

SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 15
St. Francis, Minnesota
Issues, Analysis, and Planning Session
May 5, 2008

The Issues, Analysis, and Planning Session was called to order by Chair Anderson at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Directors H. Grams, S. Grams, Haag, Kelly, Lipinski, Vogel and Superintendent Saxton.

Others present were Director of Business Affairs Mae Hawkins, Director of Human Resources Jay Reker, Director of Special Services Jacque Stein, Director of Community Services Tom Larson, staff, and community members.

Any questions can be forwarded to the Superintendent. This is a work session of the Board.

Chair Anderson turned the meeting over to Superintendent Saxton.

Mr. Saxton presented a graph of levy that ran in 2003. Districts have changed positions in the grid. St. Francis asked to be 2/3 of what the metro average was at that time. There will be handouts reviewed.

Mr. Saxton distributed a survey completed by a community member. The demographics are unknown and the study is not scientific, however 550 people completed the survey. The District chose not to survey the public. It was a seven question survey that went out as a distribution list.

Conference Committee – Budget Bill Handout

Ms. Hawkins attended a meeting where Tom Melcher presented what was happening with the legislature. This is what is agreed upon by the Conference Committee however not a final bill. There is talk of a one time \$51 per pupil for 2008-09 school year only. The second part is from the Senate bill to eliminate the school fund subtraction of approximately \$36 per pupil on-going funding starting in 2009-10. Both of these are tied to Q comp in some way and are unlikely to be approved.

If Budget bill passes, conference committee has agreed to new wording for renewals. Until it is approved it is unknown if the language will become law.

Referendum Election Answers Needed

The Board will review handouts regarding what state percentage scenario will be the assumption for 2009-10.

The Board will discuss how many questions to include on the ballot and what amount will the operating referendum be. Other questions and topics to consider follow:

- Renewal of existing questions and reductions of up to 1.7 million.
- Renewal of existing questions and inflation for the last 5 years and reductions of up to 1.2 million.
- Renewal of existing questions and inflation for the next 5 years and reductions of up to \$800,000.
- Questions from November 2007 and reductions of up to \$472,000.
- Operating referendum needed for no reductions if state increase is 0%.

If the District has no operating referendum in place, the District would lose an additional \$800,000, on top of regular reductions. The base reason for this is equity revenue.

Blue Handout: A – Scenarios,

B - Projected Class size impact without operating referendum funds for 2009-10

Mr. Saxton summarized the scenarios dependant on what the State will fund.

Ms. Hawkins summarized the class size impact without operating referendum funding for 09-10.

Lavender Handout – Referendum Amounts – Chart Information

The scenarios for referendum amounts are based on resident enrollments staying the same.

Pink Handout – Reductions still needed for each amount and State Scenario

Reductions noted are for each amount of the State scenario.

Discussion of the Board follows:

- Do not support having students within the two mile radius walking to school.
- If the transportation question is removed the District cannot run the referendum as a renewal.
- If run as renewal the language must stay the same as previous referendum.
- Re-craft the question similar to Anoka Hennepin, if the District gets additional dollars from the State then the District will not levy for that amount.
- The Board will operate off option C, “0” increase from the State.
- Propose some questions and hold a Public Forum to solicit community input.
- Why the need for multiple questions? Voters might vote for some questions, however possibly not vote for all that are on the ballot.
- Must be clear communication.
- Information should go out before end of school year.
- Hold a Public Forum.
- Have questions similar to previous referendums, i.e. question One must pass for question Two & Three, question One & Two must pass for question Three to pass.
- Have the resolution for Operating Levy on the May 27 Board agenda.
- Community can submit comments to School Board and Administration if they are unable to attend the Public Forum. Notice of the meeting will be posted in the buildings and on the website.
- Ms. Hawkins will present a summarized school finance presentation at the Public Forum.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Harry Grams, Clerk