

Community Consolidated School District 15 Board of Education

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Scott B. Thompson

MISSION STATEMENT

To produce world-class learners
by building a connected learning community.



BOARD BRIEFS: August 10, 2011, Regular Meeting

Public Hearing—CCSD15 Budget Appropriation Ordinance 2011-12: The Board conducted a public hearing on the proposed 2011-12 budget. No citizens commented, so the hearing closed. Later in the meeting, during the “Superintendent’s Reports” portion of the agenda, Michael Adamczyk, assistant superintendent for business and auxiliary services, presented an overview of the proposal. The budget outlines approximately \$145.3 million of expenditures and projects roughly \$140.2 million in revenues resulting in an estimated \$5.1 million deficit. That shortfall is projected to reduce the District’s fund balance to approximately \$43.9 million, or 30.2 percent of the District’s budget. Mr. Adamczyk noted that he intends to provide the Board with updates to the budget and the District’s five-year financial projections during its regular meeting on October 12, 2011. The Board later approved the 2011-12 budget during the “Action Items” portion of the meeting’s agenda.

Student Assignment Plan Update: James Garwood, deputy superintendent of schools, reported that, as of August 8, 2011, there were 11,964 students enrolled in Grades K-8 in District 15. That’s 31 more students than were enrolled in the District on August 18, 2010, but 91 fewer than on September 10, 2010, as an additional 122 students enrolled in that three-week period. Consequently, Mr. Garwood noted that this figure will most likely change in the coming days due to last-minute enrollments and withdrawing students. A final enrollment figure will be presented to the Board during its next regular meeting on September 14, 2011.

Mr. Garwood also reported class sizes in relation to Board targets: Kindergarten has an average of 20.38 students (target 20), primary classes—23.86 (target 24), intermediate classes—25.85 (target 26), and junior high classes—27.65 (target 28). Twenty classes in the District have 30 or more students, but the hope is that this number will drop as enrollment figures become more concrete, said Mr. Garwood, who noted that all classes have been staffed in accordance with the class size targets established by the Board.

Student Achievement Results Update: Mary Zarr, assistant superintendent for curriculum, special services, and school improvement, reported preliminary results from the District’s 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status Report. According to the report, 15 of the District’s 19 reporting school’s made AYP in reading while 16 did so in math. In all, 85.7 percent of the District’s students are meeting or exceeding state standards in reading while 96.1 percent are meeting or exceeding them in math.

The goal of federal No Child Left Behind legislation is for all students to meet or exceed standards in reading and mathematics by 2014, so each year the state calculates a school’s progress toward that goal to determine if students are improving their performance. Illinois continues to raise its AYP target 7.5 percentage points each year. For instance, in 2011, Illinois’ AYP target climbed from a requirement that 77.5 percent of all students and all qualifying demographic subgroups meet or exceed state standards in reading and math to a requirement that 85 percent do so. As a result, the following five District 15 schools did not make AYP in 2011:

- **Carl Sandburg Junior High** met 24 of 27 measures; it did not make AYP in reading and math in the Limited English Proficiency subgroup, and math in the Hispanic subgroup.
- **Jane Addams School** met 17 of 23 measures; it did not make AYP in reading and math in the Hispanic subgroup, reading and math in the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup, and reading and math in the aggregate.
- **Kimball Hill School** met 18 of 21 measures; it did not make AYP in reading in the Hispanic subgroup, reading in the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup, and reading in the aggregate.
- **Stuart R. Paddock School** met 26 of 27 measures; it did not make AYP in reading in the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup.

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- **Thomas Jefferson School** met 23 of 25 measures; it did not make AYP in reading math in the Hispanic subgroup and reading in the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup.

Additionally, the District as a whole met 31 of 41 measures; it did not make AYP in reading or math in the Black, Hispanic, Native American, Students with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged Subgroups.

Jane Addams must continue to provide school choice and supplemental educational services, and Kimball Hill must now provide school choice. Mrs. Zarr noted that parents at both schools have been notified of their school's status and have received information regarding the choice process, which closes Monday, August 15, 2011. Likewise, parents at Central Road and Gray M. Sanborn Schools have been notified that they are listed as the alternate attendance choices for Jane Addams and Kimball Hill students who elect to exercise the choice option.

