

Community Consolidated School District 15 Board of Education

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Scott B. Thompson, Ed.D.

MISSION STATEMENT

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



BOARD BRIEFS: *September 9, 2015, Regular Meeting*

Superintendent's Reports—Recommendation for Financial Advisor: Michael Adamczyk, SFO, the District's Chief School Business Official, presented the Board with a proposal from William Blair & Company, LLC, to serve as the District's financial advisor for the issuance of life safety bonds. Their fee is \$1.50 per \$1,000 par amount of bonds sold, which equals \$30,000 for a \$20 million bond sale. Similarly, they would receive no fee if no bonds are issued. Later in the meeting, the Board approved the acceptance of the William Blair Financial Advisory Agreement, dated September 8, 2015, as recommended.

Superintendent's Reports—Student Enrollment Update: Matthew Barbini, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent of Schools, reported that the District's enrollment has decreased by 23 students compared to this time last year. As of August 28, the District had 11,974 students enrolled in Grades K-8, and 177 students in the early childhood program at John G. Conyers Learning Academy. Dr. Barbini noted that the District's budget was built on the assumption that it would employ the equivalent of 889.67 full-time teachers this year, and—as of the report—that number stood at 890.67, just one teacher in excess of the projected number.

During his report, Dr. Barbini also outlined general education class sizes in relation to Board targets. Kindergarten has an average of 20.2 students (target 20), primary classes—23.9 (target 24), intermediate classes—24.8 (target 26), and junior high classes—26.17 (target 28). Per the state, the average enrollment in bilingual classes cannot exceed 90 percent of District's regular education class sizes, and this year it stands as follows: bilingual kindergarten classes—17.1 students (bilingual target 18), bilingual multi-age first- and second-grade classes—18.9 (bilingual target 21.6), and bilingual third-grade classes—19 students (bilingual target 21.6).

Although class size averages are on target, a total of eight elementary classes (four of them gifted sections) have 30 or more students. Dr. Barbini noted that, when buildings are confronted by large class sizes at a grade level, the building's administration works in conjunction with staff to provide additional assistance to those classrooms, frequently in the form of additional program assistant hours or additional resource teaching time.

Superintendent's Reports—Summer Construction Projects Update: Jan Taniguchi, Principal Partner for STR Partners, the District's architect of record, reported that the District completed two primary construction efforts this summer. One was a series of life safety projects that replaced galvanized pipes at Plum Grove Junior High, Gray M. Sanborn School, and Lincoln School. The other was another series of life safety projects that replaced fire alarms at Thomas Jefferson School, Gray M. Sanborn School, Frank C. Whiteley School, Marion Jordan School, and Pleasant Hill School.

Mr. Taniguchi said the fire alarm project went very smoothly, but that the pipe replacement process was more challenging because it required demolition of walls, abatement of asbestos, and installation of new fixtures in addition to the replacement of the pipes. Nonetheless, all of the summer's construction efforts were sufficiently completed in time to allow all of these schools to welcome students on the first day of classes, reported Mr. Taniguchi.

Superintendent's Reports—Two-Way Communication Software Pilot: Scott Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, explained to the Board the first step he will take to meet the 2015-16 Annual Board Goal related to increasing two-way communication opportunities for District 15's stakeholders. Dr. Thompson reported that the District is set to begin an eight-month trial of the Let's Talk! software produced by K12 Insight, an educational communications company.

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The Let's Talk! software allows any stakeholder to easily engage with any member of the District 15 community. A Let's Talk! icon will be embedded on every District 15 webpage, and, when clicked, this feature will instantly offer the user an avenue for questions or comments. Let's Talk! aims to facilitate authentic communication, including reading, reflection, and prompt response to stakeholder input. It is designed to ease that process by organizing feedback and ensuring follow-up by the appropriate staff member. An intuitive "dashboard" manages access and displays common themes, average staff response times, and user satisfaction, turning every interaction into an opportunity for progress.

Dr. Thompson said the District will use this eight-month trial to pilot the program and evaluate its impact on two-way communication between the District's stakeholders. At the end of the pilot, he will provide a report to the Board and a recommendation on whether to continue using this service.

