PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

At 6:35 p.m. Mr. Corsi opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Burmeister took roll call.

Mr. Corsi asked for a motion to begin the public hearing to receive written or oral testimony with regard to the 2014-2015 district budget.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mrs. Burmeister to begin the public hearing. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye. The budget hearing was called to order at 6:38 p.m. It was noted that the budget had been available for public inspection and that legal notice had been published stating such. The tentative budget was approved at the July meeting. Mr. Corsi stated the following:

The estimated total revenue for fiscal year 2015 is $139,289,620. The estimated total expenditures for fiscal year 2015 is $138,472,782.

Dr. Pratt stated that he along with Mr. Daley and Mr. Heuser met to discuss the budget and asked Mr. Daley to explain the changes to the budget for this year. Mr. Daley stated that due to the bond sales and the transfer of the bond sale proceeds to the Working Cash Fund the revenue is $20M higher. The sale of the bonds inflates the revenue budget from the prior year. Once the bond sale proceeds have been adjusted the numbers will compare a lot better with the prior year. Realistically there was about a 2 percent increase.
There were five expenditures added to the budget that totaled $479,000 and included the following:

- Science supplies
- Carry over to Medicaid
- 18 new AED’s
- SRO cost at Shepard
- Freshman Advisory teacher salaries

Mr. Corsi asked if there were any comments from the public related to the budget. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Corsi asked if there were any comments from any of the Board Members. There were none.

It was noted that the Resolution to adopt the budget will be officially approved during the regular meeting. (Item #8 a.)

Hearing no comments, Mr. Corsi asked for a motion and a second to close the public hearing.

Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to close the public hearing. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

The public hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.

The regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m.

Mr. Corsi asked if there were any agenda items that the Board wanted removed that were listed under consent.

Dr. Pratl asked that the Personnel List #2014-8 be taken off of Consent and discussed during the regular open meeting portion of tonight’s meeting. Dr. Pratl noted that there was no need to go into Closed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATED TO MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

At this time Mr. Corsi welcomed the science teachers that asked to address the Board of Education. The science teachers present were Maurren Kall, Brad Sievers, Troy Walker, Laura Chatzivasiliadis, Ben Twietmeyer and Carrie Alvarado who stated the following:

On behalf of the science staff at Shepard High School we just want to thank the Board of Education for this wonderful new facility and for the opportunity to serve our students here.

Mr. Corsi thanked the teachers.

There were no comments from the public.

No need for Board Members to respond.
APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Pratl moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the Personnel List #2014-08. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Harris, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Kosowski, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Meeting July 14, 2014
Closed Session July 14, 2014

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

The following disbursements were presented for approval: District 218: $4,007,705.14; July Payroll, $1,108,135.63; for a Grand Total of $5,115,840.77.

MACS PAYABLES

$338,765.63

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Pratl addressed the Board stating that this is the biggest budget that the district ever considered and that after meeting with Mr. Daley he is happy with the budget and the explanations that Mr. Daley provided further stating that the budget responsibly addresses all the district’s needs for this year.

Dr. Pratl moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 School Year as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Corsi, Mr. Kosowski, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

BOND SALE UPDATE

Elizabeth Hennessy of William Blair presented phase two of the bond sale plan to the Board. There was an update on the financing plan which included a chart reflecting market conditions as of August 7, 2014. Elizabeth is watching the market and if anything changes she will get back to us. It was noted that interest rates have come down and are lower than last year at this time.

A proposed financing schedule was also provided to the Board which stated the Board of Education will approve the Bond Resolution at the October Meeting and sell bonds in December.
FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report as of July 31, 2014 was presented to the Board of Education for their review.

Mr. Daley stated that at this time we have only received 4 percent of our revenue and no State aid payments. We did receive more property taxes than expected. These amounts will increase each month as we get into the new year.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

The technology report was presented to the Board of Education for their review.

Dr. Pratl questioned the replacement of switches and the cost. Dr. Byrne stated that a core switch is a high capacity switch that transfers the energy through the tech systems tying all of the communication systems together. We need to update these switches to handle our tech needs. The retail cost is approximately $600,00 with an estimated fifty percent discount.