STR Partners LLC—Summer Projects Update: Jan Taniguchi of STR Partners provided the Board with a status update on the various construction projects undertaken over the summer break. Those projects include roof replacements at Lincoln and Hunting Ridge Schools, uni-ventilator replacements at Hunting Ridge School, ceiling and lighting replacements at Winston Campus, and lighting upgrades at Walter R. Sundling Junior High, Lake Louise, Lincoln, and Stuart R. Paddock Schools. Mr. Taniguchi reported that work on all of these projects is either finished or set to be completed before school starts on August 24, 2011.

Craig Phillips, the District's environmental services manager, also reported that the July 23, 2011, storm that dumped 5½ inches of rain on Palatine in a matter of about three hours led to an estimated \$200,000 of flooding damage at four District 15 schools—Plum Grove Junior High and Jane Addams, Hunting Ridge, and Marion Jordan Schools. The District filed insurance claims on the incidents, and it estimates it will have to pay about \$40,000 in deductibles and uninsured costs to repair the damage.

Navigate15 Executive Summary: Cannon Koo and Joan Scovic, co-chairs of the *Navigate15* Facilitating Team, presented the *Navigate15* Executive Summary to the Board. The executive summary reviewed the community engagement process in which more than 400 different individuals participated in seven *Navigate15* meetings. The discussions and feedback produced during the small-group work at each of those meetings produced a set of recommendations that were presented to the Board in the *Navigate15* Executive Summary. Those "general agreements" as they have been called by the *Navigate15* Facilitating Team are as follows:

- **General Agreement #1:** *Invest in strategies to boost academic achievement and improve the overall quality of education provided students of D15.*
- **General Agreement #2:** *Strengthen the District's teaching staff to ensure students exhibit high levels of achievement and attain 21st century skills.*
- **General Agreement #3:** *Evaluate the District's current facilities and enrollment trends to determine current and future facility needs and create plans to meet those needs.*
- **General Agreement #4:** *Manage revenue funds carefully to support a strong teaching and learning process while always maintaining the financial integrity of the District.*

Each of the four General Agreements is followed by a detailed list of specific actions the *Navigate15* Facilitating Team believes will help the District achieve these major goals. The team concluded its work by assigning an urgency status to each of those actions. The following six actions were valued to be most urgent:

1. The recruitment and hiring of experienced and skilled instructional staff.
2. Movement to continuously improve education delivered to students.
3. Secure facilities plan to ensure proper learning spaces for District 15 children, converting existing space to support instructional needs.
4. Present a rigorous and challenging curriculum in successfully preparing students beyond the elementary level, into the 21st century.
5. Correct the structural deficit in the budget.
6. Strengthen communications and "District to Community" partnership, supported and strengthened by visibility and transparency.

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Opening of the 2011-12 School Year: Superintendent Scott Thompson presented a variety of highlights from the summer break as well as a number of exciting developments that have him encouraged about the coming school year and optimistic about District's future:

- The District will begin the school year with six new principals and four new assistant principals, all of whom are going through induction seminars prior to the opening of the school year. The District will also welcome 37 new teachers, 15 of whom come to the District with master's degrees. These new teachers are currently going through the District's orientation program and will be paired with mentors to assist them with their transitions into their new teaching positions.
- The District launched seven Summer Early Learning Academies as a way to reach out to its emergent readers who need continued support over the summer months. The academies served approximately 130 students who will begin first and second grade at all 15 of the District's elementary schools. The District also continued to offer its Summer Blast program as a way to help its neediest students.
- Nutrition Services provided a total of 8,131 free meals through its summer meal program. The program offered free breakfasts to District 15 residents under the age of 18 at six sites—John G. Conyers Learning Academy, Winston Campus, and Gray M. Sanborn, Jane Addams, Lake Louise, and Virginia Lake Schools. It also provided meals to students who participated in the District's Summer Blast program at Lincoln School, and to students who participated in summer camps at Falcon Park.
- Two District 15 schools—Virginia Lake and Jane Addams Schools—have met the grant criteria for the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Children's Low-Cost Laptop Program and have been selected to receive an iPad for each of their students in Grades 3 to 6.
- Later this fall, Mr. Garwood will present the Board with the findings of his investigation into the potential launch of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Academy, which would address the District's goal to enhance its instruction of 21st century skills.
- Mrs. Zarr will also launch the District's new Community Curriculum Advisory Council, which will include representation from throughout the District and be charged with providing input in a cooperative spirit about the curriculum improvement process in District 15.
- With recommendations from the Navigate15 community engagement process in hand, the Board is now ready to set new goals for the District during a Board retreat to be held later this month.

