

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
December 13, 2023

The first regular meeting of the month of December of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the Lincoln Elementary School, 630 Dawes Ave., Wheaton, IL by Board President Rob Hanlon, on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Mr. Rob Hanlon
 Ms. Julie Kulovits
 Mr. Dave Long
 Ms. Angela Blatner
 Mr. Brad Paulsen
 Mr. John Rutledge

Absent: Mr. Erik Hjerpe

Also in Attendance: Dr. Jeff Schuler, Superintendent
 Mr. Matt Biscan
 Ms. Erica Loiacono
 Ms. Melissa Murphy
 Dr. Brian O’Keeffe
 Dr. Chris Silagi
 Mr. Jason Spencer

Dr. Schuler acknowledged the loss of two D200 students in the last week - Draven Propst and Cammy Babiarz and asked all to join in a moment of silence for these two courageous students.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Brad Paulsen led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Approval to Open the Public Hearing for the Truth in Taxation Law

MOTION

Member Long moved, Member Paulsen seconded to open the Public Hearing for the Truth in Taxation Law. Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0.

The motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON HEARING

Jeanne Ives
Kirk Allen

Approval to Close the Public Hearing for the Truth in Taxation Law

MOTION

Member Paulsen moved, Member Kulovits seconded to close the Public Hearing for the Truth in Taxation Law. Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0.

The motion carried 6-0.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOST SCHOOL

Dr. Jeff Mitchem, Principal of Lincoln Elementary School, welcomed all to the school and shared a video directed by their LLC director which provided a snapshot of who Lincoln is and a glimpse of the amazing things happening at the school noting the exciting things happening every day at Lincoln, the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to help cultivate a high level of engagement and recognizing the importance of creating and maintaining positive relationships for all.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items

In accordance with Board Policy 2.230, members of the public wishing to offer public comment had the opportunity to do so. A public comment sign-up sheet was made available until 7:00 p.m. at the meeting site. The Board Meeting was available for viewing via live stream on the District's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/communityunitschooldistrict200.

Per Board Policy, the Board may shorten the time allocation for each person to less than three minutes to allow the maximum number of people the opportunity to speak. The Board did not shorten the time allocation for each person to speak due to the number of speakers.

Speaker

Topic

Lauren Lichtenberg

Lincoln Community

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Schuler provided the following updates:

- Included in the green folders is the six-month update on the gifts/donations approved by the Board. Through the generous support of organizations and individuals, the Board has accepted gifts valued at about \$370,000.
- There is an invitation from the DuPage Community Foundation for a breakfast event on MLK Jr. day in the green folders that will feature an educational program and have a fundraising aspect to it. The Student Excellence Foundation has given the opportunity to invite the Student Ambassadors to join Dr. Schuler for that breakfast. If board members are interested in attending, they should contact Dr. Schuler.
- Attended an art show at WWSHS last week featuring a lot of talented artists, and selected a Superintendent Art Award recipient. Recognition for all of our students who engage in our art programs. There is also a District Fine & Performing Arts Calendar that includes events at the two high schools with opportunities for the community to attend.
- Student ambassadors were asked to report on their respective high schools:
 - WWSHS - finishing out the first semester and preparing for finals; there are a lot of events going on - just had "winter week" featuring a Tiger Drive and raised over \$6,000 for the PRC (People's Resource Center); winter activities and sports have started; WWS staff is so helpful and the extracurriculars after school hours are key. The support from the Board to the schools is crucial and activities are essential.

