

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Avoca Schools

November 3, 2008

The Board of Education held a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 3, 2008, at 5:37 p.m. in the Marie Murphy School Library, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The President called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll. The following members were present:

Lance Feis
Jeffrey Greengoss, Vice President
Michael Knippen (Joined meeting via teleconference)
Karen Roth
Rosanne Ullman
Sherry Wallingford, President

Absent:

Henry Kingwill

Also Present:

Kat Cetrone, Video Operator
Beth Dever, Business Manager
Kevin Jauch, Principal, Avoca West
Madeleine McCloskey, Board Recorder
Robert Orsi, Director, Transp./Buildings & Grounds
Dr. Joseph Porto, Superintendent/Board Secretary
Dr. Deanna Reed, Asst. Supt./Principal, Marie Murphy

Visitors:

Bruce Cook, Teacher, Marie Murphy
Jennifer Kiedaisch, Teacher, Avoca West

DISCUSSION ITEM

Continued Discussion on Referendum Contingency Plans

The Board continued discussion from the October 23 Board meeting on the proposed contingency plans should the tax rate referendum fail to pass in April. Following Dr. Porto's brief review of the list of proposed budget reductions totaling \$1,022,675, Board members were asked for their final input on the matter. Reductions of primary concern were class size at Avoca West, the \$150,000 tech refresh, and the equity issue of additional student fees. Also discussed were the pros and cons of a one-year implementation of budget reductions versus a two-year phase in, how a two-year phase in may work against staff equity, and how the public may view the District's financial reserves should the referendum fail to pass. It was suggested that the District investigate more savings through energy cuts, regardless of the referendum's outcome. There was a consensus of the Board to make no changes to the proposed budget reduction list and to implement the reductions in one year as opposed to phasing them in over a two-year period. Dr. Porto indicated it was important not to deviate from the contingency plans once they were made public so the District maintains its credibility with the community.

Ms. Roth moved that the meeting adjourn, and Mr. Feis seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

President

Secretary