ED-RED Council/Legislation: It was reported that ED-RED will hold its first meeting of the new school year on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, and that a kick-off luncheon will follow on Friday, October 7, 2011.

District Fifteen Educational Foundation: The District Fifteen Educational Foundation and the Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation are partnering to bring the Kelly Miller Circus to town for four shows—two on Friday, September 23, 2011, and two more on Saturday, September 24, 2011.

Communication Committee: It was reported that the committee's co-chairs will meet this week to begin planning for the Board the first in a series of quarterly Q&A sessions with residents on agenda topics selected by the community via online surveys.

Superintendent's Finance Committee: Mr. Thompson presented the Board with the minutes from the committee's first two meetings, which were held July 6, 2011, and August 1, 2011. The meetings focused on finding ways to correct the structural deficit within the District's budget. Mr. Thompson noted that the committee's meetings will focus mainly on administrative recommendations and not address issues that need to be discussed before the entire Board.

Landscaping/Weed Control: Mr. Thompson addressed concerns expressed by some District 15 residents regarding weed control and landscaping at many of the District's schools. He noted that local park districts are contracted to provide weed control services for the District. He added that he hopes to work with them and with PTA groups to develop low-cost beautification projects that would improve the appearance of these schools while instilling in their communities a sense of pride and ownership in their buildings.

Paperless Board Packets: Mr. Thompson reported that numerous options for providing paperless Board packets had been investigated, and that he recommended using software available to the District to begin creating its own

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paperless packets and providing them to those Board members interested in using them. Mr. Thompson said the paperless Board packets could be available by the October 12, 2011 meeting.

Citizens Address the Board: One resident addressed the Board regarding elementary science and history instruction, and one resident addressed the Board regarding the *Navigate15* community engagement process.

Personnel Report: John Fenton, personnel and human services director, introduced Christopher Basten, a fourth-grade teacher at Hubbard Woods School in Winnetka, as the new assistant principal at Kimball Hill School. Following the introduction, the Board formally approved Mr. Basten's contract as part of its approval of the August 10, 2011, Personnel Report.

Also during the meeting:

- The Board approved the following recommended bid awards based on the lowest bids meeting specifications:
 - for road construction materials and equipment rentals to Arrow Road Construction, Mt. Prospect, IL; Bergman Trucking, Palatine, IL; Signet Pavement Supply, Inc., Crystal Lake, IL; and West Side Tractor Sales, Co., Wauconda, IL; for acquisition of materials and rentals based on the unit price for those items listed.
 - for electrical lighting supplies to Active Electrical Supply, Chicago, IL, at a cost of \$2,186.35; Graybar, Glendale Heights, IL, at a cost of \$68,389.52; HP Products, McHenry, IL, at a cost of \$128,028.54; Neher Electrical Supply, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, at a cost of \$229,153.60; Northwest Electrical Supply, Mt. Prospect, IL, at a cost of \$42,971; and WW Grainger, Inc., Northbrook, IL, at a cost of \$116,615.91; for a total bid award amount of \$587,344.92.
 - for ice cream to Joe & Ross, Cicero, IL, for a total bid award amount of \$41,660.43.
- The Board approved the Resolution Establishing Fund Balance Policies as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Statement 54 (GASB 54), as presented.
- The Board approved the following 13 consent calendar items:
 - Investment Report
 - June/July 2011 Treasurer's Report
 - Report of Payroll Vouchers and Invoices
 - Activities Fund Report
 - June 2011 Budget Report
 - June 2011 Imprest Detail
 - Disposals
 - Two Trees Technologies—Contract Renewal Internet Management Services
 - Second Reading—Board of Education Policy
 - 2:105 Board of Education—Ethics and Gift Ban
 - 4:15 Operational Services—Identity Protection (NEW POLICY)
 - 5:200 Professional Personnel—Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
 - 5:300 Professional Personnel—Schedules and Employment Year
 - 6:190 Instruction—Extra Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities
 - 8:110 Community Relations—Public Suggestions and Concerns (NEW POLICY)
 - Purchase Requisition—AIMSweb License Renewal
 - Non-Public Facility Placement Contracts
 - Phase II and II Desktop Computer Purchase
 - Destruction of Executive Session Audio Recordings—January 2010
- It was reported that 10 Freedom of Information Act requests/responses were responded to last month.
- The District received a \$7,781.75 check for impact fees from the Village of Palatine.

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at 7 p.m. at Walter R. Sundling Junior High School, 1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine.