

Minutes of the Metamora CCSD #1 Board of Education, Joint Alternative Revenue Committee Meeting, October 8, 2015

The October 8, 2015, 2015 meeting of the Metamora Community Consolidated School District #1 Board of Education Joint Revenue Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. in the office of the Superintendent at Metamora Grade School. Board of Education members present: Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Sikkema, and Mr. Wernsman. MGS Staff members present: Diane Grebner, Jenera Call, Kaleigh Christ, Wendy Vogel, Megan Bernitt, Mark Dotterer, and Amy Ernenputsch. Superintendent Marty Payne was also present for the meeting.

The financial condition of the district was discussed, including both revenues and expenditures. It was clear among all committee members that the root of the financial crisis is the lack of state funding for education. It was understood as well, that this is probably not a temporary problem, and it does not look promising for an increase in state funding. The majority of the discussion focused on alternative revenue, with the only discussion of cuts being extracurricular activities.

Those areas of alternative revenue included the following: increased rates for building rental, various fund raising events, housing special education programs at MGS (rather than busing to other school locations) increased rates for all district fees (lunch, activities, and registration), ongoing research for healthcare costs, working cash bonds, and consolidation/shared services with other school districts, and a referendum. Research on Working Cash bonds is being conducted with bond underwriters. The last Education Fund referendum came in the spring of 1988. Research was conducted with both the County Clerk and with archived, district records. While the research did show the date of the last successful referendum (1988), it did not provide the prior tax rate. The current tax rate for the Education Fund is \$1.52. Ms. Vogel provided a copy, from the Illinois State Board of Education, of the respective tax rates (entire tax rate, not just the Education Fund rate), of Illinois School Districts. Mr. Payne will request area tax rates from the Regional Office of Education. Additional discussion included the process for getting a referendum on an election ballot.

A note on the tax Levy: a levy is determined by EAV (Equalized Assessed Value) of property. The tax rate is equal to that amount of every \$100.00 or EAV. In other words, the current Education Fund Levy rate is \$1.52. This equals a rate of \$1.52 for every \$100.00 of EAV.

The discussion ended with the need to more inform our community about the current lack of funding from the state. Mr. Payne shared that there is a state organization called "EFAB", or the Education Funding Advisory Board. Of the various tasks of this committee, perhaps the most important is to recommend to the State, the necessary funding for public education. Public school districts are funded in Illinois based on the Foundation Level, or what is determined to be the cost of educating a child in Illinois. Beginning with the 2010 Fiscal Year, the state approved funding schools at \$6,119 per student. Unfortunately, this rate has not changed since then. The current recommendation from EFAB is \$8,899; a difference of \$2,780 per student.

To add to the problem of the Foundation Level being well under the recommend mark, the state has prorated the \$6,119 total over the past several years. The current proration is 92%, leaving the district approximately \$125,000 short in state revenue.

The current budget has the Education Fund in the red by \$175,000. If the state were to provide the recommended funding as presented by EFAB, the district would not have deficit spending.

Adjourn

Motion by Mrs. Sikkema (at 5:52 p.m.) seconded by Mr. Wernsman, to adjourn the October 8, 2015 meeting of the Metamora CCSD #1 Board of Education, Joint Alternative Revenue Committee. All present voted yea on a voice vote.

Robert Fisher
President

Jeff Wernsman
Secretary