- WNHS - recent student trips have included the band trip to Disney and a visit to Chicago; the winter art show took place and featured incredibly talented students; awareness for students who participated in the blood drive today; thank you to teachers and adults for making all of the opportunities possible for the students.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Acceptance of Gift to Wheaton North High School – Girls Softball Program – Recommend acceptance of gift to WNHS girls softball program as presented.
2. Approval of Curriculum Content for Transitional English – Recommend approval of curriculum content for Transitional English as presented.
3. Approval of Printshop Paper Bid – Recommend approval of printshop paper bid as presented.
4. Approval of Xerographic Bond Paper Bid – Recommend approval of Xerographic bond paper bid as presented.
5. Approval of Purchase of a Daily Time Entry Module for Staff Use from Tyler Technologies – Recommend approval of the purchase from Tyler Technologies as presented.
6. Approval of Verkada Guest Management System – Recommend approval of Verkada guest management system as presented.
7. Approval of Revision of Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Bylaws – Recommend approval of revision of CAC bylaws as presented.
8. Approval of Settlement Agreement with Former Teacher – Recommend approval of settlement agreement as presented.
9. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend approval of bills payable and payroll as presented.
10. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2023 Special Meeting with D203, D204, and Elected Officials, Open, November 8, 2023, Regular Meeting, Open and Closed, and Approval to Destroy Recordings of Closed Sessions Prior to July 2022 As Allowable by Law – Recommend approval of the minutes as presented and approve the destruction of recordings of closed sessions prior to July 2022 as presented.
11. Approval of Personnel Report to Include Employment, Resignation, Retirement, and Leave of Absence of Administrative, Certified, Classified, and Non-Union Staff – Recommend approval of the personnel report as presented.

There were no comments and/or questions on the consent agenda.

MOTION

Member Paulsen moved, Member Long seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0 **The motion carried 6-0.**

FACILITIES APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of ROE Building Permits for 2024 Summer Mechanical Capital Projects – Recommend approval of the ROE building permits as presented.
2. Approval of Bids for Summer 2024 Facility Improvements: Roofing Work at Wheaton North High School – Recommend approval of bids for roofing work as presented.
3. Approval of Bids for 2024 Facility Improvements: Capital Improvements – Door Replacements at Edison Middle School and Pleasant Hill Elementary School and a Special Education Bathroom Remodel at Wheaton North High School – Recommend approval of bids for door replacements and the bathroom remodel as presented.
4. Approval of Bids for 2024 Facility Improvements: Paving/Concrete Rehabilitation at Hawthorne Elementary, Johnson Elementary, and Sandburg Elementary School – Recommend approval of bids for paving/concrete work as presented.

5. Approval to Add the Wiesbrook Ceiling and Lighting Upgrade Project to the Resolution and Final Contract for Guaranteed Energy Savings with Performance Services, Inc. for Work to be completed in the Summer of 2024 – Recommend approval to add Wiesbrook ceiling and lighting upgrade project to the Performance Services resolution and final contract as presented.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- Created this new category for a consent agenda to call out the work consistent with the Sherman Dergis pledge for summer work.
- This was the focus of the Facilities Committee at their recent meeting.
- These items represent the balance of the work that exceeds the pledge for next summer's work.
- The mechanical work was approved at the November meeting.
- Noted the summer capital projects recap - the fire alarm panel at WWSHS - working on this potential project with the fire department and targeted improvements/adjustments directly from the manufacturer.
- #5 Add Wiesbrook Ceiling and Lighting Project/Extension of Performance Services Contract - Member Paulsen abstained at the last meeting, will approve this item to expedite the agenda; his comments from the last meeting are consistent with this item.

MOTION

Member Rutledge moved, Member Kulovits seconded to approve the Facilities Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

POLICY POSTING CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval to Post Revised Policy 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 2:20 for public review and comment as presented.
2. Approval to Post Revised Policy 2:120 Board Member Development for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 2:120 for public review and comment as presented.
3. Approval to Post Revised Policy 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 2:200 for public review and comment as presented.
4. Approval to Post Revised Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 2:220 for public review and comment as presented.
5. Approval to Post Revised Policy 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 4:10 for public review and comment as presented.
6. Approval to Post Revised Policy 4:30 Revenue and Investments for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 4:30 for public review and comment as presented.
7. Approval to Post Revised Policy 4:60 Purchases and Contracts for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 4:60 for public review and comment as presented.
8. Approval to Post Revised Policy 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 4:130 for public review and comment as presented.