Superintendent's Report—Luke Hardt Recognition: Dr. Thompson presented the District's "Above and Beyond Award" to **Luke Hardt**, the District's Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Hardt has worked in the District for 25 years, and this summer he deftly saw to his own responsibilities while also covering many of the duties normally met by Craig Phillips, the District's Manager of Environmental Services, as Mr. Phillips was on leave for a large part of the summer.

ED-RED Council/Legislation: It was reported that the state has still not reached a budget resolution, and that local legislators suggest the District will likely face a property tax freeze and a change to the state's funding formula for education in the near future.

District Fifteen Educational Foundation: It was reported that the Foundation is planning a volleyball tournament for District 15 staff this fall.

2015-16 Annual Board Goals: Dr. Thompson reported that residents submitted several comments, but said no revisions to the goals were necessary. Later in the meeting, the Board approved the [2015-16 Annual Board Goals](#), as recommended.

Citizens Address the Board: No citizens chose to address the Board.

Adoption of the 2015-16 Budget: The Board voted to approve the 2015-16 budget, which outlines approximately \$150 million in operating fund revenues and \$151.6 million of operating fund expenditures resulting in an estimated \$1.6 million deficit. That shortfall is projected to reduce the District's June 30, 2016, fund balance to approximately \$53.5 million, or 35 percent of the District's budget.

The budget includes \$3.35 million of capital projects funding, and \$1.5 million of expenditures related to the District's new math curriculum adoption. Without those one-time expenses, the budget would be balanced, noted Dr. Thompson.

The budget was first presented for consideration at the Board's June 17 meeting. The Board reviewed it again and conducted a public hearing on the revised proposal during its August 12 meeting. The final budget plan approved by the Board includes roughly \$1.4 million of cost savings that Dr. Thompson outlined during the August 12 meeting. Those savings cut the District's projected deficit roughly in half, and were realized primarily by leasing technology that the District had planned to purchase, and by reducing the District's supplies and purchased services funds by 5 percent across-the-board.

Also during the meeting:

- The Board approved the September 9, 2015, Personnel Report, as presented.
- The Board voted to accept the Agreement for the Replacement of Parking Lot Located at 1 N. Oak Street, Palatine, IL, between St. Paul United Church of Christ, Palatine Park District, District 15, and the Palatine Historical Society, subject to attorney review and approval.
- The Board voted to award the contract for the Rock Salt and Triple Melt Bid to Conserv FS, Wauconda, IL, for a total bid award of \$46,000, as presented. The recommendation is based on bid vendor meeting specifications and being able to supply both the rock salt and the bag salt.

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- The Board voted to approve the Settlement Agreement and General Release—Wong v. Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District No. 15 et al, as presented.
- The Board voted to rescind its action of April 22, 2011, to non-renew the employment contract of Elizabeth Wong, and to accept Elizabeth Wong's resignation effective June 30, 2011.
- The Board approved the following 17 Consent Calendar items:
 - August 2015 Investment Report
 - August 2015 Treasurer's Report
 - August 2015 Report of Payroll Vouchers and Invoices
 - June 2015 Activities Fund Report
 - July/ August 2015 Budget Report
 - August 2015 Imprest Detail
 - Disposal(s) of District Property
 - Change Order to Asbestos Contract
 - Agreement for Professional Therapy Services—INVO Healthcare Associates, LLC (Deborah Lyn Erdmann)
 - Agreement for Professional Therapy Services—Cumberland Therapy Services, LLC (Desiree Herrera, RN)
 - Renewal of AIMSweb License (NCS Pearson)
 - Preapproval of Consultant Fees (Colleen Mullins)
 - Workman's Compensation Settlement
 - Chromebook Pilot
 - Application for Recognition of Public Schools 2015-16
 - Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report 2014-15
 - Destruction of Executive Session Audio Recordings—November 2013
- It was reported that three Freedom of Information Act requests were received last month.

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7 p.m. at Walter R. Sundling Junior High School, 1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine.