

**MINUTES OF MEETING
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT PANEL
PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 209
July 24, 2009
1:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Craig Schilling called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

James McEnroe, Member
Craig Schilling, Member

Absent:

James Popernik, Chairman

Also present:

Debby Vespa, ISBE
Kenya Austin, ISBE
Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, District Superintendent
Dr. Nikita Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Althea Busby, Assistant Executive to the Superintendent
Chris Welch, Board Member
Theresa Kelley, Board Member

Public Comment: Board President Chris Welch asked the FOP member to put his statement from July 14th board meeting into our minutes. The statement stated that the school board is working together with the FOP to get the school district on the right track financial. Dr. Schilling thanked Mr. Welch for the statement of kind words.

Statement from Board President, Chris Welch:

“As most of you are already aware, since January of this year, District 209 has been working collaboratively with a Financial Oversight Panel, aka the FOP. The FOP members were appointed by the State Board of Education after the Proviso Board sought there [sic] voluntary assistance at the end of 2008. Our goal then was the same as our goal know: [sic] financial stability.

Two years ago, the BOE passed a balanced budget resolution. At that time, the Board had an approved budget with a \$14 million deficit. As we worked toward the balanced budget, the next year, the Board approved a budget with a \$7 million projected deficit. On July 14th, the Board took action to approve a tentative budget that will go on display for the next thirty days before it is finally adopted. This year’s budget has an approximate \$3 million deficit.

As we inch closer and closer to a budget with zero deficit spending, we believe the voluntary assistance of the FOP will be extremely valuable. The voluntary assistance that you three FOP members is [sic] very much appreciated, and on behalf of the full BOE, I want to thank you. Thank you for your time, your support and guidance.”

Dr. Collins-Hart stated she had nothing to report for the Superintendent report.

Dr. Johnson stated the tentative budget was the same as presented in prior meeting. Dr. Schilling asked if the Operation and Maintenance and the Transportation contracts have a fix cost and if the budget reflects the reductions in State funding. Dr. Johnson stated that the budget reflects both. Deb Vespa also stated that foundation level did increase but it will not affect revenue significantly for the coming year.

A motion was made to approve minutes of June 29, 2009
By Mr. McEnroe and seconded by Dr. Schilling
All approved, no nays

A motion was made to enter Executive Session in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) for the purpose of Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (2) collective bargaining, and 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11) Litigation at 1:19 p.m.
By Mr. McEnroe and seconded by Dr. Schilling
All voted in favor to approve, no nays

A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session at 2:17 p.m.
By Dr. Schilling and seconded Mr. McEnroe.
All voted in favor to approve, no nays

The staffing plan in the Financial Plan stated a teacher ratio of 17 to 1 but Dr. Collins-Hart stated that they have been doing a 19 to 1 ration which has resulted in tremendous academic downsizing to the district. She states that they will have to continue this discussion to improve the plan. The ARRA revenue is being used to improve reading and math for the district. But the district still has not provided the FOP with a staffing plan for school year 2010. When inquiry was made as to when a staffing plan would be available, Dr. Collins-Hart stated that in order for the plan to work they have to look at requirement of the district and she cannot guarantee that the district will not hire more staff for the coming year. FOP states that their expectation of the district is follow the approved Financial Plan.

FOP discussed the analysis brought by the board reflecting that the year to year cost has decrease and that they will continue to cut cost for the coming in the year. The FOP was glad to see that the cost has decreased and that district review operations for further reductions.

Discussion of the Student Activity Fund and Bidding was postponed until Dr. Popernik was in attendance.

The Superintendent reported that the purchase of bottled water was discontinued for several departments in the district.

The bidders for the hot lunch program reduced their proposed increase to CPI of 4.1% and the program will be rebid for next school year, 2011.

Action Items:

A motion was made to approve Action Items 11A-1 through 11A-3, Personnel Report
By Mr. McEnroe and seconded by Dr. Schilling
By roll call vote, all approved, no nays
All approved, no nays

A motion was made to approve Action Items B – Bills Payable in the amount of \$1,825,451.37 and June Payroll in the amount of \$1,234,209.54
By Dr. Schilling and seconded by Mr. McEnroe
By roll call vote, all approved, no nays

No action was necessary for Action Item 11C – Attorney Fees

For action item D-1 Triton, Mr. McEnroe asked if it is for classroom usage and Dr. Johnson confirmed that there is no cost increase to the district.

In discussion of the contracts, it was reported by the Superintendent that the contract to Hyatt Regency O'Hare for the 2010 Proviso West High School Prom and the contract to Mystic Blue Cruises for the Proviso West Prom Cruise were of no cost to the district as these contracts will be paid by activity funds received.

A motion was made to approve Action Item D1 through D6 – Contracts/Bids
By Mr. McEnroe and seconded by Dr. Schilling
By roll call vote, all approved, no nays

There was no discussion on action items 12 or 13, Students Code of Conduct or Policy Manual Updates

In the discussion of the 2010 Tentative Budget, the FOP inquired as to what the district's general plan was to range in the Operation and Maintenance Fund and the Transportation Fund. The district administration is continuing to work on this and stated that much will have to come with the future contract negotiations. It was also stated that the transportation contract has a fixed gasoline cost in it.

Mr. McEnroe asked the district administration to provide the FOP with budget to actual from year to year. That will assist the FOP in determining if the budget is realistic to the actual cost from prior year.

Dr. Johnson stated that the budget was reduced \$1.2 million this year. When inquiry was made as to how this was done, Dr. Johnson stated that social workers were eliminated, transportation was cut, and additional staffing was reducing this year.

A motion was made to approve to the FY10 Tentative Budget

By Dr, Schilling and seconded by Mr. McEnroe.

By roll call vote, all approved, no nays

A motion was made to approve to the PAEC FY10 Tentative Budget

By Mr. McEnroe and seconded by Dr. Schilling

By roll call vote, all approved, no nays

There was no new business

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.