9. Approval to Post Revised Policy 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 4:160 for public review and comment as presented.
10. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:30 for public review and comment as presented.
11. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:190 Teacher Qualifications for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:190 for public review and comment as presented.
12. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:200 for public review and comment as presented.
13. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:210 Resignations for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:210 for public review and comment as presented.
14. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:220 for public review and comment as presented.
15. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:250 Leaves of Absence for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:250 for public review and comment as presented.
16. Approval to Post Revised Policy 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 5:330 for public review and comment as presented.
17. Approval to Post Revised Policy 6:15 School Accountability for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 6:15 for public review and comment as presented.
18. Approval to Post Revised Policy 6:30 Organization of Instruction for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 6:30 for public review and comment as presented.
19. Approval to Post Revised Policy 6:50 School Wellness for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 6:50 for public review and comment as presented.
20. Approval to Post Revised Policy 6:60 Curriculum Content for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 6:60 for public review and comment as presented.
21. Approval to Post Revised Policy 7:60 Residence for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 7:60 for public review and comment as presented.
22. Approval to Post Revised Policy 7:70 Attendance and Truancy for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 7:70 for public review and comment as presented.
23. Approval to Post Revised Policy 7:160 Student Appearance for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 7:160 for public review and comment as presented.
24. Approval to Post Revised Policy 7:190 Student Behavior for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 7:190 for public review and comment as presented.
25. Approval to Post Revised Policy 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 7:285 for public review and comment as presented.
26. Approval to Post Revised Policy 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 7:290 for public review and comment as presented.
27. Approval to Post Revised Policy 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property for Public Review and Comment – Recommend approval to post revised policy 8:30 for public review and comment as presented.

There was information on the following:

- The Board was reminded of the process that brings revised policies forward - most of the changes are a result of legislative adjustments from the last session and were recommended

in the most recent PRESS issue. The recommended changes were reviewed with the administrative team ensuring alignment with the district practices and were reviewed with the Board HR/Policy Committee before being presented for posting to the full Board.

MOTION

Member Rutledge moved, Member Blatner seconded to approve the Policy Posting Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0.

The motion carried 6-0.

POLICY APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Revised Policy 6:300 Graduation Requirements – Recommend approval of revised policy 6:300 as presented.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- The recommended revision to policy 6:300 was posted at the last business meeting. The major area of focus of the revision - not changing the overall number of credits required for graduation, but changing some of the categories to provide students with some flexibility especially to align with the pathways work and some of the opportunities that have developed.
- There were no comments or feedback received from the public/community on the recommended revisions.
- Members of the Board Student Ambassadors provided feedback on the proposed policy revisions. This included the following:
- Wheaton North
 - Evaluating the pros/cons of any policy revision.
 - Efficacy through choice is a pro - lessening the effects of “senioritis” and students having a greater choice in the classes they are choosing to specialize in given areas. Were assured that parents and counselors will continue to approve and interject on student schedules and classes taken.
 - Concerns - supposed lessening in taking art and technology-related classes; noted students that want to take art and tech-related classes will continue to do so and students using their Chromebook/technology daily in most, if not all classes. Student use of AI and how staff are working with this.
 - Students do care about performing arts and technology. By letting students choose, they become active and better learners in our learning community. Adopting the policy would yield greater efficacy.
- Wheaton Warrenville South
 - Ambassadors spoke to a variety of students in grades 9-12; overall feedback was in favor of this change with the biggest reason being flexibility and the ability to try out more electives and providing students with more choice in class selection.
 - Students having a sense of agency in their education and the path they are taking.
 - Regarding the tech credit - this was introduced a couple of decades ago to present new technology and is now obsolete; technology is embedded in essentially every class; other classes count as a tech credit (an example being AP Biology). Also noted some I-level science classes do not count as a tech credit.
 - Art classes - those who want to take art classes are most likely going to take art anyway.
 - Removing speech as a requirement - students were taking this virtually to meet the requirement, and many classes do incorporate aspects of speech embedded in their

course. There are benefits to Speech classes and Argumentation and Communication Studies will still be offered as English courses.

MOTION

Member Kulovits moved, Member Paulsen seconded to approve the Policy Approval Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0.

The motion carried 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of the 2023 Tax Levy

The school code empowers the Board of Education to levy taxes to support the public school system. If the levy request exceeds 105% of the previous year's aggregate extension, a public notice and hearing are needed before the official levy is adopted. The Board of Education is limited to an increase no greater than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the previous year under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL or "Tax Cap").

Annually, the Board of Education reviews a levy proposal prepared by the Administration. The levy proposal was previously discussed with the Board Finance Committee and presented to the Board of Education on November 8, 2023. The recommended levy, which provides for an aggregate 4.07% increase (prior to any Debt Service abatement), is listed below.

