

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A gentleman, who has been an Englewood resident since 1964 and is a past president of the Englewood Education Foundation, addressed the Board regarding the Flood property. Stating that the property is very valuable, he hopes the Board will be very mindful of that as they consider the sale of the property. He hopes the money from the sale of Flood will provide an income stream for Englewood Schools that will last for an extended number of years. He asked the Board to move slowly and carefully on this important transaction.
- Another long time resident expressed similar concerns about the sale of the Flood property. He has heard rumors of possibilities for the Flood site and wants the Board to look at the many options possible for the property. Ms. LaPlante assured the audience that the district is moving slowly and carefully and is in the first stage of requesting proposals from developers. Ms. LaPlante also stated that a committee would look at proposals for the property. Applications to be on this committee are available on the district web site under the Site Index, look at Flood Property to find the application.
- A third gentleman, who has resided in Englewood since 1951, stated the importance of assuring that the contract for the sale of the Flood property is done in a way that protects the schools' interest.

VII. SPECIAL REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no special reports or recognition.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Mr. Gorsky reported that he and Ms. Hunt, along with four district employees, attended International Baccalaureate (IB) training in Vancouver. He supports the concept of collaboration and teachers planning together so all schools are teaching the same information. The IB philosophy supports the district's strategic plan and the CADI task force suggestion to have all school operate with shared and similar learning plans and techniques.
- Ms. Howard stated that she is willing to assume the duties of the CASB Legislative Representative for the Board. She will check with Ms. Hunt to see if she is continuing in this position or would like Ms. Howard to
- Ms. Miller attended a recent Parks and Recreation meeting where the Cushing Park skateboard issues were discussed. In the past eighteen months, thirteen complains from neighbors have been received. This is not considered to be a significant problem and no action is planned. The golf course will re-open in May with a new name, Broken Tee.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Dr. McCabe told the Board that he traveled to Wray Colorado on Friday, February 15 to participate in the opening ceremony for the wind turbine the Wray School District had built. This project took five years to complete and will provide \$100,000 a year to the Wray School District. Governor Ritter attended the ceremony along with many school officials.

X. ACTION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Response to Intervention (RtI)

Ms. Gail Neubert provided a video overview of Response to Intervention (RtI). The Colorado Department of Education is encouraging the Response to Intervention program as a way to address lagging and flat student test scores. RtI is a framework for a system of education that promotes the success of all students, no matter what their ability level, using standards-based instruction and learning analyzing the data to provide effective interventions. Kids sometimes feel that they are statistics and they feel frustrated by the thought that they are labeled. RtI is designed to reduce this frustration in children. The purpose of RtI is to improve educational outcomes for all students. The RtI program is designed to utilize resources for students in need of academic and/or behavioral support. RtI supports students where they are currently in the learning process and helps them progress. This approach values all students and requires support for every student by every entity involved in a student's education from parents to classroom teachers to principals to district administrators to the Board of Education. RtI uses a collaborative problem-solving approach to identify student needs, implement targeted interventions and utilize data to measure student progress based on the intervention. Cherrelyn Elementary School is a pilot school for RtI and is in the third year of implementing the program. Looking at the student at the point he/she currently is and developing learning strategies based on that information is a paradigm shift, a new way of developing educational plans. RtI calls for using all available staff and resources to enhance students' performance. Dr. McCabe stated that RtI fits well with the district's strategic plan. All educators need to be trained in this method and the Colorado Department of Education plans to support RtI by participating in the training. Commissioner Dwight Jones is advocating RtI for all students.

2. Bond Refunding-Parameters Resolution

Ms. Peg LaPlante introduced Mr. Dan O'Connell and Mr. Terry Casey from RBC Capital Markets who explained the benefits of refunding a portion of the district's 1998 Bonds. Refunding bonds is not considered unless it provides a savings of 3% or more, it may be possible in the current market, to achieve as high as 6%. By refunding the bonds at this time, there will be a savings of approximately \$588,958 to the Englewood taxpayers. The schools will not realize any additional funds, as this is strictly a savings for the taxpayers. This refunding is for a portion of the 1998 Bond and will refund nine million dollars. Ms. LaPlante will work with Mr. Casey to pick the optimum time to complete the transaction at the most advantageous rate. Mr. Casey explained the extensive legal document that accompanies the refunding of the bonds. Mr. Casey, who has worked with the district since 1986, thanked the Board and stated it has been a pleasure working with Englewood Schools.

