

**Transcript of a
Portion of the Board of Education
Regular Meeting**

held on

**February 8, 2010
at 7:30 p.m.**

Regarding

Proposed Budget Reductions for 2010-11

Meeting held at:

District 300 Administrative Center
300 Cleveland Avenue
Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

Transcribed by:

Roberta Glab
for *Office Team*

Transcriptionist Note: Absent from the meeting was Board Member Chris Stanton, due to a family emergency.

The portions of the meeting transcribed are:

- the agenda item titled *Public Participation* as the comments directly related to the budget reductions,
- the agenda item titled *Superintendent's Report: Additional Budget reductions for consideration*, and
- Board discussion about D300's recent meeting with state legislators.

Transcript Begins:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Just a general rule – We allow five minutes. We do not respond. I'll give you a heads up at four, and when you get up here please give your name and address and whether you are an employee of the District or an employee of a contractor for the District. First off, we have Gayle Allmandinger – and I apologize if I didn't do well with your name.

....

GAYLE ALLMANDINGER

I'm Gayle Allmandinger. I'm a media specialist in District 300. I live at 732 Regent Drive in Crystal Lake and I am an employee of the District. I'm a media specialist at both Neubert and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools. Along with me today are five additional media specialists for District 300, or four, for support. I am also the elementary media coordinator for our District. I felt compelled to be here on behalf of some friends. My friends are five and six years old. My friends are too young to speak here tonight. Some may already be asleep. But my friends need to have their voices heard.

My friends are learning. They are learning to turn pages carefully. They are learning to care for things that do not belong to them. They are learning to give books a little hug. They are learning the responsibility of borrowing a book and returning it on time. They are learning about books. Books have titles, authors and illustrators. They learn that an author is a writer. They learn that the illustrator is the artist. They are learning that authors are like us. They discover that the author, Cynthia Rylant, has two dogs named Martha Jane and Leia and two cats named Blueberry and Edward Velvetpaws. These are funny names.

The illustrator, Mark Teague, has two daughters and they like to draw. One of the daughters is named Ava. A child will respond, "That's my name, too." They learn that Audrey Wood has always wanted to be a child's book author. When she was in grade school, she checked out a book from the library, liked it so much, she crossed out the author's name and wrote in her own name. They would never do that, but they understand why Audrey Wood did. They love books. Just like her. They learn they have connections with authors and illustrators.

They are learning that when authors like Robert Munch or Margie Palatini read us a story they laugh. They laugh so much. They love to hear the stories. They are learning that they love books. Books are good friends. They are learning that books can teach us things. So many things. They learn by themselves with books. Students tell me, "Did you know this?" or "Did you know that?" I say "No, and show me in your book." And I am amazed along with them. We learn things together as a class about books. They are learning that there are fiction books from imagination and non-fiction books that are not from imagination. They are learning the parts of a non-fiction book. They learn that there is a table of contents, glossary, and index. In kindergarten they really like animal books and they can find all kinds of

information in our books. We read about animal homes. We take notes together on a big sheet that is shaped like a house. They have a hunger for non-fiction books. They want to learn and they are learning. They create their own animal books, too. Our books have a table of contents, glossary and index. They are proud of all their learning and all that they can do.

They also learn about technology. They are learning that the computer mouse has two buttons and that they want to click “this” button. They are learning that there are times when they try to maximize, their page goes away. They have accidentally hit the minimize button. They are learning that when this happens, we must look at the task bar. Sometimes they call this taskbar “the basement.” They can find things in the basement. Sometimes they cannot find something on their page. They are learning that when we pull the scroll bar down, we can see more. Sometimes they call this an elevator and have to hold the elevator tightly when they pull it down. They are exploring computer programs and websites. They can use a mouse, to drag, point, click and click. They learn about double clicking. Double clicking a program is a little tricky, but they get the hang of it and are able to open programs and documents by double clicking.

They are learning about the keyboard. There are letters and numbers. There’s a space bar, arrow keys, backspace. Sometimes they use the backspace to erase what they have written.

They can paint on a computer. There are so many tools and colors to paint with. They love to paint. They can paint patterns, too, with shapes and colors. They can paint things they are learning in class.

They are learning so much about computers. They are learning about websites, too. Electronic books like TumbleBooks. They learn that they can access the same websites and electronic books at home that they do at school. They just have to ask their parents for permission to go to our school’s website and visit the library on line. There are tons of fun activities to do on the Library Page. They can teach their families what they have learned.

I would like to ask the board to not take our kindergarten friends’ learning away. Keep Kindergarten Media. They want to learn. They love to learn. They need to learn. I would like to share a quote from the International Reading Association. It states, “School Library Media Professionals promote, inspire and guide students towards a love of reading, a quest for knowledge, and a thirst for life-long learning.” What better place to start this quest and thirst than kindergarten?

Thank you very much.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you very much. Jen Rau?

GAYLE ALLMANDINGER

I’m going to be sending each of you a copy of the school’s library work, as well.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

That’s just fine. Thank you.

JEN RAU

Hi. I’m Jen Rau. I’m a Junior at Dundee-Crown High School.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Excuse me. What is your age, please?

JEN RAU

Seventeen.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Do you have your parent's permission to be here?

JEN RAU

Yes.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Okay. Good. I have to ask that. She has to be eighteen; otherwise she needs her parent's permission. Go ahead.

JEN RAU

I would like to address the extreme importance of school counselors to the school body expressing the detrimental effects a cut in the counseling staff would have on the success of students at Dundee-Crown or in District 300 in general.

A student's success in high school would be much greater if he or she had a closer connection to his or her counselor. However, in order for this to be done, it is important that counselors not be matched with too many students. In District 300's case, it is quite clear that each school counselor is already faced with an overload of students, many of whom are hardly familiar with the counselors by the end of three years in middle school or four years in high school. A cut in school counselors would cause even more difficulties for these students. Many are unaware of the importance of school counselors.

The role of a professional school counselor is principally to assist students in personal, social, academic, and career development to ensure current progress and a successful future. Helping to provide students with a rigorous educational experience, counselors motivate students to challenge themselves by taking difficult classes, achieving high scores on standardized tests, applying for scholarships and going to college. While guiding student development, counselors also play a key role in confidentially addressing a student's needs, providing him or her with a safe place to discuss absolutely any issue or concern.

What many are also unaware of is that the list continues for the duties of a school counselor. Not only is it their job to personally assist students, but also to take on other responsibilities as well. Many counselors are asked to perform administrative duties such as class scheduling, state testing, supervision, and even leading extracurricular activities. Also, a lot of students, unfamiliar with the aid that counselors can provide, are not motivated to go to their counselors on a regular basis. As a result, the counselors are faced with the burden of constantly chasing down students which can be quite time consuming, based on personal experience.

Many districts have gained important victories in higher academic standards, improved teachers' class size reduction and taking greater responsibility for the success of (garbled). However, the vital need for more school counselors is absent among these accomplishments (garbled) improved student success. With all the specific tasks performed by counselors in schools, it is easy to see why the more students they are assigned to the more difficult it becomes to perform these tasks to the best of their ability. Research by the American School Counselor Association has shown that the ideal caseload of a counselor should be around 200 students. However, according to a counselor at Dundee-Crown, the average counselor at Dundee-Crown has a caseload between 250 and 350 students. And District 300 middle schools just have one or two counselors that serve the entire school population. With almost 1,000 students in these middle schools, a mere one or two counselors is nowhere near enough for middle schools. And with the additional needs of high school students in preparation for college, it is extremely important that the high school of District 300 do not increase their student per counselor ratio.

Each year of high school is accompanied by a specific set of objectives that counselors use to advise the students they see. For first year students, it is a counselor's duty to stress good grades for future success. As an aid for first-year students, the counselors help to send unfamiliar pupils down the right track as they may not realize the importance of grades. It is also the job of a counselor to help students begin thinking

about a career that he or she may want to pursue.