The proposed levy increase of 4.07% is a blend of an increase in the Operational Levy of 6.23%, and a decrease in the Bond and Interest Levy of 13.43%. The decrease in the Bond and Interest Levy reflects smaller annual debt payments associated with the 2023 Levy. The "Tax Cap" will limit tax growth by the consumer price index for 2022 of no more than 5.00% (December 2022 CPI was 6.50%, but CUSD 200 is limited by PTELL, or the Tax Cap, which is 5.00%), plus any new construction growth in the District, which is estimated at \$45M. While the exact growth in new construction are unknown at the time of this request, a levy request greater than the Tax Cap of 5.00% is needed to capture all new EAV growth. Additionally, the 2023-24 Budget anticipated accessing the CPI Tax Cap (5.00%) and included new construction growth; therefore, it is recommended that the Board access the funds available under the tax cap plus any anticipated new EAV growth.

FUND 2023 LEVY REQUEST

Education - \$135,942,561
Special Ed - \$3,346,065
Tort - \$0
O & M - \$18,326,439
Transportation - \$5,872,922
IMRF - \$1,299,966
Social Security - \$3,080,688
Life Safety \$0
Working Cash \$0
TOTAL \$167,868,641

The proposed 2023 tax levy (excluding debt services) increase is greater than the 105% of the previous year's (2022) aggregate extension, which was \$158,021,957.01. Therefore, the Board of Education was required to hold a public hearing on the tax levy. The anticipated Debt Service (Bond & Interest) levy is \$16,869,060 (prior to any Debt Service abatement).

Dr. O'Keeffe provided a final tax levy presentation, which included information on the following:

- Levy Terms
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- CPI History & Projections
- EAV Analysis
- 2022 Township EAV
- 2022 EAV by Class
- EAV Analysis (Total EAV, Total EAV % Change, Existing EAV % Change, New EAV Growth)
- EAV, CPI & Tax Rate
- Five Year History of Tax Rates (Dollars and Bar Chart)
- Tax Rate Comparison - Unit Peers
- Debt Service - Levy Year Payments
- Fund Balance History
- How is the Extension Calculated?
- Projected 2023 Tax Rate Extension
- 2022 Tax Levy Extension Breakdown
- 2023 Tax Levy Extension Breakdown
- 2023 Levy Proposal - No Abatement
- 2023 Levy Proposal - \$2.0 M Abatement
- Major Levy Considerations

There was additional information on the following:

- Noted requirements and the statutory code.
- The change noted from the initial levy presentation - new construction estimate from \$30M to \$45M and the drive for the change includes Milton Township estimate (just south of \$30 M) and the remaining two townships estimating \$5 M.
- The township that covers Warrentonville and the new construction (Lexington and Everton developments) fall within a TIF.
- Any dollar missed on new construction is missed forever, which is why the estimate was adjusted to \$45M for new construction.
- The mechanism for calculating the tax levy - numerical based.
- All final estimations/extensions are done at the clerk's office and happen at the county level.
- In advance of any conversation about abatement, estimating that the overall tax increase year-over-year would be 4.07%.
- The agenda item under consideration (action #4 - Abatement) would take into account a \$2.0 M specific reduction in debt service, which would be done through a resolution (if approved) outside of what is requested and would be put in place by the county. This would mean an overall estimated tax levy increase of 2.94% year-over-year.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- 2023 is the four-year (quadrennial) property tax cycle for all properties/property values in the county to be reassessed by the assessor's office; the county also updated and converted to a new software program. These factors attributed to the delay in information being received by the district.
- EAV - Equalized Assessed Value - raising the assessed values does not necessarily raise the taxes for everybody. If a homeowner does not have new construction, you are not assessed those new dollars.
- The 2.94% estimated tax levy is an increase over the final extension as determined by DuPage County for Levy 2022 and does not mean that every taxpayer's homeowner bill related to School District 200 is going to change by 3%. The assessor is responsible for determining the market value, everything else happens at the county level.

It was recommended that the resolution and certificates for the 2023 Tax Levy be adopted as presented, that the Certificate of Tax Levy be executed, and that all forms be filed with the DuPage County Clerk.