Ms. Miller moved and Ms. Thompson seconded to approve the resolution presented by RBC Capital Markets, to refund a portion of the 1998 Bond.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye
Ms. Howard, Aye
Ms. Hunt, Absent

Ms. Miller, Aye
Ms. Thompson, Aye
Motion Carried, 4-0

3. Demographics Study

The Board of Education commissioned Mr. Denny Hill of Strategic Resources West Inc., to conduct a demographic study of the Englewood School District. The Board ordered this study so they could make more informed planning and budget decisions for the district. Mr. David Porter conducted the mapping portion of the study and displayed maps of the district with various information plotted. Mr. Hill stated the purpose of the study was to compare the district's capacity to expected enrollment in the coming years. Mr. Hill said that based on birth statistics and the median age of women (43 years old) living in the district the birth rate will remain about the same or slightly lower than it has been in recent years. Prime childbearing age is considered 15 to 41 years of age. This information indicates that kindergarten enrollment will likely decline and will continue to slowly decline. Evaluating housing in the district Mr. Hill pointed out that most of the homes are old being built before 1951 and small with older architecture and amenities. Newer larger homes that are more appealing to families with children are available in the nearby suburbs and cost less per foot than Englewood homes. The lack of land available for building new homes in Englewood indicates Englewood cannot compete in the new home market. The trend of families choosing homes in the new suburbs will continue. Englewood has many out-of-district students. Colorado's Finest Alternative High School (CFAHS) has enrolled most of Englewood's out-of-district students because its program was unique. As more school districts offer alternative education, students have more options and some, who may have attended CFAHS, will choose to attend elsewhere. Another factor that affects enrollment is that some families who buy homes in Englewood have been renting in the area with their children already attending Englewood schools. The demographic study was not good news for the district but did not indicate that enrollment will drop dramatically in the near future. Dr. Hill suggested that the decline would continue for four to six years and then level off. Of the 178 school districts in Colorado 150 have flat or declining enrollment. Currently Englewood Schools are under capacity. The elementary schools are at 61% capacity, middle school is at 80% capacity and the high school is at 60% capacity. Ms. Thompson pointed out that the study did not show that this downward trend would reverse. Continued declining enrollment, coupled with low test scores paints a bleak picture of Englewood Schools' future. Ms. Thompson expressed that perhaps the Board needs to consider steps that would produce significant changes in the school district. Otherwise, she agreed with Mr. Hill that the Board should consider consolidating with another district. Ms. Howard stated that she thought the Board should move more slowly and consider ways to economize while giving the many programs the district has recently implemented a chance to be successful. Mr. Gorsky stated that there was nothing the Board could do about housing in Englewood but the Board can work to make the schools attractive to students and their families. Ms. Hunt, via phone, suggested the Board "brainstorm" this issue and try to come up with ideas to improve the situation.

4. Budget Planning 2008-09

Ms. Peg LaPlante provided budget information and answered questions the Board Members had about the many details that are considered in formulating the budget for the district. Listed below are points that are the framework of the budget.

- **The Budget Calendar for 2008-09**

- November 2007 Review enrollment projections for 2008-09 school year
- February 2008 Meet with District Accountability Advisory Committee to discuss budget priorities

- February 2008 Gather Board of Education budget priorities

- February 2008 Budget workshop wit Board of Education
- March 2008 Formal recommendation to Board of Education on reductions for the 2008-09 budget
- March 2008 Confirm capital reserve fund projects
- April 2008 All school and department budget information is due to the finance office
- May 2008 Review draft of proposed budget
- May 20, 2008 Present proposed budget document to Board of Education and make available to public
- June 3, 2008 Public Hearing of Proposed 2008-09 Budget
- June 17, 2008 Adoption of budget by Board of Education
- October 1, 2008 Official Pupil Count
- October 15, 2008 Final day to readopt budget
- December 10, 2008 Receive final assessed valuation from count assessor
- December 15, 2008 Certified mill levies due to county commissioners

Ms. LaPlante explained the information she used to determine enrollment projections and based on that information Englewood Schools are projected to continue to decline in enrollment. The projected funded pupil count for 2008-09 is 3,293.8, which is down 119.7 students from 2007-08. Ms. LaPlante and Mr. Hill are close on enrollment projections with Ms. LaPlante assuming 50 fewer students at the high school.

- Budget Facts and Assumptions include:
 - CPI (Inflation rate) for funding calculation is estimated to be 2.9%
 - Amendment 23 ensures minimum funding of increase of inflation plus 1%
 - Enrollment will continue to decline
 - Some expenditure increased will continue to outpace inflation (e.g. health insurance, utilities)
 - Early Retirement bonuses and service stipends will be funded from general fund reserves

Mr. Gorsky asked if the CPI could be higher than 2.9% and Ms. LaPlante said it could adjust higher or lower depending on inflation, interest rates and economic factors.