Counselors who assist second-year students in high school are presented with the task of making sure that the grades are being kept up and students are prepared for the practice ACT. This leads students into their third year of high school where an abundance of counselor aid is necessary. Counselors at this level are to be making sure that students are now beginning to recognize a future career, choosing colleges to apply to, and taking the necessary tests, such as the ACT or the SAT, needed to actually get into these colleges. During the final year for high school students, many counselors are asked to help with college applications, provide scholarship options, and write even more recommendations for college-bound students.

While I realize money is a problem in the current situation, keeping the current amount of counselors would clear be beneficial, not only for student success, but also for the success of the School District as a whole. From the first day of high school to graduation, a counselor assists a student on a journey that is crucial for future accomplishments. It is imperative that a student receives maximum benefits from their counselor. This will, however, be virtually impossible if the District 300 ratio of student to counselor increases.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank, you Jen. Appreciate it.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Jen?

JEN RAU

Yes.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

That was an incredibly well-written and executed speech and paper.

JEN RAU

Thank you.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Jim Gromer?

JIM GROMER

Dr. Arndt, District 300 School Board Members, my name is Jim Gromer. I live at 520 South First Street in West Dundee.

I work as a day custodian at Jacobs High School. I have been in District 300 for 18 and a half years. I am also a 1987 graduate of Jacobs High School. I take great pride in Jacobs, making it a clean and healthy school for the 2,300 or so kids that walk through Jacobs' doors every day. I know you, the School Board, have a hard decision to make on February 22 for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year because of the state budget problems.

One of the budget cuts that you are looking at is to let 11 custodians go from the District schools; Jacobs, Dundee-Crown, Hampshire and some of the smaller schools will be affected. This concerns me for one reason. In the past, we have had MRSA and H1N1 in schools in Illinois and around the country. If you let custodians go, you run the risk of something happening in the future at the schools that are affected by this budget cut, especially the high schools that have athletic events.

District 300 School Board, please look into this matter before you make your decision on February 22. Thank you for letting me speak tonight.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you, sir.

DEBBIE VOJTSEK

Thank you for giving me this opportunity this evening. I am Debby Vojtsek. I live at 1701 Westbury in Algonquin. I'm a sub (substitute teacher) for District 300 for the last six years. I have subbed exclusively at Jacobs for the last four. I love my job. Every morning I get up and check that computer right away to see if I can find a job. I get up every morning around 3:45 and I'm looking for those first jobs.

As you might have guessed, I'm here asking you, please, reconsider decreasing the pay for the long-term subs. I am willing to do my part for District 300. I understand we are in a terrible predicament. But cutting our salary in half – that's almost insulting. These are your children that we are teaching, all right, and you get what you pay for. As a long-term sub, we have to do the same job as a regular teacher. I have to do lesson plans, I have to make conferences with parents, I have to do the extra hours. When you are at home sleeping with your kids on the days off, I am there with the teachers on those Development Days. So it's not like we just go in and babysit. So I ask you please reconsider the pay cut.

In the last (meeting) minutes, there was some suggestion of changing the requirements for the substitutes to be teacher certified. I ask you to please reconsider that. Although it looks good on paper, what will happen is that you will maybe have graduates from college coming out and they will leave the District after they find a job. I have been here for six years. I plan on being here for another six or 20 years. I love this job and I think track record proves itself. The quality of subs you get is how the District treats their employees. So, please, let me do for you, as you've treated in the past with such kindness and faith. I promise to uphold that and I ask that you please recognize that in return. Thank you.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you, ma'am. Sharon Fetting?

SHARON FETTING

I am Sharon F. I live at 3 Preston Court, Algonquin, IL. ... The District is talking about cancelling gym and Music classes from kindergarten to save money. That is a huge mistake. So it takes them long to line up. Who cares? It's the process of learning.

What we need to look at is cutting this administration. The District hired four division heads in 2007 at the cost of (less than) \$2 million with their benefits. We have fourteen division heads at the cost of \$1,180,000, which is not including the cost of their benefits. We need to look at cutting some division heads or some assistant or associate principals. They don't need two different sets of people looking over them. I give the teachers credit with speaking up saying the division heads have done nothing to improve their performance. I have an article out of the *Sun Times* that says, "90% of teachers say routine duties and paperwork interfere with teaching." That tells me there is too much waste in administration. Let the teachers teach and have a smaller administration. They propose to have seven furlough days for year-around staff, including administration. We would save \$815,000. That is a start. But why don't they make it 14 furlough days because the administration received a pay raise for 2009-2010 school year at a total cost of \$413,000? So, if we add \$815,000 plus the \$413,000, we could make it a \$1,228,000 in cuts. Most of you are making over \$80,000. How do you justify taking a pay raise and threatening to take gym and music from the kindergarteners? The average pay raise was about \$5,000. Will seven furlough days totaling \$5,000 or less? What are you really giving up? One out of eight people are out of work, property values have dropped 33%, but yet the public servant still gets a pay raise.

... If the District is financially strapped and it feels it need to cut basic programs, then we need to cut the programs which are not available to all children. All Dual Language classes for English learning Spanish in grade school. (*garbled*) programs in the Tech Prep program where the District paid \$67,000 so 127 students were able to take college courses. Paying for college is not the taxpayers' responsibility. How

can this administration even consider cutting programs which is for every child but continue programs which are only for a select few? As you know, I am a huge advocate that the school should give me the opportunity to have my child in Spanish class. I want my children to have somewhat of an understanding of the language. Even the District has their website in Spanish. But I am denied it so I have to look at other alternatives. I adjust my bills to afford to send my children to an outside class for Spanish.

If parents believe their child is gifted, well they're going to have to pay for their extra programs, too. But to deny all children basic programs which we had growing up is wrong.

I think maybe all the administration should write their job descriptions, submit it to the Board, review jobs and see what we absolutely need. I notice that we have a total of 24 employees of technology. technology coordinator 1, technology coordinator 2, technology support, certified technology support, supervisor of instructional technology, coordinator of instructional technology and a chief technology officer. I would like to know what the differences are between all these titles. That is just one example. I'm not trying to pick on the Technology Department. It's just the one I noticed first. ...

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you, ma'am. Dr. Arndt?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

At this time, under the Superintendent's Report, the administration is going to be presenting other options for the Board to consider in the future regarding budget reductions. I say "in the future" because, based on all the information we have received from Springfield, the budget next year will be far worse than this year. We are presently looking at \$6 million in delayed state payments. It is anticipated those \$6 million dollars next year could ratchet to \$18 million.

We are all painfully aware of how difficult it has been to even reach the \$6 million in reductions – let alone thinking what it's going to be like next year with \$18 million, if that's the number we have to try to capture.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

That's \$18 (million) additional.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

\$18 (million) additional. The Board and the administration is absolutely committed to not to go back to the voters for a referendum. That is the reason for these budget reductions. There isn't one person in this room who wants to live through the days of ... 2005, where we had a \$27 million deficit. And we had high school AP (Advance Placement) classes of 45. Those are the days we are not going back to. And so that is the reason for these budget reduction proposals. February 22 will be the ... evening that the Board meets to make the decision on the reductions.

At this time, we are going to be presenting new ideas – which (I am) not going to recommend on February 22, because that would not give credence then to the EPRT process. It does not provide opportunity for the general public to comment on these new proposals. But these new proposals have been generated through additional conversation through e-mails and communication to the Board ...

The area that has the biggest impact is transportation. And that's what we are going to be presenting this evening. And it is Draconian. I will tell you, it is Draconian. It is something that nobody wants to see. It will absolutely decimate some of our programs if we don't have transportation. But by the same token, I was at a meeting in Springfield last week and the state (*garbled*) says the time has come for us to pick or choose. "Do you want preschool education, or do you want to reduce general state aid by \$500 a kid?" It is getting that bad. "Do you want to have alternative education, or do you want to have transportation? Pick or choose, but you can't have both." That is the message we are getting from our elected officials in Springfield. It's reaching the stage where people are saying maybe we should issue teacher script.

Seriously. Teacher warrants, or script, were issued during Abe Lincoln's days. That's what they are issuing now in the State of California to teachers because (California is) broke.