MOTION

Member Long moved, Member Paulsen seconded that the resolution and certificates for the 2023 tax levy be adopted as presented, that the certificate of tax levy be executed, and that all forms be filed with the DuPage County Clerk as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Acceptance and Approval of the 2022-23 Financial Audit and Annual Financial Report

Annually, our auditors prepare an independent audit of the financial statements of CUSD 200. They also express an opinion based on the combined financial statements of the District. The Board is asked on an annual basis to accept the independent audit as presented by Baker Tilly US, LLP. Nick Cavaliere, a partner with Baker Tilly US, LLP and the lead auditor for CUSD 200, provided the Board of Education with an oral report at the meeting. He highlighted the audit process and shared the results of the 2022-2023 AFR and Financial Statements with the Board of Education. There are no findings or questioned costs in the 2022-2023 AFR or Annual Financial Statements.

There was information on the following:

- The audit opinion rendered on the financial statements - unmodified audit opinion (a clean audit opinion) - which is the highest level of assurance that you can receive. The District financial statements present fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- The audit process and different controls assessed during the audit process.
- Assessment of controls over compliance for federal award dollars to ensure controls are operating effectively. Audited two programs - the ESSER Program (pandemic aid funding) and the Child Nutrition Cluster Program. There was an unmodified audit (clean audit) opinion for the federal compliance audit and no compliance matters were identified.
- There were no material weaknesses over internal control for financial reporting.
- Reporting in Governmental Accounting Standards and things reported in financial statements that are not seen every day - includes net pension liabilities with the district participating in IMRF and TRS, other post-employment benefits (OPEB) which includes shared liability from teachers' health insurance system and the plan offering the district has for employees when they retire (based on state statutory requirements). While important to understand, these do not drive the district budget or decision-making.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- Recognition of Dr. O'Keeffe and staff, specifically Mr. Jordan Thorse for the efforts to provide information for the audit enabling the audit to be completed promptly.

It was recommended that the Board of Education accept and approve the 2022-2023 Financial Audit and the Annual Financial Report as prepared and presented by Baker Tilly US, LLP as presented.

MOTION

Member Rutledge moved, Member Blatner seconded to accept and approve the 2022-23 Financial Audit and the Annual Financial Report as prepared and presented by Baker Tilly US, LLP. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 6 NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Acceptance and Approval of the 2022-23 Single Audit

Annually, our auditors prepare an independent audit of the financial statements of CUSD 200. They also express an opinion based on the combined financial statements of the District. The Board of Education is asked on an annual basis to accept the independent audit as presented by Baker Tilly US, LLP.

A Single Audit is an organization-wide financial statement and federal awards' audit of a non-federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more in federal funds in one fiscal year. It is intended to provide assurance to the Federal Government that a non-federal entity has adequate controls in place, and is generally in compliance with program requirements.

Nick Cavaliere, a partner with Baker Tilly US, LLP and the lead auditor for CUSD 200, provided the Board of Education with an oral report at the meeting. He highlighted the audit process and shared the results of the 2022-2023 Single Audit with the Board of Education. There are no findings or questioned costs in the 2022-2023 Single Audit.

This information/discussion was included with the previous agenda item.

It was recommended that the Board of Education accept the 2022-2023 Single Audit as prepared and submitted by Baker Tilly US, LLP as presented.

MOTION

Member Paulsen moved, Member Kulovits seconded to accept the 2022-2023 single audit as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 6 NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Resolution Abating a Portion of the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2023 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2019, of the District

CUSD 200's last debt payment is scheduled to be made on October 1, 2025. The funds necessary to make the last debt payment will be incorporated into the 2024 Tax Levy. The administration is estimating a surplus in the Debt Service fund after the final payment is made on October 1, 2025. The administration is estimating that the Debt Service Fund will have a surplus of \$3.5M after the final Debt Service payment is made on October 1, 2025. This surplus is an aggregated amount of interest earnings from the issuance of debt at various points in the past and a 1% additional tax extension in the Debt Service Fund by DuPage County to account for taxes that may be uncollected. One of the options available to a Board of Education when there is an estimated surplus in the Debt Service Fund is to abate a portion of a Tax Levy. The administration has determined that an abatement of \$2.0M from the Debt Service Fund in the 2023 Tax Levy could be made. The \$2.0M abatement would allow for the Debt Service portion of the final 2023 Tax Levy to be reduced by \$2.0M (reducing the overall tax increase), but still provide the District with enough resources to pay its Debt Service obligations associated with the 2023 Tax Levy.