Dr. Pratl asked about the status of the tablets. Dr. Byrne stated that most of the tablets were for the new science wing and will be kept in a cart that recharges them overnight. Dr. Byrne stated that Judi and tech staff worked on Saturday to make sure that the carts and the tablets were in place for the start of school.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE UPDATES

A report outlining the current projects at all of the buildings was presented to the Board for their information and review.

Dr. Byrne stated that the maintenance/custodial staff have been working seven days a week to make sure that the science wing would be up and running for the start of school.

STATUS OF BUILDING PROJECTS

A report describing construction progress to date was presented to the Board for their information and review.

Mr. Holmes asked about change orders stating that he has not heard anything about change orders. Dr. Byrne stated that we have had very few change orders and the ones that we have received have been rejected and we are not granting any of them. An example cited was the change order for the ramps which were not ADA compliant. The contractor looked for money to change them but we did not honor the request.

Mr. Harris asked if we do a comparison with the bid, the actual project, and the architect. Dr. Byrne confirmed that we have a punch list in place which is a written list of deficiencies that are put in place at the end of construction. The architect examines and inspects the work to determine if it is substantially complete and done according to spec. Final contractor payment is made when the work is complete.
Mr. Kosowski asked about water and leaks. Mr. Ford confirmed that we have no roof leaks and that the roofing company has been really good and has come in daily. It was noted that Riddiford Roofing is the roofing company.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of water in the basement. Mr. Ford stated that they are keeping an eye on it and that it has been relatively dry. He confirmed that we have an oversized sump pump that is linked to a natural gas generator and a battery operated back-up system.

Mrs. Burmeister asked how are we going to officially open the new wing to the community. Dr. Barron responded that he and Dr. Byrne have spoken and Shepard may have a ribbon cutting ceremony with community leaders. Dr. Barron stated that there has been a positive response from the students with regard to the new wing and the flow of student traffic.

Mr. Holmes requested a list of all of the change orders.

DIRECTOR OF SECURITY
MONTHLY REPORT

A report stating the number of incidents that occurred at each school was presented to the Board for their review.

BUSINESS OFFICE UPDATE

Mr. Daley presented the following:

- As of July 31 the states owes our district nothing for fiscal year 2014. The state made three small grant payments to us in July totaling $22,000.
- 2014-2015 Budget – the tentative budget was presented to the Board at the July meeting. The budget hearing and the resolution to adopt the budget are on tonight’s agenda.
- 2014-2015 State Aid – We received General State Aid Entitlement for this year and the state is prorating state aid at 89 percent of the entitlement. Our state aid scheduled payment total is $1,747,400 more than last year. A year ago, our state aid was going down $166,296.
- School Bus Purchase – a request to purchase school buses is on the agenda and we have budgeted for the purchase of five mini-buses.
- Transportation Contract – Illinois School Bus has requested an extension of the contract into the 2015-16 school year. We are negotiating with them and expect an increase of about 2 percent for our regular education routes and 2.7 percent for our special education routes. This should be on our September agenda.
- Health Insurance Renewal – Mesirow Insurance will present the proposed renewal to the district administration in the next couple of weeks and will be on the September agenda.
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

The following Freedom of Information Request was received. The response to this request was provided within the time frame stipulated in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and a copy is on file in the superintendent’s office.

- Michael Graham requested the following information:
  - Copy of his contract.
  - Copy of non-renewal letters approved by the BOE.

Mr. Kosowski asked when this request came in and Dr. Byrne responded the first week of August.

REPORT ON 2014 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Mr. Ryan presented a summary of the 2014 Summer School Programs that were held at Shepard High School to the Board for their review. The following reports were provided to the Board to summarize the programs:

- Summer School
- EARLY Start
- Special Education

Of the 870 students who completed Summer School and EARLY-Start, 845 or 98 percent of the students attained credit. We can see that the enrollment numbers increased in 2014. Since EARLY-Start was offered in all three buildings the program has doubled in size.

Discussion continued among the Board Members with the main concern being why the summer school numbers have gone down. It was further noted that summer school classes cost the student $150. This could be one of the reasons for the decline in participation. In addition, summer school cost the district $22,389.00 even though the students pay for the class. This was mainly due to transportation costs.