So that's why we are looking at these measures. It's not to scare people, but to say, "This could be our future."

So on February 22, (my) recommendations ... remain the same as they have been for the past month and a half which is what the public has commented on. But now these are new proposals that might have to be considered in the near future if we don't hit that target of \$6 million of reductions. That's how desperate we are. But we are not alone. Every single district in this state is experiencing the same thing, except for the extremely wealthy North Shore communities – but they are borrowing also.

So at this time Mrs. Bordsen is going to present some additional transportation recommendations. Again, this could be the future, but it will not be a proposal for February 22.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Donna, before you start. I would just like to make a comment that I want everybody to know that Dr. Arndt has an extremely difficult job in putting together things that none of us want to do to come up with the \$6.5 million. And I also want you to know that every Board member up here feels the passion and feels the pain of the people who speak to us, "Please don't cut this, and don't cut that." But the fact of the matter is something has to be cut and this is going to look like a cake walk compared to what we are anticipating for next year. And so I commend the administration for putting together a difficult package that tried to spread the pain out across the District, across all levels from administrators on down and for also giving us options to consider as it continues to roll out. Please go ahead, Donna.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Good evening. I am going to highlight some of the things I put in my EPRT. These would have been budget cuts recommendations for the 2011-2012 school year. Some of these things are going to require further review on the part of program administrators. One of them is Preschool For All programs. That's currently at four schools that we transport: deLacey, Wright, Gilberts and Perry. The cost to the District right now is \$672,000 a year. This is not a reimbursable expense. Transportation for Preschool for All students is not mandated by the state, so it is not something that we can be reimbursed for.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

And how many students are affected?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

We have 660 in the preschool program. Not all of them are transported.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

So something less than 660.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Yes, it is.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

That's good enough. Thanks, Donna.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

I'm simply presenting facts. I'm not recommending anything.

We are working with deLacey on a bell time change for them. We think if we start them a half hour later, we would recognize in excess of \$100,000 saving because we could use those buses. Right now they can't be used anywhere else because of their bell time and the equipment that's on those buses. But if we

change bell times, we could use them at other places so they wouldn't be single-tier routes anymore. And that would be a significant savings. Also, Gary Wright and Gilberts are phasing out Preschool for All after next year and that would be about another \$100,000 savings so long as we weren't just transferring their Preschool for All to another building.

Another significant cost in transportation that's for a voluntary program is the Dual Language program. The students that we transport to three schools - Meadowdale, Liberty and Gary (D.) Wright - are costing us \$157,000 a year. Meadowdale has one year left of their program and then that will be phased out. Gary (D.) Wright just started, so right now they have just kindergarten students and it is a significant cost to bring 17 students out there. We use two different bus routes for those 17 kids because they are five-year-olds and coming from all across the District, basically the Dundee-Carpentersville area, putting them on a single route made the route 90 minutes so we put them on two different buses. But what I caution you with here is as they add another grade level next year and bring in another group of students, especially if they are coming from this end of the District, those costs are only going to rise.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

So, Donna, what was that cost? You didn't mention it.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

\$157,000. The 17 kids is 57 right now: \$57,000.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

So for 17 kids it's costing \$57,000 to bus?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Yes.

Ombudsman Program: There are two different types of students that go. There are the special ed and regular ed students. We're currently spending \$125,000 to transport those students. We have to provide transportation to the Special Ed students. I believe that there are only five Special Ed students in that program. Eliminating transportation to that would be a significant savings, and then the Special Ed ones are reimbursable. If the state stays where they are, it's 80% of the cost that we get reimbursed, although we've learned that's going to be decreased but we don't know to what.

Work Program: Some of our special ed students that are in a work program, and it is part of their curriculum. This year at Dundee-Crown, the job coaches are using the Driver's Ed vehicles and driving the students to their work site. Significant savings to us. Not reimbursable, but it really does impact our savings in the fact that we're not getting total reimbursement for it. So we are not transporting any Dundee-Crown kids this year. We are doing Jacobs and there are 39 students at a cost of \$157,000. We have to continue that, but we might want to look at some alternatives.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

May I ask a question Mr. Stevens?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Yes.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Donna, those Jacobs kids, are they all special ed kids?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Yes.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

So we have to do that. Okay.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Yes. Where it gets expensive – and this is really a difficult program, because finding employers that will take these kids and do this is difficult for them – what presents a challenge to transportation is that a lot of them are going at route time, at the start of the day or end of the day, which means we can't just shuttle them over so we are creating special routes to do it. That gets very expensive. A route charge is a route charge regardless of whether there's one kid on it or 70 kids on it. It's the same charge so you want to spread that cost across as many students as you can. It's an expensive program.

Another one: Bus supervision. That's currently taken out of the transportation budget, and it's \$315,000 a year. This is staff that are at the loading zones watching that everything is safe. My recommendation is – it's not reimbursable under the transportation claim, so it should probably be taken out of my (Transportation Department) budget and probably given to Gary Chester (Safety Department) because it makes more sense there. For the most part, the supervision is being done by teachers at extra pay at \$32 an hour. This is something that has to be negotiated, I understand. If we pass that on to paraprofessionals (paraeducators) instead of teachers, we could recognize about \$230,000 in savings.

Parochial Transportation: I bring this up because we are going outside of what (the state) says we have to do. The State says that we have to offer transportation (to parochial students in our district), but we don't have to create special routes. So we can pick them up at a bus stop that's currently existing on one of our routes and drop them at a point. We don't have to pull into the driveway of their school. If we are going by, we can pick them up and drop them off. Right now, if they are eligible for transportation based on the distance they live to the public school, we are having them ride their neighborhood bus to the neighborhood D300 school. Then they are put on a shuttle bus that takes them to their parochial school. At the end of the day or mid-day, they have actually dedicated routes because their bell times don't coincide with our bell times. We've worked in the past to try to get them to change their bell times, but they need an extra 30 minutes a day for religious instruction and couldn't do that. It currently costs us \$284,000 to provide the type of transportation we are currently doing.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Donna, can I ask you a question? How many students do we actually transport to the parochial schools?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

We have 305 in our database. I would venture to say we are actually transporting about 150. We have people who want us to put their child on a route in the event they need to use us. I'm working with the drivers now to get accurate counts of who is really riding on a regular basis. It's not a very large number.

We have 27 students who we are taking to Elgin Community College. They are seniors and they are taking college-level courses. The majority of those students are Dundee-Crown students. They are riding nine different routes because they have two different start times, they go to two different campuses. That's costing us \$117,000 a year and that's, again, a voluntary program.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

How many kids?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

27. We have one at Jacobs, one at Hampshire High School, and the rest of them are Crown students. I think there are more students participating in that, but Jacobs kids probably drive themselves to the program.

We have the middle school math students that take a math class at the high school. One that we transport to Jacobs and the rest are Dundee-Crown students that we take back to CMS or AMS. That's an additional expense of \$16,000 a year in transportation costs for them. Any questions?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Donna, your grand total was?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Oh, Dr. Arndt. I didn't grand total.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

I think it was over \$2 million.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Mike's the math person. ...

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

I have one question about the deLacey bell times. Could that change be implemented in the fall?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

Yes, it could.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

And that would be over \$100,000 estimated?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

The one thing you didn't mention, Donna, was the overall cost of busing for deLacey. You only mentioned changing bell times for \$100,000. But isn't the true cost of transportation for deLacey \$1.1 million?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

That includes special ed.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Minus special ed, what is it?

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

\$671 (thousand).

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

And Dr. Arndt, you said that none of these recommendations would be included for this year, to take something like changing the deLacey bell time that we could save starting for next year – taking that and putting it on this year.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

If we can change a bell time, we definitely will look at it. I would also probably recommend in the next couple of months to eliminate the high school transportation to ECC. However, that might basically stop the program at Dundee-Crown, because the kids are taking our bus because they have no transportation. But in terms of the others, no, they will have to certainly be considered in more detail by the Board and to allow more public input, because you're talking about a significant population base that would have services eliminated or (reduced).

