob Grossi is here to explain what factors played into an increase in taxes. Dr Nalls stated that she spoke with Dr. Evans and Sandridge SD172 will present a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year and will have money going back into the reserves.

Rob Grossi: All Cook County schools are subject to property tax extension limitation law. The law was passed in the early 1990's and it caps the amount of tax levy growth you can have by the rate of inflation. Historically the average increase has been 2.3% per year. Currently inflation is at a historically high level so as a result the CPI that all school boards used in December 2022 was 5%

The law reads that the tax levy can grow at the lesser of 5% (or CPI) Inflation 2 years ago was 7%

The tax levy that was approved in December 2022 and was paid by the taxpayers in the spring and the fall of 2023 increased by 5% based on the action taken by the Board of Education.

It also increased due to a new law that adds a tax levy to all of the tax refunds that were paid out in the previous year. Residents who protested their taxes caused the schools to lose money and as a result, in the following year, a tax levy was applied to recapture the loss.

In December 2023 Inflation was 6.5% and all the school districts that Bloom township Treasurer's office serves raised their tax levy by 5% as well as SD172.

Spring 2024 tax bills that are due March 1st are automatically 55% of the previous year and do not reflect any increase for the new levy. Fall 2024 residents will receive a tax increase which in aggregate will show a 5% increase. The CPI for December 2024 rate has already been set at 3.4%. The only way this number can increase is through a referendum.

The 5% increase does not mean that everyone pays an additional 5%. In aggregate when you add up all the tax bills SD172 receives its portion of 5%. Property value dictates the percentage. New taxable property does not impact other taxpayers.

Gray: Questions whether the CPI increased to 5% or by 5%. The CPI has doubled from 2% to 5%.

Grossi: The growth in taxes allowed for school districts has been higher than it has ever been.

Gray: How much have we collected in taxes?

Grossi: Total tax extension rose by \$300,000 in total. \$ 2,773,000.00 in 2021 to \$3,037,000.00 in 2022. It will increase by another \$100,000 to \$200,000

Jeff: Why are the new homes being built taxes different from mine?

Grossi: The amount that an individual pays is based on based on tax extension

Brown: Is the school to blame for the tax increase?

Grossi: By law the school district is limited to how much money it can spend. It cannot raise taxes.

Nalls: SD172 has been awarded a \$50,000 School Maintenance Grant for school renovation projects. There is currently \$260,000 remaining in ESSR funds that needs to be allocated no later than September 2024.

Jim Maciejewski: For the past several years the State of Illinois has offered a school maintenance project match grant which means that the school would have to commit 50% of the project. The current grant is up to \$50,000.00. You have to identify projects that are maintenance related, life safety or general improvements. Local funds have to be committed to cover ½.

Gymnasium -

Repaint walls \$24,310.00

LED Lighting/dimming switch \$5965.00

Flooring in computer lab and kitchen flooring \$21,278.00

Tri-Mark \$10,850.42

Plumbing \$1,200.00

Pangere needs to remove cafeteria tables, fill holes and repaint. Pangere \$17,949.00

What will be found underneath the floors?

Asbestos tile has been removed from the building. There isn't any asbestos

Better storage for the kitchen.

Removal of equipment and replacement has already been factored in.

Removal Lower level classroom paint (maintenance staff will complete)

Total \$81,552.42

State grant will cover ½.

Lower level classroom can be painted by maintenance staff.

Removed Wall signs, logo home and away

Gray: Is paint considered beautification?

Grossi: The state deems paint a part of maintenance.

Gray: When was the gymnasium last painted?

Grossi: When the gymnasium was built 20 years ago.

Gray: Could the maintenance staff do the work?

Grossi: No because the school does not possess the equipment to do the work.

Nalls: Maintenance painting could result in a workman's comp claim due to lack of knowledge in how to use the necessary equipment.

Maciejewski: There is 9347 square ft. wall space to be painted.

Colwell: Questioned the cost of paint and management costs.

Gray: Could this project potentially go over budget?

Nalls: The plan is to use grant dollars.

Machiesci: JMA projected renderings will not exceed 7k they are currently at \$4,500.00

Gray: Did changes drive up the cost? There have been many construction projects. Certain things can be done at a certain time, and everything does not need to be completed at once. Would prefer to pay bills, put money in the classroom and towards instruction. We want to produce productive members of society. ESSR funds should have been used to hire more people.

Jeff: Why are we worried about paint when it hasn't been painted in 20 years?

Gray: Building has always had board meetings. Proficiency rates are low. Inspections are done every year. Money should go towards education and not renovation. ESSR funds should have gone into teachers.

Jeff: let's get books let's get laptops

David Logan: I worked with the last administration and I did not see anything happening until Dr. Nalls arrived.

Cheryl Ward: I have had students here for 24 years and I am saddened that my older children did not have the same experience that my 11-year-old is having

Brown: I concur

Machiejewski Advises to approve school maintenance grant and schedule work for the summer. All Beautician projects have been

Motion to approve capital improvements 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5

Motion Krueger, Second Newton

Gray (yes), Colwell (yes), Brown (yes), Krueger (yes), Newton (yes), Guthrie (yes), Lee (absent)

Motion carries YES

Funds have to be fully expended within 2 years of disbursement.

Public Comment:

Lydia Smith: Where is the superintendent's accountability?

Nalls: I was held accountable through the evaluation process.

What happened last year will never happen again.

3 teachers have resigned for the 2024-2025 school year.

Gray: ISBE website 68.6 retention rate.

Jeff Walker: I have seen improvements. We will be a blue ribbon school !

Nikita Taylor Question about consequences for staff.

Staff member wants to have a baby by my daughter's father.

My daughter has been punched in the eye.

Students have been here 5 years.

Student missing 4 sweaters.

Switched out of classroom.

Talent show parents were judges.

You need to be a better parent.  
You are not dealing with issues.  
Playing Sexy Red song inappropriate music.

Nalls: Concerns will be discussed in executive session.

Helen Robinson - I have witnessed Nikita Taylor family and kids being bullied.

Board members hiring relatives there is no nepotism policy in place.

What is the board going to do to ensure there is nepotism policy?

How involved is the board with overseeing test scores and curriculum?

What is the specific oversight you are providing?

How often do you reviewing data?

Will the May 14th be open to the public?

Sonja Jenkins Brown: "No"

John Fester: All meetings are open to the public with the exception of meetings where IASB is present.

Guthrie: Teachers and principals make presentations as often as data is available.

Gray: There is a conflict-of-interest policy.

Motion to go to closed session

Motion: Krueger, Second: Colwell

Gray (yes), Colwell (yes), Brown (yes), Krueger (yes), Newton (yes), Guthrie (yes), Lee (absent)

Motion carries all YES