



BARRINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 220

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting

March 4, 2019

Members present

Brian Battle, Sandra Bradford, Joseph Ruffolo, Michael Shackleton, Angela Wilcox

Location

BMS Prairie Campus, 40 East Dundee Road, Barrington, IL 60010

Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM

1. MARCH 4, 2019 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

2. 9:30 a.m. - OPEN SESSION

2.01 Call Meeting to Order

2.02 Roll Call

Mike Shackleton entered at 9:41 am.

2.03 Pledge of Allegiance

3. AGENDA ITEMS

3.01 Referendum Information Session

Brian Battle opened the meeting and all board members and administrators introduced themselves. We waited until the debt was rolling off to ask for additional money. We started the Master Facilities Plan/Blueprint 220 almost 2 years ago in anticipation of those bonds falling off. Brian Harris then began the formal presentation. He went through the four referendum priorities: improve safety and security at our schools, update classrooms to prepare students for success, maintain the community's investment in our school buildings and Update educational/community spaces for arts and athletics.

Safety and Security - eliminate mobile classrooms, traffic flow, exterior building security, safety upgrades on interior classrooms and hallways. Update Classrooms to Prepare Students for Success - flexible classroom furniture, STEM spaces, classroom space at all elementary schools to support students with special needs and students who require movement/sensory breaks throughout the school day, BHS student physical education/wellness classrooms - hasn't changed since 1980's although we have added about a thousand students. Maintain community's invest in our school buildings - air conditioning, electrical, heating, plumbing, and roofs. Joe Ruffolo discussed his experience on the Facilities Committee and the difficulty of keeping up with maintenance on a small budget. We didn't shrink the number from the Master Facilities plan where it came to safety and security and building maintenance. Update educational/community spaces for arts and athletics - new BHS auditorium, new BHS rehearsal, and studio classrooms, BHS athletic/physical education field renovations, and new BHS fitness and training spaces.

Brian Harris also discussed the kitchen and cafeteria renovations. A question was raised regarding Prairie traffic pattern. We are working to find a solution to the Prairie traffic pattern, but at the current time, we do not have a workable solution.

If we did nothing and the bonds rolled off, a 500K tax bill would be reduced by \$600. It was asked why we didn't just keep the tax rate flat and only do \$160K. Brian Battle said some Board members even wanted lower dollars so that there was a tax savings. The Referendum Advisory Committee came back with being comfortable at tax neutral, but would also be comfortable with up to \$100 increase in a \$500K home. Joe Ruffolo spoke about how he started wanting the \$234 million rate and felt there were just too many necessary projects to go any lower than the highest recommended referendum. In the \$ spent per student, we are at about the middle.

Question about ADA compliance in some of the buildings - has that been planned? Yes, we have created those plans. Any time we touch the construction of one of our buildings, we must make the building ADA compliant (we are grandfathered in currently). Our architects and engineers will have to sign off on the ADA compliance of any of the buildings where we do construction projects. The question was asked about how the Board sees our facilities compare to area schools. Sandra Bradford stated that people constantly make comments to her that are facilities are lacking in sports, fine arts and in the classroom. Joe Ruffolo mentioned that in the \$185 million dollar plan we are still missing many of the projects that would level our facilities with other area schools, but feel that we have staff that is excellent and will help to close the gap. One person asked about grassroots efforts to help get this information out to the community. She feels like there is not enough information getting out to people about what the money is really being asked to cover. Brian Battle explained that the Board and Administration must, by law, remain neutral. There were members of the citizen committee present today. They will be in the back of the room in case anyone wishes to speak with, or volunteer with, them.

Why doesn't the Board budget for the 60 million dollar part of maintenance repair like we would have to do on our own home? There are school districts that do that. They end up taxing people at a higher rate every year and then they have a lot of money sitting and accumulating. This Board does not believe that is the way we should run the district; we should not be holding onto taxpayer money like a bank. Per Board policy, we do not allow for over 25% fund balance, which is kept for emergency use. How much of reserves will be used? Brian Battle stated we may have approximately \$5-10 million that perhaps we can use. However, the estimates that we currently have could come in higher and then we would like to keep the capital reserves to cover some of this, but also to cover any emergency needs that may come up.

What is the % of the bonds falling off compared to what we would pay going forward? We refinanced over the years and are at 3-4%. We would expect it to be a bit lower going forward, but there are many factors that go into this. Challenging issue in home values - one person felt that the tax rate overall is hurting us. The tax burden must be watched carefully.

One person stated that when it is asked what will happen if the referendum doesn't pass that the Board should be telling them that we will be back in future years to ask again because it is needed. Brian Battle and Joe Ruffolo both stated that they cannot say what decision will be made for future boards, but they will need to make some difficult decisions.

Sandra Bradford left at 11:15 am.

4. ADJOURN

Action: 4.01 Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mike Shackleton, second by Angela Wilcox.

Yea: Mike Shackleton, Angela Wilcox, Joe Ruffolo and Brian Battle.

5. CLOSED SESSION - For the purpose of discussing: Employment matters, performance of a specific employee, collective negotiating matters, litigation matters, security procedures, student disciplinary matters, and the purchase, lease or sale price of real property. Closed Session was not held

Brian G. Battle, President

Sandra Bradford, Secretary