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Yes. I'm not advocating for or against. I'm just looking for information here. We talked about the Dual Language Program starting in kindergarten, and then it's going to go on to first grade. And so right now we only have the one level, but it's going to get more. Can we get information on stopping that program? My concern is we're going to have first kindergarten and then we're going to get into first grade and it's going to be further down the road, and if we're going to stop transportation that could effectively kill that program, and why prolong it longer. And again, I'm not advocating for or against Dual Language here or moving it. I just want to know if we can gather some information on this?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

We'll have to. Something that we never really have considered, at least in the last nine years: Some of these programs are absolutely wonderful, and they benefit many students that have high ability and also severe special needs, but we need to also seriously ask – what is the transportation cost?

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

I think also along those lines – we're hearing a lot, "Well, this is special ed and we can't cut it," and, "This is special ed so we have to do this." Well, in Special Ed we get reimbursed they say 80%, but that's only if they (the state) actually pay, but we are required to do that. We've looked into a (state) waiver for Veteran's Day. We've looked into a (state) waiver for changing our Driver's Ed courses. We got these mandates for these programs, and the state tells us to live within our means. Have we ever tried and gone around that to say, "We just can't."

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

U46 just tried (to get a state waiver), and they were rejected regarding transportation. They asked to exceed the limit of 1.5 miles to a 2-mile radius, and that was immediately rejected by the State Board.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

They also asked to have more students in a class in special ed, I think, and that was rejected as well.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Correct.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION DONNA BORDSEN

(garbled) There are those low-incident programs that are at one classroom in one building in the District. And we have students that come from all over to attend that program. As space becomes available or whatever, the more centralized things are, the less distance we are going, and the cheaper the transportation is. If you have to go to Hampshire to pick up a student to take him to Algonquin Lakes, you're not going to pick up a lot of other kids on the way because the time of the route would become so long that it's prohibitive.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I just did my little cell phone calculator on the ECC (Elgin Community College program). For 27 students at that cost, we're spending \$4,300 per year which is two-thirds of what we spend on a child for everything in the District. I personally understand why we don't want to adopt this come February 22, but I think it would be a mistake not to further investigate it for potential cuts next year because, best case scenario, we'll have a surplus. Worst case scenario, an awful lot of these things – it's hard to justify spending \$4,300 a student when, Maryann, what's our overall expenditure now per student – around \$7,000, \$7500?

BUDGET DIRECTOR MERIANN BESONEN

It's about \$8,000.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Over 50 percent of what we would spend for a student to be fully educated, we're spending on 27 kids. That's problematic for me.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

There may be some other alternative way. I'm very cognizant of Dundee-Crown not being able to, not having a car, not having transportation – and we have a lot of students from there. Is there a less expensive way to, I mean \$4,300 is a lot of money per student.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Something else I've also asked Donna to work on is to really re-examine the (residential) developments that we're presently busing. I think what's happened over time is developments have been put in place throughout (District) 300 with sidewalks. But no one says anything (to D300 about the area now having sidewalks). So technically we do not have to provide transportation to a number of homes because they are within the mile and a half and they could walk – although it's a service that's probably been provided for years, if not decades. I have asked Donna to look into this and to make a report to the Board, probably in May ... to give parents ample notice during the summer months to provide other means or to walk to school. And I know that will be a significant change for a lot of our schools throughout (District) 300. But it will also have a significant cost savings. And we'll probably have the meeting in the CMS auditorium. (*audience laughs*)

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Last Wednesday Donna presented this information to the EPRT Committee. I think she felt like she was being grilled, although it was such a learning process, that meeting. And I have to say, Donna, I really want to commend you for digging into all of this. And Dr. Arndt, I would encourage you to have all your department heads dig in the same way, because there has to be things like this that we have to look at a little differently. We want to save as much as we can of the core value education and, I think, we have to look at this stuff especially if we believe we're going to have another \$18 million coming down the pike next year. It's not (only) \$18 million. It's another \$18 million. That's huge.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Our next presentation will be substitute wages, salaries. Mr. Light?

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

Good evening. Can you all hear me? We wanted to provide the Board an update based upon questions I received at the last Board Meeting about the long-term substitute pay rate proposal.

Just a brief overview. As of this morning we had 604 active substitutes who have completed the District-mandated training active in our system. The proposed change we are talking about that generated, in the Board spreadsheets, \$429,000, is to change the pay for long-term substitutes from (LEAD teacher contract) Lane 1, Step 1, which is \$208 a day, to \$108 a day. This was based on a calculation of 54 people. Now the difference between a long-term sub and achieving a higher rate of \$108 after 20 days of subbing is long-term subs are designated for absences that will go longer than 20 days. An example is a leave under the Medical Leave Act, which could last up to 12 weeks. Those people start at a higher rate of pay, which was \$208. The projected savings of \$429,000 was calculated using the difference between a proposed rate of \$108 and the current rate of \$208 for the number of days the 54 worked at as a long-term sub. The next slide is a chart and it's going to be hard for the members of the audience to see. I would like the Board to focus on the last two columns. The last column is the proposed sub rates for 2010-2011. East Aurora and West Aurora, and these are all Kane County Districts which belong to the consortium in terms of human resource services in the county districts, so we drew a comparison. The two Aurora Districts, east and west, are right around \$200 a day currently. Batavia is about \$150 a day for long-term subs, Burlington Central is moving from Lane, 1 Step , in their teacher contract which is right around \$200 they are considering a reduction in that. I do not know what that reduction is. District 300 is the next one on the chart. We had looked at \$108 a day. Geneva follows 300 at \$75 a day

currently. District 302 is currently at \$150 a day. U46 currently pays \$158 with an additional TRS payment for regular subs and then it pays \$175 for retired teachers and is considering another reduction. St. Charles, District 303, is currently paying \$110 day. As you can see, the proposal does put us at the bottom in terms of long-term sub pay.

The next slide is just to give you a couple of ideas about other scenarios. If you stick on the far left with \$108 a day, the estimated cost, projected on how many long-term subs we had this year, would be approximately \$487,000 for next year if you were to pay \$108 a day. Savings compared to what we paid last year would be \$429,000. If you were to reduce it from \$208 to \$125, the savings would be \$353,000. So you would lose a savings of approximately \$76,000. If you were to reduce the rate from \$208 to \$150, you would lose a savings of \$240,000.

That's the information. Are there any questions from the Board?

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Just a comment. I noticed if you use the average from your column of \$175 a day then that would be \$143,000 savings.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

From \$175 a day?

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Yes.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

You just carried it out another column.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Right. Because this column shows long-term sub average for Kane County would be \$175, using these numbers, or somewhere around there picking a median.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Any other questions of John?

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

It's very amazing the fluctuation in pay from district to district. I am surprised at the fluctuation. Thank you for the data.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

You're welcome.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Mrs. Miller?

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

You gave us data on the comparison with other districts on the rate of pay for long-term subs. Are there consistent duties throughout different districts on what a long-term sub does? We had someone here explain to us long-sub also goes to professional development meetings, conferences with teachers, planning, all of that. Is that consistent with long-term sub job descriptions for all of these other school district?

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

I believe there is consistency in the duties throughout the districts. In terms of qualifications, there will be some differences in qualifications between Districts.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Qualifications such as retired teachers or needing teacher certification versus?

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

Some Districts are requiring valid teaching certificate in the grade level or area the person is teaching in. Not a sub certificate. Currently, we are requiring a sub certificate and not a regular certification.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Would it be too difficult to add a column on here to let us know which ones require the higher certification so we can say they pay less but they require less, or they paying higher but they are requiring higher?

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

We can certainly do that.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Okay. Thank you.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Anne, we covered that in the HR (Human Resources) Committee. There are schools to the east of us that are now requiring substitutes to be certified.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Yes. I believe you mentioned that.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Schaumburg was one of them. There are a few others that are now looking at making sure teachers are certified before they allow them to sub.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

When you had that discussion in HR did you - it was also mentioned then that's there's concern that we would get the recent graduates that are out looking for a job and filling in. Do you know if those districts out east that are requiring that - are they coming up with retired teachers or are they coming up with teachers that are maybe taking a leave of absence?