The Debt Service abatement will be processed by the DuPage County Clerk and deducted from the Bond and Interest 2023 Tax Extension by the DuPage County Clerk when finalizing the 2023 Tax Extension.

There was information on the following:

- The abatement information has been discussed with the Board over a couple of meetings.
- The Finance Committee reviewed this one final time at their last meeting and recommends that the Board move forward with the abatement.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- This is one piece of dealing with debt service; noted the District refinanced bonds over four different phases resulting in over \$10M in debt service reduction. The District has taken significant steps to reduce the tax burden within the framework of debt.
- This money was borrowed for a specific purpose and the purpose has been accomplished, so we would be returning what is left.
- The issue of giving \$2.0M back to the taxpayers only to presumably ask for that back for the middle school projects will cost more in interest.
- Clarification on the estimated interest amount to borrow - market rates on 20-year tax-exempt bonds have come down significantly in the last three months, so the all-in cost would be \$3.1M and not \$3M in interest (but \$1.1M in interest).
- The two main reasons for the estimation of the surplus in the debt service fund - the 1% extension pushed out by DuPage County, and secondly, interest income over time is on top of it. That is why we are projecting after the last debt service payment is made in October 2025, to have approximately \$3.5M sitting in the debt service fund.
- Reminder of the three legal options - can declare interest earnings (if they have been declared interest earnings on an annual basis), can abate, and/or you can issue working cash bonds.

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the resolution and authority is provided to the Administration for the resolution to be filed with the DuPage County Clerk as presented.

MOTION

Member Rutledge moved, Member Long seconded to approve the resolution and provide the authority to the Administration for the resolution to be filed with the Dupage County Clerk as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 5 (Rutledge, Long, Kulovits, Paulsen, Hanlon), NAY 1 (Blatner). **The motion carried 5-1.**

Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Social Media Litigation & Attorney Client Fee Contract

Frantz Law Group is currently representing school districts across the country who have spent resources addressing the youth mental health crisis that is directly impacting their educational communities and their mission to educate its students.

Research continues to confirm that social media is playing a major role in causing mental health problems in youth and that excessive and problematic use of social media is harmful to children's mental, behavioral and emotional health. Research also confirms that excessive use of social media is associated with increased rates of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, eating disorders, and suicide in youth.

The school districts' lawsuit alleges that the social media companies' action related to their social media platforms are substantially contributing to the mental health crisis America's youth are facing. The harms allegedly caused by these companies include, but are not limited to, intentionally designing, marketing, and operating their exploitive social media platforms to be extremely popular with youth users, despite research confirming the severe and wide-ranging effects of social media on youth mental health.

The benefit of being part of the litigation is that we could recover resources that could be utilized to support our efforts. There is no direct cost as the law firms are running it on a contingency fee rather than a normal hourly fee. In order to participate in the litigation, the Board of Education would have to approve the attached resolution and attorney agreement with lead counsel in this effort.

There was information on the following:

- This item has been discussed with the Board a couple of times.

- The district recently was part of a litigation effort that addressed a number of the companies that are behind vaping devices. Those suits have been settled and the Board has approved the settlement agreements in past meetings.
- The same group has filed a lawsuit that targeted four different social media entities with the focus on trying to bring some change in the behavior of the companies especially as it applies to the way that the algorithms and the product target youth and have created some challenging circumstances for kids/youth.
- Participation by the district would involve completing a series of information requests to document and address the impact we have seen across the system.
- Noted some of the mental health statistics and challenges that are specifically attributed to social media.
- Student Ambassador representatives from each of the two high schools were asked to reflect on this item:
 - WWSHS - one of the most important things we talk about when it comes to helping our youth to be successful adults; the mental health aspect of this and being in a mental health epidemic declared by many health organizations; high functioning students can also be struggling as much as those who show it outwardly; have seen this mental health struggle amongst friends and peers; hard to find all of the resources to deal with this crisis; harmful algorithms proven by many studies to be causing some of these issues; not all social media is created equal - there are positive ways to communicate with the community; teens noting they do not come away from social media feeling better about themselves; cyberbullying and students not realizing what they are posting could hurt others; what the apps have allowed as it relates to the development of adolescents; hospitalizations are up at the school; support joining the lawsuit and holding social media companies accountable for the algorithms they have created.
 - WNHS - agree with all that has been said; noted the predatory algorithms and harassment campaign that targeted students at this high school and how this spread using the algorithms; the district is not given the same powers as brands are in this situation; without economic incentive, brands have little reason to adjust their policies and haven't thought the need to extend rights of brands toward schools/districts; have relied on goodwill to secure the safe operating of social media, so there is a need to push companies to regulate their businesses; the district bears no risk participating in the lawsuit; support participating in this, pushing for greater social responsibility with these companies, and benefitting our students.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- Appreciation for the Student Ambassador's perspective and willingness to be open with personal struggles.
- When does the burden of injury shift from the person injured to the person engaged in the conduct? Right now the burden is on the kids, students, and our schools. It is unfair for the students/kids to bear this burden.
- Not thinking about financial benefit, but thinking about the kids who go to our elementary schools and their parents. The younger kids are going to be the ones most impacted if we can be part of a group/team that helps create change.

