

# Board Meeting Highlights

## Regular Meeting

August 16, 2006

At its regular meeting on August 16, 2006, the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107...

- Consent Agenda

Unanimously approved the consent agenda as amended consisting of: special meeting and closed session minutes of July 11, 2006 closed session minutes of July 12, 2006; special meeting and closed session minutes of August 2, 2006; payment of July payroll and August warrants; revisions to the Parent/Student Handbook; and declassification of selected closed session minutes (9/18/02, 12/17/03, and 8/24/05). The regular meeting minutes of July 12 were excluded for revisions.

### Reports and Discussions:

- Middle School Construction Update

Board member Scot Orsic, Doug Lim of Gilbane, and Superintendent Fredisdorf reported on the August 1 bid opening for the middle school construction project. Several bids were received in most categories. Gilbane pre-qualified all contractors and conducted one-hour interviews following the bid opening to review project specs. Gilbane proposed awarding contracts to the lowest bidder in each category excluding the paving contract, which went to the next highest bidder because of contractor omissions in the lowest bid. The contract for the gym flooring will be rebid since only one bid was received and there is enough time to go out for new bids. The gym floor estimate of approximately \$110,000 would still bring the project in under Gilbane's estimate of 7.6 million dollars. Additionally, Mr. Lim said that Gilbane has had experience with all the contractors and was comfortable with the bid results and recommendations. He further stated that should the Board act favorably upon Gilbane's recommendations, and letters will be sent to the successful bidders on August 17. Groundbreaking is anticipated sometime this month. When asked what could potentially slow the project down, Mr. Lim said that site preparation could disclose unknown conditions (underground pipes, etc.). The Board voted to approve the list of bidders as presented by Gilbane and to approve the base bid and alternate bids for a total of \$7,288,328.

- Gifted Program Evaluation

Superintendent Fredisdorf provided copies of Board policies 2.10 (Curriculum Development), 2.32 (Gifted Program), and 4.33 (Cost Accounting) that affect the gifted program. He directed the Board's attention to the seven bulleted points in Policy 2.32 and said that those points were addressed in making significant changes in the philosophy of the district's gifted program. Some of those changes have been:

1. the program now spans grades pre-K through 8
2. there are no fixed number of students accepted into the program
3. upgraded curriculum is available to all above-level students in language arts (grades 5-8) i.e. Junior Great Books, writing curriculum designed for gifted students). Middle school gifted instructor Larry Neumann noted that the benefits of this program change will begin to show within 2-3 years.

Data presented by Dr. Fredisdorf suggests that the program is meeting its objectives and proposes no changes to gifted education services at this time.

- UPS Property Assessment Update

Dr. Fredisdorf reported that he and Business Manager Catherine Chang met with personnel from the Cook County Board of Review and Representative Jim Durkin concerning the significant tax reduction in assessed valuation accorded to UPS properties.

PIN #	2004 ASSESSED VALUE	2005 ASSESSED VALUE AFTER ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REDUCTION	2005 ASSESSED VALUE AFTER REVIEW BOARD REDUCTION
18-28-300-069-0000	6,160,870	7,358,224	6,573,042
18-29-400-010-0000	14,788,329	16,527,073	14,909,765
18-29-401-001-0000	111,207	136,903	124,912
18-29-401-011-0000	245,257	279,434	271,440
18-32-200-015-0000	8,589,464	9,187,536	8,338,345
18-29-401-009-0000	858	1,006	1,006
18-29-400-009-0000	14,703	17,243	17,243
18-32-202-011-0000	12,397	27,000	27,000
18-32-400-010-0000	2,772	6,037	6,037
TOTAL	29,925,857	33,540,456	30,268,790

Note: 2005 tax year was triennial reassessment

Options available to the Board would be to retain the services a professional, at an approximate cost of \$2,000-\$4,000, to research the UPS parcels at the Cook County Board of Review. In filing an appeal, the Board could incur legal expenses in the \$10,000-\$15,000 range if a new appraisal were to be required as part of the review process and another \$10,000-\$20,000 for legal fees if we go to litigation. The Board requested that Dr. Fredisdorf contact the other taxing bodies that are affected by the UPS tax property to ascertain their interest in joining the District in an investigation of UPS tax reductions.

▪ Proposed Board Officer Roles Policy

Discussion on this item was postponed to the September agenda.

▪ Financial Projections Proposal

The Board discussed the pros and cons of hiring a consultant to create long-term financial projections for the district and expressed a strong interest in involvement in the creation of the variables for the plan. Scot Orsic said he would like to see a standard list of input variables before a vote was taken. Dr. Fredisdorf recommended STRATPLAN Consulting and Modeling over Public Finance Specialists (PMA) based on:

1. software ownership at the conclusion of the study,
2. flexibility in creating the financial projections desired (Board involvement) for the foreseeable future,
3. cost, and
4. references provided from neighboring districts

▪ Superintendent/Board of Education Goals and Job Accountabilities

Dr. Fredisdorf presented a draft of the Superintendent/Board of Education Goals and Job Accountabilities developed by Board President Sandra Hannan and him. During its review, the Board made several suggestions for additional revisions and questioned measures of accountability. A revised document will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at the September Board meeting.

• Business Manager's Report

Catherine Chang reported that the elementary construction project was complete with the exception of the parking lot. Mrs. Chang also provided the Board with a tentative FY07 budget.

▪ Actions

- approve Board Policy 4.44 (Purchases)
- approved the purchase of a Financial Projections Model from STRATPLAN in the amount of \$8,000
- scheduled a budget hearing at 7:00 p.m. on September 20, 2006 and authorized display of the tentative budget and publication of the budget hearing notice.

• Next Agenda

Construction update; budget hearing/adoption; approval of Superintendent/Board of Education goals; discussion of proposed policy re: Board officer roles; protocols discussion;

• Closed Session

Met in closed session (11:02 p.m. - 12:21 a.m.) to consider information regarding (1) pending litigation, (2) appointment, employment or dismissal of personnel, and (3) Superintendent's evaluation.

• Actions

1. Approve the Personnel Report as revised.
2. Authorized 30-day access to current Board members to review closed session tapes of 8/2/06.

• Adjournment

Adjourned the regular meeting at 12:26 a.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be  
Wednesday, September 20, 2006  
7:00 p.m. in the Pleasantdale Middle School Library**