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

We would have to look at that. I don't think we looked at that data, did we John?

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

No. We did not have that data from them. We can get some.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

I'm just curious to try and see if they're doing it out there and if they're running into

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

What they're getting.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Yes.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Any other questions of John?

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Just one. Is TRS (Illinois Teacher Retirement System) required for retired teachers? I noticed that in one of the boxes.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES JOHN LIGHT

No, I do not believe it is.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you, John.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

The third and final administration presentation this evening is going to be by Dr. Scarpino, who will detail expenses for food.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

This was a hot topic in the e-mails. A very hot topic.

VARIOUS VOICES OF BOARD MEMBERS

It is.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I do want to also mention, and information is in the packet, Dr. Scarpino very quickly followed up on the students who addressed the Board a meeting ago and talked about the vegan diet and the posting of nutritional information and has resolved that to everyone's satisfaction. He hopped right on that. Thank you for doing that.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

You're welcome.

This will be, from my perspective, a very simple decision. This will probably be the easiest decision of your \$6 million worth of cuts. We are looking at the amount of money that is spent on food in the District. There are at least 20 different reasons why school officials, ranging from department heads, principals, through the Associate Superintendent – why we purchase food. My suggestion and recommendation is we eliminate those expenses. Very simply. Rather than have food for an in-service, we simply not provide. We can - building principals all understand this - an example would be, next year at the start of the school year, it's nice to have a beginning of the year breakfast, but you know what, let's start having a potluck if you want to have a meal. And you know what - you bring the eggs, you bring this, you bring that. There are some things that we might need to consider continuing (food for), such as Peer Jury. If we are going to have children here in the evening for peer jury, we can spend \$30 or \$40 and I believe we can do something like that. But other than that, I do not recommend having any of our money spent on food items for employees or sometimes students. That's what I have.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

But to continue with the sports banquets and things like that.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Yes. Those would continue because parents pay for those. The District orders the food and then they get reimbursed for that.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

So what you're saying is, we're not going to have the District paying for any food. Any food that is had will be paid for by parents, teachers, whatever. I can see the principal saying, "Well, instead of having potluck, because who knows what's going to be in the potluck, we're going to take a collection. Teachers, do you want to pay? And pay for it that way, but the District won't be buying it.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Correct.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Dr. Scarpino, can you give us other examples, because I think people think we are just going off and eating whatever. But we're talking about food that's provided for student Honor Roll, Graduation and things like that, and what's wrong with that? So can you give us the details of what has been spent?

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Here's what we have spent money on (for food), and these are in no order of priority, please understand that. We have:

1. beginning of the year breakfasts
2. breakfasts for ISAT and PSAE; in other words, for the students
3. student incentives
4. senior awards
5. academic awards assemblies
6. summer reading program
7. District registration
8. Graduation
9. various building and District meetings - instead of having the teachers and employees leave because it will take them so many minutes to get in their car, then they leave, then they come back, some food items have been provided
10. District level PTO Council meetings, when the parent (volunteers) come to the District office
11. end-of-the-year celebrations
12. snacks for students taking tests
13. faculty appreciation
14. Student Council
15. Board of Education meetings
16. Peer Jury food for (student) jurors
17. parent-teacher conferences
18. honor roll celebrations
19. municipal meetings, and when we had the legislators here
20. whenever there's a grand opening of a school, such as Hampshire High School. At Hampshire High School we had a celebration for the community.

Those are twenty categories. There could be a hundred categories. I tried to lump in all of Dr. Crates' information into as few categories as I could, but that's what we spend our money on. The kids get it, employees get it, but I think right now we just need to stop doing that.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

What's the grand total?

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Generally, \$56,000 for the whole District, for \$20,000 kids.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

And the free coffee is going out next door.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Yes.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

And a machine is going in.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Yes.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

The Board is right. This has generated (some of) the most public interest of all the topics.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

But I do want to make it clear. Please don't leave here thinking that that \$56,000 is spent whenever we have a meeting we just buy lunch for people. That's not accurate. It isn't. It isn't.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Mr. Stevens?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Mrs. Clark.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Would it be possible to get a breakdown of how much of that budget is actually spent on the kids? Personally, I don't know that I really want to cut the kids. I can see cutting the staff and administration, but really I don't know that I want to cut their (student) awards and things like that.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

Could it be done? Yes. It would be a challenge because principals sometimes take money out of pop funds or other (non-taxpayer) funds. We could look at it. I can try that.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Just a general idea of what we actually spend for like their award ceremonies and things like that.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Could it be possible, and I'm just tossing out an idea here, that, you said \$56,000 right? We say cut \$52,000, \$4,000 then gets put into a budget, and I'm just tossing out numbers, to be used for kids or \$2,000 to be used for kids, something like that.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Mrs. Clark raises a very valid question because I remember two principals saying, "You know what? Our PTO, they are so generous. We have anything that we want in terms of food and snacks." And then I remember vividly a principal on the east side saying, "That's very nice, but you know what, we can't even afford one assembly. And we work very, very, hard to get money raised for an assembly." So he uses his building fund for the end-of-the-year staff appreciation. It's a very valid point because there's no way some of our east-side schools are going to have anything unless we help them along.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

It's so minor. Personally, couldn't we come up with another \$25,000 from somewhere? I mean I know at this point that sounds like a lot of money, but if that's what we're going to spend on the kids, I would like to find someplace in our budget where we could at least keep that for the kids. They're going to be taking it on the chin as it is.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

The breakfast before they take their tests.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

I think we could do that.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

If you look at the parochial school or the ECC bus transportation, I think there's a number of transportation matters where we might be able to come up with \$25,000.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

So, David.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT DAVID SCARPINO

I will, yes, I can do that. Anything else? No? Okay.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Thank you, Dr. Scarpino. You had the fun job.

Any questions on any of those items for Dr. Arndt or staff?

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

This is all posted on our website?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Correct.

....

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Any other questions of Dr. Arndt or staff? Mrs. Miller?

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

The questions we had asked in our last meeting are we going to be ...

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

This is the time.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Is now the time to ask those? I have a couple of follow-up questions. This would be for (Finance Chief Dr. Cheryl Crates) Cheryl and Jeff King (Gilberts Elementary Principal), and since Dr. Crates isn't here, it falls on you, Jeff.

The question was: "Send the Board the standard for determining when an assistant principal is given to a building."

We received a spreadsheet and I want to make sure that I'm understanding this correctly. The allocation formula as I'm reading for principal and assistant principal - if it's 700 it is a principal and assistant principal and if it is 750 it gets another assistant principal?

GILBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL JEFF KING

No. 700 is a principal, 750 would be the plus one, would be an assistant.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

I wasn't quite sure how that read. There was no explanation. That's all I needed to know from you was how to read that. So you're easy.

My next one goes to Cheryl, and again, Dr. Crates isn't here, so I'm sorry, Mr. Bumbales, this falls on you. ... All right. This was on the question regarding : Should we change the chart the Board is using and public is seeing to reflect change in high school staff based on student selection of courses rather than set by department. Well, we got this really great, little one-piece spreadsheet that says -3.7 (teaching

positions). The spreadsheet that had the reductions is the same as it was before. Am I supposed to use my brain, which I can do at times, and gather that since you have this, but no change here, that this is how you want it to be?

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

The 3.7, I believe, is an addition of the 1.1 Art, the 1.2 in CTE and the 1.5 in World Languages. That's where the 3.7 comes from. The 3.7 is there and it is incorporated into the staffing ratio for all three high schools, so the 3.7 has been pulled out and we've been given our staffing allocation for next year with the 3.7 pulled out now.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Okay. So give me very simple, bottom line answer. Does that mean that this chart, where it's got it separated out 1.5 here, etc., adding up to the 3.7, are you saying it should just be a -3.7 overall and these can be grouped together?