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Social Media Litigation and Attorney-Client Fee Contract as presented.

MOTION

Member Kulovits moved, Member Long, seconded to approve the resolution authorizing the commencement of social media litigation and attorney-client fee contract as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ORAL REPORTS

Community Engagement Report (Final)

In an effort to determine the middle school facilities priorities of our community members, District 200 has been gathering feedback throughout the fall of 2023. Feedback has been collected from open community engagement sessions, the Community Leadership Team, the Citizens Advisory Committee, and two scientific phone surveys. The Board was provided with an initial community engagement report on October 25, 2023. Following the initial report and taking community feedback into account, staff modified the feedback questions to conduct a second and final scientific phone survey. Dr. Schuler presented a summary of the final community engagement report to the Board which included information on the following:

- The format of the final report is similar to the interim report.
- The engagement process has been ongoing for several months.
- Recapped the first phase of the community engagement process. The initial phase focused on both the project buckets that had been identified related to the district middle school needs, as well as some of the financial elements.
- The final community engagement report also involved the community engagement team, a phone survey was conducted, an online option was available, and feedback was received from the CAC.
- The difference in the final phase - feedback from the community received in the first round was used to rework the initial options presented (do nothing, low option, medium option, high option).
- The option that changed from the initial to the final phase was the middle option.
- There will be no decisions made tonight - the purpose is to take the Board through the final report with an opportunity to come back to it in January and transition to the planning phase.
- The feedback from the final phase continued to show solid support for moving forward with some level of the plan. Only 8% of the respondents favored the option that did not invest at all in facilities; 88% of the respondents supported moving forward with one of the three options.
- The option that received the strongest level of support (from both the general public through the phone survey and the community leadership team) and across all demographics - option 3 (all identified improvements would be made).
- Net favorability/net positivity rating - option 3 had the lowest level of opposition to it.
- In summary, this is a good set of data for the Board to move forward with the planning phase using feedback from the community.
- There were supporting documents provided including a copy of the survey tool, the feedback form bar chart summary from the community leadership team and community engagement (a combination of feedback from CAC and anyone who participated in the online survey), and another data tool that gives specific data on how people responded to each of the options.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- The high-level review of the final report was provided to the Facilities Committee and reviewed with the Community Leadership team. The intent is to circle back with the Board in January to answer questions and establish parameters and guide rails as we continue to plan and move forward.

- There were a little over 500 participants in the phone survey.
- Phone survey - the number and makeup of participants - statistically validated phone survey.
- There are no additional community engagement activities planned between now and January. Once a direction is received from the Board and we move forward with some detailed planning. Anticipate there will be additional community engagement steps necessary as we narrow from multiple options to an option that reflects the interest and direction.
- Process - will frame out discussion points to help guide us moving forward to narrow down a lane to see what adjustments need to be made with some direction from the Board.
- As we move forward and refine plans, would like to understand the timeline (timeline of a potential referendum, the timeline for the work, when potential bonds would be issued, and when we would start paying, etc.)
- Thinking about the projects in terms of learning and providing a better learning environment for our students - the buildings where students learn and where teachers teach; thinking about student impact. All D200 students go through our middle schools.
- We are still in the conceptual phase and talking about things somewhat in the abstract. The important work will be narrowing down what the work is and having a more tangible understanding of the space and the why. We have to do this first before we get into the deeper level of planning (how a project is implemented, how long it will take, and how it is sequenced will largely depend on what the project is).