- Budget Unknowns are:
 - 2008 Fall Enrollment
 - Salary Adjustments
 - School Finance Bill and other legislation under review
 - Categorical Funding and Consolidated Grant Funding
 - Property Tax Collection Rates
 - Health Insurance Increases
- Budget Concerns include

○ Overall decrease in General Fund:	(\$250,000)
○ PERA increase (mandatory)	50,000
○ PERA increase as part of salary increases	40,000
○ Health insurance increases (15%)	225,000
○ Dental insurance increases (8%)	10,000
○ Insurance increases,	minimal

- Interest Earnings (unknown)
- Salary considerations (unknown)

Ms. LaPlante commended Marlys Stickney for her efforts in keeping workers' compensation down. Marlys works hard to have people return to work as soon as possible after a workers compensation qualifying event.

- The Schools' Accountability Committees developed a list of items that they consider priorities for the district.
 - Intercom systems
 - Competitive salaries and retention of highly qualified staff
 - Technology
 - Professional/staff development
 - Maintaining electives
 - Securities suites
- The District Accountability Committee developed the following budget priorities.
 - Marketing (branding) schools
 - Maintain fine arts at all levels
 - Technology for 21st Century
 - Sufficient transportation
 - Available tutoring after school
 - Honors and Advanced Placement classes at high school
 - Resources to support Response to Intervention (RtI) and Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)
 - Teacher development (MYP)
 - Using paras for after-school programs
 - Competitive salaries
 - Intramural sports K-8
 - Resources for ECE and full-day kindergarten
- The Board of Education Budget Priorities developed in 2006 include:
 - Competitive salaries/experienced staff
 - Organizational efficiency
 - Choices—maintain variety of electives
 - Art and music
 - Small class size
 - Maximizing space
 - Technology

The Board of Education and the District Accountability Committee have similar priorities for the district.

- Suggesting steps that can be taken to manage budget issues and provide wise fiscal management Ms. LaPlante mentioned:
 - "Right-size" buildings to manage declining enrollment
 - Calculate savings from retirements
 - Support favorable legislation
 - Study all expenditures to ensure that they support the District vision
 - Develop long-range strategies based on demographic study, capital needs assessment and other data.

Referring to 2008 Board Goals, Ms. LaPlante stated that a facilities study is being done to see how to better utilize buildings. Data from this study will help the district better utilize current facilities and prioritize necessary improvements. It is not educationally sound, when there is only one class of a grade level at a school and the teacher has no peers to work with to create lesson plans. Ms. Neubert stated organizational efficiency points to the inefficiency of small schools. Mr. Gorsky added that the Board should support buildings becoming as efficient as possible. Dr. McCabe pointed out that staff development was not on the list of priorities but is important to raise achievement. Mr. Gorsky added that Response to Intervention (RtI) and funding for RtI is important so it can be implemented at all schools and not just at a pilot school. Ms. Howard request that wellness also be added to the Boards' 2008 Priorities.

5. Consensus Items

Ms. Thompson moved and Mr. Gorsky seconded, to approve the consensus items as follows:

- a. Personnel Recommendations and Addendum
- b. Policy JRA/JRC Student Records/Release of Information 2nd Reading
- c. Policy KBB Parents Rights and Responsibilities 2nd Reading
- d. Policy JLDAC Screening/Testing of Students 2nd Reading

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye	Ms. Miller, Aye
Ms. Howard, Aye	Ms. Thompson, Aye
Ms. Hunt, Absent	Motion Carried, 4-0

6. Board Members' Choice

- Ms. Howard asked if the Board did anything to thank retiring or other teachers who leave the district? Dr. McCabe and Ms. Miller mentioned that there is a tea at the Wellshire Inn for retiring teachers. It was decided that a letter from the Board would be produced and sent to retiring teachers.
- Ms. Howard also mentioned the EHS Blood Drive is Friday, February 29, 2008 and that donors were still needed.
- Ms. Howard tried to arrange a school visit to Maddox but due to CSAP testing of third grade, she was unable to visit.
- Friday Night February 22 is "pack the house" night at the EHS Basketball game

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

A list of upcoming Board events is provided in the agenda.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. McCabe provided these items in the form of a memorandum.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Hunt adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

XIV. SPECIAL MEETING

The Board will move to a special meeting to select the superintendent interview team.

Ms. Heather Hunt, President
Board of Education

Linda Felling, Secretary to the
Superintendent and Board of Education

Date Approved