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

Yes.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Can we see that change then reflected on our next reiteration of this? We're getting

VOICE FROM AUDIENCE

(unintelligible)

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

So my very simple little instruction or request on that would have been – when we got this packet with information, just tell us that.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

More specifically, could we see World Language and Art not listed, just reduction in electives?

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Right. Exactly.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

We've gotten a lot of e-mail that have said, "We understand you're cutting Spanish 4 and 5." We have gotten probably 10 e-mails from students who believe we're cutting Language 4 and 5. We're not really sure what we're cutting because it's a total.

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

It is a total based on student request.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

So it would be helpful if that was cleared up.

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

I'm sure Dr. Crates, who controls that sheet, will be more than glad to do that for you.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

I understand. All I'm saying is there was the request for the information, and I didn't have a conclusion. And I was thinking this wasn't changed, and you guys were trying to tell us this was the same. But what I'm hearing you say is a change coming along and it won't be cut foreign language, cut CTE. It will be we are going to have a reduction overall of 3.7 teachers at the high school level. It still will be student-driven curriculum, those low-enrollment student curriculum ones are where those cuts will occur.

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

That's how the three high schools are going to follow thorough. Yes.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

And does that have Dr. Arndt's approval?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

When will we have an idea of which are the low-enrollment classes and ...

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

We will have all of our student enrollment – we'll get all of our eighth-grade materials next Tuesday the 16th, we'll have it all compiled and we'll know all of that by the end of February, the first week in March.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Thank you.

HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CHUCK BUMBALES

You're welcome.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Mrs. Roeckner?

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Could I go back to Mrs. Miller's comment on the assistant principals in elementary? So if we look at our current school size at Liberty, Gilberts, and Perry that have the assistants

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Well, there's no assistant at Gilberts.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Not at Gilberts. Right.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

We only have it at Liberty and Perry.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

So Perry's numbers are under 750, but we do have an assistant there.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Correct.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Could you please explain why.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

It's the Superintendent's prerogative because of the needs at Perry Elementary. They need help.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Okay. I was just making sure. So the one on this sheet of paper that we looked at was Liberty.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Liberty is the questionable. Yes.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

But there were two I thought. I thought we had two on the sheet.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

The assistant stays at Liberty or goes elsewhere to help out.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Okay.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Or we hire an additional assistant for Gilberts.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Okay.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Mrs. Clark?

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Can you have Donna come back in? I just want to clarify something. Going to Mrs. Miller's concerns about making sure things are the way they're supposed to be. Some of the cuts Donna is suggesting are all going to be determined whether we need to legally need to provide it like the parochial or how far we have to go before we make the cuts. Or any cuts at all. She is going to research it and make sure it's eligible for the cut. I want everybody to understand that in EPRT that was her instruction so that when she comes back to us and says, "These are what I'm recommending," she has done all the research

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Well, actually she has done the research, and now it's not up to Mrs. Bordsen, it's up to Dr. Arndt to make a decision on what he's going to recommend.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

I thought they were still a couple of questions?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

No, the parochial ones she answered tonight; you answered all of them tonight.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

I just wanted to make sure. The point I want to make is that we can avoid this, it has been vetted, this came up ...

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Well, it hasn't necessarily been vetted, but she ...

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

But it's been through EPRT, that we instructed her to do that.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Yes. She did come forward (to the Board EPRT Committee) and brought forward all the answers that were asked at the meeting. Mrs. Miller?

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

This one is for Dave (David Ulm, Facilities Supervisor). I read your backup, your information between this degree and that degree and cooling this point and that and no such State requirements but it's between us and we don't know what the teachers are doing and not doing and as long as it's within that. My

question comes down to, do you have a different recommendation than what you gave before and did you look into winter settings, summer settings and would that change?

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

It can change. I don't have a recommendation other than the one I gave you.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

And when you say it can change, meaning that you can't do it, that you can make a change or that it's not going to matter that much

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

We can have separate set points for winter and summer, but it's very labor intensive. And the point comes down to when do you make that change? Spring arrives at a different time each year as does winter. As so we always run into what I call the tween months where we fluctuate between needing heat and cooling and, unfortunately, we have hot water heating and chilled water cooling and they use the exact same pipes to move the water through. So once we turn the chillers on, we can't turn the boilers back on. Everything is possible that (voice over). It's a matter of what makes the most sense as far as

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Well, I certainly don't want an increase on the labor side in order to save a little bit over here because you have to balance the time and cost here versus what we'd save here.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

It's my opinion that the increased labor would not be offset by savings.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Okay. And what about narrowing

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Wait. Wait. The increased labor cost would be higher than the savings?

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

It certainly would not justify making the change.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Could you explain more because people think you're just talking about a thermostat, so how much labor are we talking about? I know that that's not correct.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

Because our building automation systems are computerized, someone has to sit down at the site, each school or each building, and they literally have to change all of the set points within the programming of the building automation system for each classroom, so one gentleman could spend an entire day at Jacobs High School alone. So I have a limited amount of maintenance staff that is capable and trained in this. I have two people. So it would take me ten to twelve days to make it through the District.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

My last question, maybe. Your original recommendation was a four-point spread.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

Right.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

And you're still at those same four points?

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

That's my recommendation.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

You're not going down to three, you're not going down to two, but keeping it at the four and what you had recommended. And you did give really good background here as far as what the cost would be and the differences.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

The way heating and air conditioning works as far as differentials in temperature, just because the thermostat is set for 72, and I don't want to confuse heating and cooling, but if your set point is at 72 degrees and the temperature in the room goes above 72, it has to go above by 2 degrees before mechanical cooling will be enabled. And then it cools down two degrees below 72 before it shuts off. It seems like we're bouncing back and forth four degrees. It's not really happening. You don't feel it. It's wasteful in the amount of energy it uses to heat up and cool down, but, also, what happens is if you narrow the band between heating and cooling you could literally try to bring on your mechanical cooling when it is December. So if we get the two bands too close they will cross over and you could have both systems running at the same time.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Okay. So your bottom line is you've done extra research, answered our questions, and your recommendation remains the same.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

Yes, ma'am.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

I have one more question. At the last meeting you mentioned it was a conservative estimate on what you were guessing based on previous energy costs. How much deviation do you think there might be based on energy trends? Are you trying to be conservative on purpose just to follow the last year or two? Is there a potential for greater savings?

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

Actually, our utility costs will be lower this year. We've had a mild winter. Natural gas spiked the fall of '08 and we were absorbing those costs throughout the winter. It didn't actually come back to a normal price range until June or July. So far this year on natural gas pricing, we're 30% below where we were at this time last year. So that's why I'm conservative on the savings. We could drastically alter our set points this year and not realize a difference in cost savings because of the set points will realize it in cost savings because of the lower price of natural gas. That would set us up for a big disappointment the following year.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

But still an overall savings, a lower cost.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

I guess my point is, we might assume that we achieved savings because of altering the set point, but in reality we achieved the savings because of the lower price of natural gas.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Well, also, we've had a much warmer winter than we did last year.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

Right. And that's why the pricing is

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I also think you're kind of missing Mr. Alessio's point. It would still be a savings in real dollars. That you may have an increase in cost next year, but that's because of an increase in cost and the cost of gas.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

I don't think natural gas is going up next year.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

My point is if you turn it down, you use less gas. It's going to be cheaper regardless of whatever the cost of gas is. And I would like to say I'm not totally happy with your recommendation, to be honest with you. I would like to see you have a summer setting and a winter setting. And I would to have you look maybe with Johnson Controls, who helped develop this system. Because I would bet, Dave, once you set whatever the set points are, there's a computer program that will do all of those adjustments for you and you don't have to go in and spend 12 hours at one school.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

There's not. And it's not Johnson Controls. It's Trane and Andover. (garbled) the two systems that have the basic control over our buildings. Johnson Controls just says I want you to come on now, I want you to shut off now. I could create the parameters for the control of the thermostat within the base building system which

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I understand. You're telling me there's no computer program that will help you do that say summer setting, winter setting?