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Facilities Committee

The Board Facilities Committee met on December 7, 2023. The meeting notes were attached to the agenda item. There was no additional information provided as the items were covered in the facilities consent agenda and the minutes reflect the conversation in that meeting.

Board Finance Committee

The Board Finance Committee met on November 30, 2023. The meeting notes were attached to the agenda item. There was additional information on the following:

- Working on the five-year projections and will come to the Board at the January Committee of the Whole. Related to the projections are considerations for All-Day Kindergarten (ADK) options, student fee schedules, reviewing headcount needs and the impact on the projections, and ESSER fund positions (keeping supports in place).
- By policy, the minimum fund balance is 25%.
- FY 26 and the work to do in terms of budget deficit (changes in CPPRT money as it relates to when there may be a deficit - later than initial discussions).
- The 10-year history of registration fees and looking at comparables.
- The request by the Finance Committee to look at in the model - clean up the starting balance, reflect the ADK fee impact, and adjust other expenses in the budget tied to CPI

Board Human Resources (HR)/Policy Committee

The Board HR/Policy Committee met on December 6, 2023. The meeting notes were attached to the agenda item. There was additional information on the following:

- Tackled section 4 (Operational Services) of the Administrative Procedures (which brings Board policy into finer detail and operationalizes policy). There is one administrative procedure on bus procedures that needed further clarification and will be brought back to a future meeting.
- Reviewed the recommended policy revisions from the latest issue of PRESS. This includes all of the policies in tonight's policy posting consent agenda. Noted 34 new laws have resulted in the recommended policy changes.

- As a follow-up, reviewed the action list of steps that staff noted regarding student safety following the August Board meeting. Noted all of the lists were done/in progress (including the UGP and the online form available on the website, additional training by the district complaint managers, and implemented a fingerprinting policy for volunteers).
- Reviewed the CAC bylaws primarily to address a mechanism for public comment at CAC meetings.
- Discussed policy 4:170 as it relates to E-learning plans and those plans during snow days (this will be reviewed when the emergency plan is revisited).

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Other Reports from Board Members

- President Hanlon asked Board Members who attended the IASB Joint Annual Conference in November to share their experiences - some of the topics/sessions attended and found useful. There was information shared about the following sessions:
 - Economics and Policy in Springfield; Open Meetings Act (OMA) and FOIAs; Incorporating Student Voice; Safety; Community Engagement; Decision-Making Session; The Board Oath and Action; Newcomer Students; Working Relationship between the Board and the Superintendent; Key Note Session with Bill De La Cruz; Legal Review and New Legislation Session
 - The diversity of topics at the conference is very helpful. Board members all have different day jobs and there is a lot to learn as it relates to a school district. this is a professional development opportunity where you can get up to speed on many different topics.
 - Beyond the topics and presentations, was the ability to connect with Board Members from other districts; meet Student Ambassadors from another district who attended the conference; and connected with Board Presidents from other peer districts and their plans for the upcoming year.
- Attended the Pack-the-Gym Special Olympics Fundraiser at Hubble Middle School - heartwarming and a great event.
- Congratulations and thank you to Erica Loiacono for all she has done for our district. Good Luck to Erica - she will be missed.

WRITTEN REPORTS

Monthly Financial Reports

FOIA Report

Board Communication Log

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Five-Year Financial Projections

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

January 10, 2024, 7:00 PM, Madison Elementary School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 24, 2024, Committee of the Whole, 7:00 PM, School Service Center

CLOSED SESSION

The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Specific Individuals who Serve as Independent Contractors in a Park, Recreational, or Educational Setting, or Specific Volunteers of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public

Body, including Hearing Testimony on a Complaint Lodged Against an Employee, a Specific Individual who Serves as an Independent Contractor in a Park, Recreational, or Educational Setting, or a Volunteer of the Public Body or Against Legal Counsel for the Public Body to Determine its Validity 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and The Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10)

MOTION

Member Rutledge moved, Member Paulsen seconded to adjourn the meeting to closed session for the purpose of 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) and (10). Upon a roll call being taken, the vote was AYE 6, NAY 0.

The motion carried 6-0.

There was no action taken following the closed session.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 9:02 PM.

Dave Long, Secretary

Rob Hanlon, President