



**Forest Park District 91 Board of Education
October 13, 2011, 6:30 pm**

Johan Walsh, Observer

In attendance: President Frank Mott, Vice President Sean Blaylock, Secretary Mary Turek, and Board Members Lois Bogajsky, Mary Win Connor, John Tricoci and Joan White. Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Louis Cavallo; Assistant Superintendent of Operations Edward Brophy. Audience members included parents Raphael Rosa and Hiral Patel, Forest Park Review Editor Nick Moroni, and League of Women Voters Observer Johan Walsh.

The meeting opened with roll call and the pledge of allegiance. The mission and vision statements were read.

Minutes for September 8 were approved as corrected. October payrolls were approved, along with financial data supplied by the Township Treasurer. Destruction of March 2010 executive session minutes was authorized. A thank you letter was read into the record.

The first quarter financial report was presented. Revenues and expenditures are both on target.

A five-year history of the Consumer Price Index was reviewed, as well as a history of the Equalized Assessed Valuation in Forest Park. The 2011 tax levy proposed is 1.56% more than last year. Questions and comments followed on taxpayer impact, property depreciations and the District's cash balances. It was noted 40% of the Forest Park property tax supports District 91. The levy was approved as presented on a 5-2 (nay Tricoci and White) vote.

Establishment of a Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) for 2010 Assessments was approved. The District's attorney has historically represented it in annual appeals.

Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) scores were reviewed and discussed on a school-by-school basis. Despite gains at some grade levels, the average ISAT score of 75 has been unbroken the past five years. While Grant White Elementary School is out-performing the District and the State in reading and math, the majority of Forest Park Middle School students are testing lower than the District and the State. State-wide averages are down from 81 to 75. A complex discussion followed over the next hour. It was noted the district is well-funded and that school demographics are unchanged. The next ISAT review is set for late winter. A written report on Average Yearly Progress (AYP) was referenced in the Board's packets.

The Board deferred action on proposed revisions to instruction policies to November 10, at which time some revisions may be introduced as a first reading.

A detailed discussion followed on the value, costs and content of paper and electronic communications with parents, students and the community at-large. Decisions were deferred.

As reviewed in executive session, the Board approved a substitute teachers list for the new school year. It also approved the pending resignation of the Librarian for Betsy Ross/Garfield/Grant-White Schools, employment of a social worker to act as a district-wide Positive Behavior Intervention

Support (PBIS) coach, employment of an instructional assistant at Middle School, and employment of four food service workers.

The Advisory Committee and Gaining/Concerns Committee will meet on October 19. Board member Tricoci attended orientation sessions and reported them to be very helpful. Board Member Connor, as liaison to the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) West Cook division, encouraged completion of IASB surveys recently distributed.

The Superintendent reported that IPAD technology is available for Board members as the result of an over-order. After some discussion, it was the Board's consensus to utilize the devices only at Board meetings and leave them on the premises. Parent-teacher conferences achieved a 93% turn-out rate. Status of website enhancements was offered. An update was provided on waivers for the "No Child Left Behind" regulatory relief program. Six Board members have registered for the Triple I Conference set for November 18-20 in Chicago. The administration attended meetings last week on teacher negotiations and anti-bullying strategies.

The President attended the September meeting of EDRED, the lobbyist for school districts, and summarized the proceedings. A commission has been formed on school district consolidation, and one of the initial public hearings is November 3 at Harper College in Palatine. The State still owes \$108 million to school districts.

A member of the audience raised questions on usability of the website and asked whether the website vendor is being held to a timetable. It was also pointed out that while the AYP report was in the Board's packets, there was no overhead display of the report or discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. to executive session.

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