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

There is a computer program, but it would cost us more money.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I guess I'd like

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

It certainly would seed the savings in doing that.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Well, for how many years? What's the payback on it? One year, two years, five years?

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

I can look into that.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I'd like to know that. I really think if you're going down to 72° or 73° in the summer, that's a waste of energy. And I saw your report and I didn't agree with it so I started to dig in to try to find out what the State guidelines are. I couldn't find any so I acknowledge that you did your homework, but I still have to (garbled) some out there and we haven't uncovered it. I've heard it too many times to know.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

Mr. Stevens, it's misleading to assume that we're cooling the buildings to 72°. That's the lowest temperature we'll allow occupied spaces to go to. But in the summer the buildings are unoccupied, so there's only cooling to 78°.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Okay. I was only feeding back what I thought I heard you say at the last Board Meeting that it could go to 72°.

SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES DAVID ULM

If it's occupied.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I think it shouldn't go to 72° if it's occupied in the summer. That's my point.

Any other questions? Mrs. Clark?

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

I think the numbers that you've heard have to do with residential. There are laws governing residential properties that you have for lease to other people. There are set times during the year that heat has to be available and then it goes off at a certain time and it has to be minimums that it has to be. That might be what you're saying.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Could be and I've heard it. Dave did his homework and I accept what he gave me I just have to believe we haven't uncovered it yet. I've been known to be wrong once or twice.

Mrs. Roeckner?

Thank you, David.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Are we any further on any other discussion on Driver's Ed? We had that in our packet under Item No. 10 so do we have any update on anything to do with Driver's Ed?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Do you have a specific question? Our resident expert, (Jacobs High School Principal) Mr. Bregy, is in the audience.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

There was a citizen who submitted a very detailed explanation that showed more savings than we showed.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Right. So I was wondering if what he wrote is correct and should we look toward his recommendation to save more dollars with Driver's Ed.

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

We have done a lot over the last several years with Driver Education, especially the behind-the-wheel portion. There were no parameters before about the number of hours a teacher would drive our students, and so as far as maintenance on the cars, there was just a lot of teachers turning in Blue Sheets on the amount of time they were spending on Driver Ed. We uncovered that through the EPRT process that it was really inconsistent at each of the buildings so that's when we changed. We went to a system where we would be paying each teacher by the student that they would be teaching instead of an open system. That has saved thousands and thousands of dollars. Some of the information in that proposal would not be something that we would recommend, specifically having our students in our shop in auto classes repairing some of the cars. That is not something we would recommend for liability reasons. I'm sure there was some good meaning in that, but that is not something we would recommend.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Maybe it would be helpful though, instead of discounting it, we could have a formal response to that document.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Actually, I did read the response. It was the same type size so you couldn't tell that he had replied to each of the points.

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

I did reply back to that. I don't know if you have it in front of you.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Most of all your comments basically looked at every single cut of what he suggested and did not feel that they were cuts we would want to look at this time.

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

A big portion of Mr. Cronin's proposal would be to take the current Driver Education Program out of the school day, including the classroom portion which is currently taught during the school day. That would have to be something that would be negotiated. We do not have those types of classes that we would take out of the school day and then pay an instructional rate for teachers to teach before school.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

If you offered it before school you would have to provide transportation.

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

And that's another part is that those are students that don't drive to school.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Mrs. Clark?

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

We may have answered this question earlier.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Is this for Mr. Bregy?

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Yes, this is for Mr. Bregy. Are we required by the State to offer – is it just the classroom phase we have to offer?

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

It's changed over the last several years. It is now mandated we offer both, wheel instruction and classroom instruction at the high schools.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

If it is mandated, we have to do it.

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

We actually looked at an earlier proposal that you had, Monica, which we thought was very good. We started looking at the behind the wheel, contracting that out, to see if we could get a waiver. We had a very difficult time trying to get people to return our telephone calls, those companies go in and out of business very, very quickly and we had a very difficult time securing anybody that would be even willing to listen to us.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

I'm going to check with this. I think Genoa is in the process of working on that and contracting out their behind the wheel because they are raising their fees for their behind the wheel. They were charging a lot

less than we were. They've raised it so now they are higher than we are. So they are contracting out the behind the wheel is what I've heard.

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

Mr. Johnson and I did look into that and there were some major school districts like Rockford that also submitted waivers, but those were denied by the State.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Even if we did contract it out, we can't do it because of the mandate?

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

Correct.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Other questions of Mr. Bregy? Mrs. Roeckner?

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

How many students, when you look at our percentage of students, go outside for Driver's Ed versus actually doing it within our own School District? Is it a split half-half?

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

It depends on the school. It's different at each school.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Is it possible to have an outside service do the behind the wheel for a kid during gym class if they've contracted with an outside service?

JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MICHAEL BREGY

We would still have to require the PE credits. They would still have to obtain those credits.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

You can't just ditch gym.

Other questions for Mr. Bregy? Thank you, Mr. Bregy.

Other questions for Dr. Arndt?

Mrs. Miller?

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

I just had a question. This is for (D300 Health Services Coordinator) Sherrie Schmidt. The question had been with RN's and LPN's and I think she did an excellent job in at least explaining to me the difference between the RN and the LPN and who does what, how they are licensed, what they can do or not. I just want to make sure my understanding is correct, that if we went to LPN's, we'd still have to have an RN for the LPN to be working under the direction of.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

That's how I understood it. The RN doesn't necessarily have to be in that building, however.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Right. Because Sherrie now's an RN, so can she be the RN that the LPN's work under?

D300 COORDINATOR of HEALTH SERVICES SHERRIE SCHMIDT

Well, it would probably be pretty difficult because of the needs in all the buildings

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Could I answer the question? I have a health care background. Someone said, “Yes, she could,” but the reason she can’t be is LPN’s, and I’m an advocate of switching to LPN’s, but it can’t happen because LPN’s cannot do assessments.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

So if you just tell me LPN’s can’t. We can’t do it.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

LPN’s cannot do assessments.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Then we don’t even need to be looking at that.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

But they could work for an RN. The RN does not have to be on site, but they are not allowed to do assessments. That kills it.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Okay.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Other questions of Dr. Arndt or staff?

I would like to reiterate the plan. I will tell you that I personally don’t agree with everything on this list and I have strong feelings. But I’m going to vote one way or the other on the list, as we are going to ask you to do. The list will be voted on as a package. I’ve also asked Dr. Arndt to structure the motion in such a way, with the advice of (legal) counsel, that he has a little flexibility should one thing not quite work out that he can do it a little bit more in another area, you know, along with the scope of this. So unless something’s changed, that’s how we’re going to be voting on it come the 22nd.

And then, I, as one Board Member - I’m not speaking for the whole Board, but as one Board Member - would like to see you look not only look at transportation things and make recommendations that could be implemented next year regardless whether or not we do this, but I would like to have other departments look at those types of things as well. I think that Donna did a very good thing in the way she broke it down and examined it.

Mr. Alessio?

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

A couple of transportation changes could take care of the kindergarten PE and music, I think. I feel we should be open to changes in the whole package because that was the whole point of public comment. You mentioned we didn’t want to make any changes because there wasn’t an opportunity for public comment. But if we’re not going to make any changes, then why bother having public comment?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I didn’t say we’re going to make any changes. I’m saying we going to let Dr. Arndt decide if he wants to make any changes based on the input we’ve given him and the public has given him. We’re going to vote on it as a package.

