

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board President Pat Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Mahaffy took the roll call. Members present were Susan McGarrigle, Gerry Blohm, Steve Knar, and Pat Hughes. Also present was Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principal Karen Machroli. Absent were Board members Tom Mollet, Lisa Anderson and Kris Germain, Principal Eric Runck and Board Secretary Lois Bowman.

WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Facilities director, Rick Miller, was welcomed to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Mahaffy stated that the purpose of this meeting is twofold – does the Board want to do a larger project that would require the necessity or desire to use a Chevron, Johnson Controls or CTS. If the answer is a yes, then the Board needs to decide on one of those companies. If the answer is no, what would the Board want to approve at the May Board meeting as a capital outlay such as a roof instead of just summer maintenance. Much discussion followed on how to proceed in order to get the major projects/repairs at the schools accomplished, in what timeframe and how to finance these projects.

This meeting is for open dialogue. Dr. Mahaffy stated that the increase to our taxpayers for a \$1M project would be about \$75-\$80 for a \$300,000 home. This amount is about \$.08 for every \$100.00. The amount the Board chooses to borrow determines the length of time it will be on the tax bills. Tammie Beckwith Schallmo will be at the regular Board meeting tomorrow evening to explain financing if the Board decides to go with an RFP (Request for Proposal). Dr. Mahaffy stated that if the Board decides to borrow \$1M, it can access as much or as little of the \$1M over three years. The cost over time to make the necessary repairs will also increase. Fox River Grove currently has the highest tax rate in McHenry County. Board members do not want community members to feel that something was pulled over on them by accessing the debt service extension base. They want the community to understand that these are necessary projects (roof, flooring, windows, doors, etc.) and overall would be more cost effective to complete the repairs now. These are renovation projects of a 50 year old school. The Board recognizes that this is the worst time for a tax increase.

The purpose of the Building and Site Committee and this special Board meeting is to have a clear concise recommendation for presentation at the regular Board meeting on Monday, April 27, 2009. If the Board chooses to recommend an RFP company, this would only be to enter

into individual negotiations. Tammie Beckwith Schallmo will be available to discuss the debt service extension base and other financial options or whatever the Board would like her to present. Dr. Mahaffy stated that the District is maxed out on the Referendum dollars, and depending on what the CPI and the EAV does, will depend on how the tax rate fluctuates. The District is not in a healthy situation in seeing new revenues come in, especially with the loss of Hold Harmless which hopefully will be over five years but could be over three years. We need to be concerned about our Operating Funds. In a conversation with District Treasurer, Bob Blumberg, it was stated that although this is the worst time to be spending funds, repairs can no longer wait and the cost of those repairs will continue to increase and you need to look five years down the road. Mr. Blumberg felt that the District may need to access some or all dollars out of the debt extension base but possibly do a potpourri of operational funds and debt certificates. However, Tammie Beckwith Schallmo reminded us that since our referendum dollars are gone, the District really needs to watch their future operating funds. Dr. Mahaffy recommended accessing the debt service extension base or the District would need to look at limited repairs with the dollars currently available. Community members may file a petition which contains 10% of the registered voters and they can force this issue to a voted referendum. Dr. Mahaffy stated that this is why they call this a backdoor referendum in State code. It is legal because you would increase the rate on non referendum tax dollars.

A review of the proposals from the vendors – Johnson Controls, Control Technology & Solutions (CTS) and Chevron followed. Board member Gerry Blohm presented his comparison of the three vendors with additional input from other Board members, Dr. Mahaffy, Ms. Machroli and Mr. Miller on the overall scope of work including specifics on roofing, drainage, floors, windows and doors, quantities, maintenance, asbestos and warranties. Pros and cons of each vendor's RFP were reviewed in detail. All three vendors were on standby for phone contact to answer any questions during this meeting. In summary, the consensus of this meeting would be to recommend CTS as the preferred provider in order to get into individual negotiations based on their overall proposal combined with their presentation, quality and scope of work. Negotiations of pricing and scope would be in closed session but approval of the overall contract would be in open session. Dr. Mahaffy also stated that any contract over \$25,000 needs to be posted on the District's website. Recommendations will be presented at the regular Board meeting on Monday, April 27th.

Board President Pat Hughes asked if there were any other items and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Susan McGarrigle. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye – All ayes. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

Patrick B. Hughes
President
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lois M. Bowman
Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION