

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Millburn School District 24

PUBLIC HEARING
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET
August 16, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Dr. Ellen Mauer, Superintendent
Elizabeth Keefe, Special Education Director
Dr. Cheryl Kucera, Curriculum Director
Joanne Rathunde, Technology Director
Jake Jorgenson, Principal
Jason Lind, Principal

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Taylor

TREASURER

Roger Manderscheid

BOARD CLERK

Dorothy Pazanin

VISITORS

Gail Weyrich	John Spiewak
Chandra Solberg	Scott Engel
Scott Solberg	Victoria Coberly
Lisa Rudolphi	Bernadette Hanna
Cindy Brugioni	Becky Mosher
Mike Mol	Lisa Anderson
Joyce Mol	Jenn Kiddle
Kristen Bethancourt	Alicia Keys
David Rouse	Denise Oswald
Stacy Janda	Ron McLaughlin
Andrea Rouse	Nancy Stream
Tricia Johnston	Steve Kane
Rachel Nichols	Dave Petty
Lori Cipolla	Terri Tomasiewicz
Nomita Umarwadia	Laura Brown
Julie Buchanan	Joe McConville
Bill Buchanan	Valerie Powley
Denise Mueller	Lynne Timmerman
Tammy Webster	Rimi Singh
Bryan Timmerman	Jennifer Glickley
Kandice Silk	Tracy Prieto
Jane Tabourot	Holly Hill
Anne Marie Maeir	Kim Dodd
Jolene Jones	Ninad Dixit
Cheryl Drake	Rachel Nichols
Mark Beggs	

A Public Hearing by the Board of Education of Millburn School District 24, Lake County, Illinois, held at Millburn Central School, was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Shawn Lahr. Roll call was taken with the following Board Members in attendance: Robert Buehler, Diane Campbell, Kenneth Dewitt, Shawn Lahr, Robert Reding and Lisa Scanio. Chris Stream was absent.

Due to the absence of Board Secretary Chris Stream, it was decided to name a Secretary Pro Tem. A motion was made by Diane Campbell and seconded by Lisa Scanio to appoint Robert Reding as Secretary Pro Tem. On a voice vote, all Board Members voted Aye. Nays: none. Absent: Chris Stream. The motion passed.

Shawn Lahr explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to present the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011. Board approval of the Budget will be on the agenda at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Mary Taylor discussed some of the changes from the earlier Tentative Budget. She said she has learned that the state will fund Transportation at about 57 percent this year, which is down from 80 percent last year, or about \$120,000 less than last year. She said it is anticipated that General State Aid will be about \$400,000 less than last year. Mrs. Taylor said she has not received any information yet on federal funding that recently was approved for education, and, therefore, it is not included in this budget.

Robert Reding asked about the amounts of revenue budgeted from state and local revenue, which are higher than the last year's budgeted amounts. He asked if this is really a balanced budget, if the revenue estimates are too high. Mrs. Taylor said that to the best of her ability, the district will be running a balanced budget.

The amount of Tax Anticipation Warrants in the budget was discussed. Last year, the Board authorized \$3.7 million in TAWs, of which \$3.5 million was used. The Board is being asked to authorize \$4 million in TAWs this year. Mrs. Taylor said the district plans to use no more than \$3.5 million again next year. She said the additional \$500,000 is a cushion in case the state does not provide all of the expected revenue.

Roger Manderscheid said it is about a 2-month process to obtain the TAWs from the bank. He said it would be better to authorize the additional funds now rather than have to go back to the bank in the spring if the state revenue was not received.

Robert Buehler pointed out that expenditures are approved by the Board each month, and the Board will be watching the amount of TAWs used throughout the year. Dr. Ellen Mauer explained that the money is borrowed in \$500,000 increments, and the district is only charged interest on the amount that is borrowed, not on the total amount that is authorized.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Several visitors to the Hearing addressed the Board.

Jennifer Glickley asked what the interest rate would be on the TAWs, and what the total cost of the interest would be in dollars. She also asked if the funds raised in a referendum will cover the additional cost of the TAW interest. Roger Manderscheid said the anticipated interest rate on the TAWs is 4 percent. The dollar cost depends on when the money is withdrawn. Last year's interest cost was about \$50,000.

Ron McLaughlin asked about the impact of recently passed federal legislation that is expected to provide funds for hiring teachers. Dr. Mauer said she has heard that Millburn might receive about \$250,000, but that it may be up to the state to disburse the funds. She said there are still many unknown factors surrounding that money.

John Spiewak asked if the school is working with the village to attract businesses. He said the referendum will just be a Band-Aid, not a resolution to the district's financial problems. He said houses are not selling because people no longer want to live in Millburn School District. He said teachers will not want to teach here if the class sizes are 30-40. Dr. Mauer said that a referendum is never intended to be a permanent solution. She said school funding is designed so that districts must go back to the voters to ask for increased funding.

Ninad Dixit asked if consideration had been given to asking parents to pay for extracurricular or ancillary activities. Also, in regard to the discussion about attracting local business, he said he has been a part of a Physician Advisory Board working to get a hospital in this area, and it is not an easy task. He said there is a lot of opposition from various interest groups. He said projects like this need more community support. Dr. Mauer responded to his question about fees by saying that activity fees are charged for extracurriculars like band and sports, although the fees still do not cover the entire cost of the activities. She said the school district cannot charge for non-mandated curricular subjects, such as art and music, that are offered during the school day. This type of fee would open the district up to discrimination charges, because some families would not be able to pay.

Terri Tomaszewicz asked how Millburn can be on the state's Financial Watch List if the district has a balanced budget. Dr. Mauer said that the district is on the Watch List because its expenditures had been exceeding revenue for several years. Mrs. Tomaszewicz asked at what point the state would take over the district. Dr. Mauer said that a district can borrow up to two year's worth of payroll before the state would come in, and at this time Millburn is borrowing for about 9 months of payroll.

A motion was made by Kenneth Dewitt and seconded by Robert Reding to adjourn the Public Hearing. The Hearing adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Shawn Lahr, President
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24

ATTEST:

Robert A. Reding, Secretary Pro Tem
Board of Education
Millburn School District 24