

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Millburn C.C. School District 24

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
Sept. 8, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Buehler  
Diane Campbell  
Kenneth Dewitt  
Shawn Lahr  
Robert Reding  
Lisa Scanio  
Chris Stream

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Ellen Mauer, Superintendent

VISITORS

Jeffrey Lee

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

The Committee of the Whole of the Board of Education of Millburn C.C. School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn West School, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Shawn Lahr. Roll call was taken, with the following Board Members in attendance: Robert Buehler, Diane Campbell, Shawn Lahr, Robert Reding, Lisa Scanio and Chris Stream. Kenneth Dewitt was absent at this time, but arrived later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT -- There was none.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION BY ASSESSOR -- Lake Villa Township Assessor Jeffrey Lee spoke to the Board about the functions of the assessor's office and about his projections for future assessed values.

Mr. Lee said a misconception he hears almost daily from taxpayers is their belief that because property values have fallen, their property tax bills also will decrease. He explained that taxes will not decline until spending by taxing bodies declines. This is because tax bills are determined by a formula that must take into account many other factors, including the tax rate and the levy.

Mr. Lee discussed many topics including the assessment process, Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, the maximum allowable rate, the Consumer Price Index, assessed values and three-year averaging of sales prices.

In general, he said average assessed values in Lake Villa Township may increase about 3 percent. He said school districts may be affected the most by the Consumer Price Index, which this year is one-tenth of one percent.

He encouraged Board Members to consult the Lake Villa Township website which has a link to the assessor's office.

It was noted that Kenneth Dewitt entered the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

FINANCIAL DISCUSSION -- Dr. Ellen Mauer said she plans to regularly present budget information to the Board on various programs. This month the Board received information on Art, Music/ Choir, Band and the Gifted programs. The purpose is to give Board Members a perspective of how the district's money is spent and the impact particular programs have on the budget. It was stressed that there are no recommendations to cut programs.

Board Members suggested that other information that might be helpful would be the programs' cost-per-student, and what percentage of the budget the program cost represents. Dr. Mauer said she will email that specific information to the Board Members. Other programs will be reviewed at future meetings.

BID SNOW REMOVAL -- Mary Taylor said the district soon will be seeking bids for snow removal for the 2009-10 school year. She is considering asking for an optional bid for the full season. The snow removal bid approval should be on the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting in October.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND GOALS FOR SUPERINTENDENT -- Board Members reviewed the final draft copy of the superintendent's goals. Dr. Ellen Mauer also gave Board Members an evaluation tool, and notes from Kenneth Dewitt on a class he attended regarding the evaluation process. The Board agreed that the superintendent's goals could be listed as an action item on the September Regular Meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT -- Board Members discussed the changed format of the Committee Meeting. Some said it resembled the more structured format of the Regular Meetings, as opposed to the less formal Committee Meetings of the past. Dr. Ellen Mauer said she prefers to give Board Members as much information as possible, and to have the Board activities stay as transparent as possible for the public. It was agreed that discussion items could be added to the agenda at any time.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN -- Diane Campbell asked Dr. Ellen Mauer how the decision was made to not show President Obama's address to school children. Dr. Mauer said the administrative team considered many factors including past practices at school, technical capabilities needed to broadcast the speech throughout the district, the fact that it was a live speech that could not be previewed until the day before it was to air, and the possible revisions to regularly scheduled school activities. She said she heard from parents on both sides of the issue: those who wanted the speech shown, and those that did not.

**3**

There being no further business, the Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

---

Shawn Lahr, President  
Board of Education  
Millburn C.C. School District 24

ATTEST:

---

Chris Stream, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Millburn C.C. School District 24

---

Date