Go ahead, Mrs. Miller.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

We haven’t seen that final package yet, though.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Yes, you have.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Whoa. No. No. No. Tonight it just happened with the high school issues. So that's one change that's already going to change it.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Not really. The bottom line is a reduction of \$6.4 million in hard expenses, and that was presented in January. It could be that a particular union says, "Okay, we understand what the target number is, but we would be willing to look at this new area that perhaps only affects our members," but it wouldn't affect the bottom line. That is, we would make the target. That's the flexibility that we're looking for. But I would say most likely out of that \$6.4 million, 85% will occur.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Okay. Let me rephrase it. The way that this is listed out, and I'm just going to use the one example of the 3.7 reduction in high school staff.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Right.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

That is not how this is reflected. If this is what came through for our final, we'd have an issue because it limits the high schools' ability in where to make those reductions and it limits the high schools' abilities to continue to have a student runned or determined curriculum. So I'm expecting that would be one change that would come through on the final recommendation based on the conversation that happened tonight. The dollar amount is going to stay the same. The number of staff is going to stay the same, but dictating where that comes from, CTE or Foreign Language, is going to be left up to the high schools to determine based on student class enrollments.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Right, but the actual teacher count will be less. So it's going to be a 3.7 reduction.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Based on student enrollment in the class.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Correct. But that's not what this says. So that's why I'm saying. If this comes this way where you're dictating to the high schools - this is where you have to cut - I would have an issue with that.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Which is why I said he wants to write the motion in such as way where he has the flexibility to (garbled and voice over). I hear what you're saying.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

My concern is this goes out to the public and then we're going to get the e-mails from the students and from people

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

I think it's easy to change it to accomplish the same goal.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

And you make sure the words “world language, art and CTE,” are not listed, but “student electives based on enrollment.”

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Right. 3.7 reduction in staff based on students’ elective enrollment.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

Elective enrollment.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Elective enrollment. Right.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

And those were given as an example, because in the past that’s where it has kind of been a marginal. So that will be corrected.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

Right. What I’m saying is that we have not seen a final version of what this is, and if Dr. Arndt comes up with something on transportation or food, switching something around as Mr. Alessio commented, there may be a change.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

Well, I’m not going to recommend any transportation changes for February 22nd. We have to allow the public to respond because right now no one knows we’re talking about their program and their school. The parochial issue alone will fill the auditorium.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

The things that came through transportation were through EPRT. Donna had taken that extra step when she did her EPRT presentation to us. And this is what she came to and she’s not recommending them for this year. It’s for next year, correct, Donna?

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

She’s not making any recommendations. She just dug out the information. It’s up to Dr. Arndt.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

She’s given us information to go on.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

And I, as a single Board Member, said I think we should look at some of those for next year and should we end up cutting \$7 million versus \$6.4 million, I don’t think that’s a bad thing. I don’t think that that means we will add in \$600,000 of other things when we’re facing devastation a year from now. That’s where I’m at.

Other comments for Dr. Arndt or the good of the order?

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

I would agree. I would think we would want to look at the transportation for next year as part of the ...

BOARD MEMBER DAVID ALESSIO

I would rather put in the kindergarten PE and music, and look at transportation more seriously. Because I feel that’s important, just based on the feedback we’ve had. We asked for feedback, and that’s the most common comment - besides my own feelings - hearing from several levels of elementary parents and even older that they felt that was an important part of kindergarten.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNE MILLER

And the talk about changing the deLacey bell times and what we would save with that, versus what the cost is on kindergarten music and PE. But I don't know, we talked about whether it could be implemented for next year. Yes, but I don't know how difficult that would be in changing bell times.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEN ARNDT

I would only caution the Board that the \$6.4 million cuts really have been studied for well over six months. And we looked at every nuance and to ensure we can make this work. I am confident, although it is very painful, that we can make it work. When we are talking about transportation and thinking, "Well, if we're going to cut transportation we can save kindergarten phys ed and music," and then we find out later it won't work, we haven't saved anything and we've just made a lot of angry people. The transportation hasn't really been completely thought through, and we haven't told any of our parents or staff that this is being considered. Because some of these programs without transportation, I think, are not going to be offered then because the kids aren't going to be coming.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Mrs. Clark?

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Just to ride on what Dr. Arndt has said. During EPRT there were some issues that came out about reducing the transportation that really need to be looked at before we make a decision. And there are things you don't think about, but the group that's going to be affected, they came up and said, "This is what's going to happen and ..." . We sat there and said, "Oh, my gosh. We didn't even think about it. It looks great on paper, but the practicality of it is it's not going to work for the school day." And so that has to be looked at before we make decisions on these transportation cuts. Yes, it really looks good on paper and, yes, we probably could save PE and music for the kindergarteners, but it's not going to happen this year just because everything has to be looked at further before we make that decision.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Which is why he brought it up to us tonight: To open that door.

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

Right. Exactly.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Other questions or comments?

....

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Do you wish to comment on the Legislative Breakfast at all?

BOARD MEMBER JOHN RYAN

Certainly. As has been District 300's practice in the past several years, a week ago today we had our annual Legislative Update, where we invite our three State Senators and our four State Representatives that serve District 300. This is a wonderful opportunity for all parties involved not only to share D300's success stories, but also to let them know, in no uncertain terms, some of the challenges that we face – especially under the guise that we are operating under this year.

It is really an incredible task. I think our legislators have now come to better appreciate a little bit of exactly what actions, or some argue "inactions," in Springfield actually mean for us. And to the degree that the vast majority of District 300's finances every year seem to crease a little bit more towards dependence on our local property taxes, as opposed to what we are able to secure from Springfield, I think they are starting to get the picture. Whether they move off center a little bit or not will remain to be seen.

But nonetheless, this year was a wonderful opportunity. It was one of the more candid discussions over the years. Offers were extended to a little bit of a larger audience in terms of some of the District 300 stakeholders than we have normally done in the past. And it provided a real wonderful interchange, not only for our legislators also to learn from us, but just as important perhaps to us to get a little better appreciation in terms of what they are facing in Springfield as well.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

It was a lively discussion.

BOARD MEMBER JOHN RYAN

To put it mildly, yes.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

A very lively discussion.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

And Mr. Noland put our sign ...

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

Senator Noland.

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KAREN ROECKNER

Senator Noland put our “STATE OWES DISTRICT 300 \$5.8 million” on his website in his YouTube video, which was quite entertaining to see his discussion. So it’s out there if anybody else wants to see his video. Big, nice picture of our sign.

BOARD MEMBER JOHN RYAN

But if I could just share anything with our audience as a whole: It is vitally important, it’s always important, but it’s vitally important, that folks take an active participation. In terms of whatever avenue is available to you, whether it’s picking up the phone, whether it’s sending an e-mail, or it’s writing a letter, stay in contact with these individuals. We cannot let them off the hook, especially in an election year where a tendency is to kind of put decisive issues off to the side until after the election. One of our audience members said it very, very succinctly, “You may think you have time, but we do not.” And so our legislators have to hear from us. And I don’t mean the Board, I don’t mean the administration, I mean the entire District 300 community of how desperately urgent it is that they move off center in Springfield and do what’s necessary to allow us to do what we are charged with – and that’s the education of our children.

BOARD PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. STEVENS

And I heard nothing on the horizon that gave me hope coming out of that meeting from any of them.

Mrs.Clark?

BOARD MEMBER MONICA CLARK

I would just like to piggyback on what Mr. Ryan said. I had been at a political thing prior to the elections, and state Senator (Chris) Lauzen from D300 was there. He and I kind of got into it, because he was blaming all the school boards in the entire state for the financial crisis that the school boards are now facing. And he wanted to know, “Why you boards were allowing this?” And I looked at him and I said, “It is you people in our glorious Springfield!” It was an ugly situation. But he blamed all of the school boards.

I don’t think they (in Springfield) understand what the school districts are facing. I truly do not think your legislators have any idea at all what is going on in all of these districts. How we are trying to cut and work on a shoestring. I don’t think they have any idea.

If I can encourage you, do contact them. Tell them what you're missing and what your kids are not getting because of the State not being able to pay. Because I don't think they have an idea. ... I don't think they have any idea of what we are facing. They need to hear from us. They need to hear from us.

END

Certification

I, Roberta Glab, an employee of Office Team, 2800 W. Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195, 847 885-6228, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of that portion of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors held on February 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. relating to proposed budget reductions for 2010-2011 and held at the Community School District 300 Administrative Offices, 300 Cleveland Avenue, Carpentersville, IL 60110.

/s/ Roberta Glab

Roberta Glab
Transcriptionist
For Office Team