2013-2014 AP SUMMARY REPORT

Mr. Anthony Corsi presented a summary report to the Board regarding the district’s AP program over the last seven years. The College Board has released the scores of the students who took Advanced Placement exams in spring, 2014. Using this data a seven year history of AP scores at each school and the district as a whole were presented to the Board as information. All AP exam scores are reported on a scale of 1 to 5, and although the College Board doesn’t designate scores as passing or failing per se, most post-secondary institutions will not accept scores below three for college credit.

The report presented to the Board examines the students’ participation in the district’s AP program, the resultant AP scores, and recommendations for the future of the program.

Discussion continued among the Board Members and Mr. Harris asked what we attribute the growth within this program to. Mr. Corsi replied that we made a considerate effort to get more students taking these courses. The gatekeeping has been eliminated and the district’s AP Program is in alignment with the district’s shared vision, principles, and
philosophy regarding Equity and Opportunity, High Expectations, Informed Decision-Making, Community of Learners and Rigorous Curricula.

Mrs. Burmeister asked what is being done for Eisenhower whose numbers are low. Mr. Corsi stated that there is an AP Committee in the district. This committee is looking into identifying the issues and will meet and put a plan in place.

2014-2015 TAOEP PROGRAM AT DELTA LEARNING CENTER

Dr. Coffman addressed the Board stating that Delta Learning Center continues to enroll students from Eisenhower, Richards, and Shepard High Schools, and is partially funded through the Truants’ alternative and Optional Education Program Grant. Students placed at Delta during the 2013-2014 school year had the opportunity to earn credits through regular district course, and also were able to take advantage of credit recovery options through the use of the A+ and Edgenuity computer-based instructional programs. The TAOEP grant requires three instructional objectives which were summarized for the Board.

In summary, during the 2013-2014 school year, Delta continued working together to further the educational opportunities of their students through working on five shared values:

- Rigorous Curriculum and Innovative Instruction
- High Expectations for Student Learning
- Meaningful Engagement
- Informed Decision Making
- Equity and Opportunity

Staff committees continued to focus on these values and a variety of programs were developed for the purpose of meeting the unique needs of Delta students.

PRESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Ryan addressed the Board regarding the policy changes/updates listed below.

Suggested policy updates recommended by PRESS were brought to the Board at tonight’s meeting as a first reading. These included the following:

- 4:100 Insurance Management – Student insurance a new section.
- 4:175 Convicted Child Sec Offender, Criminal Background Check and/or Screen Notifications (This is referenced separate from Safety)
- 5:280 Duties and Qualifications – Updates and conforms requirements for TA’s.

These will be brought back to the September meeting as a second reading and for approval.

In addition, at tonight’s Board Meeting an addendum was included regarding the Hiring Process and Criteria Policy:

- TB Results Requirement
It is recommended that this policy be updated to reflect changes to HB4262. This Act states that effective July 16, 2014 it is no longer required that new employees provide districts with TB test results. This legislation states that the district can still require a TB test for new employees if they want, but if you require it, the district has to pay for it. At tonight’s meeting Administration is recommending that we approve this policy.

Mr. Heuser moved, seconded by Larry Harris to approve the changes to the Hiring Process and Criteria Policy, TB results requirement as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

NEW POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy 5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity was presented as a ‘First Reading’ and will be brought back to the Board in September for approval.

CONCUSSION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

This procedure will be added as an exhibit item in the district procedures manual and will also be added to the School Facts and made available to all district staff and parents. This is presented as a ‘First Reading’ and will be brought back to the Board in September for approval.

Discussion continued regarding this procedure and Mr. Ryan noted that this is separate from the other Press releases and has been put in place by our athletic directors. It will become an exhibit item to be brought back to the September meeting for a second reading and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were none.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE DISTRICT BUSES

The district currently owns its own fleet of nine buses. Seven of them are multi-function school activity buses and two are yellow mini-buses. Tonight’s request is to replace five of these fleet vehicles and will include four multi-function and one yellow. This will be done through the Illinois Joint Purchasing Program. The district’s bus fleet contains all 2003 model vehicles and has been on the asset rotation schedule for replacement with five scheduled for replacement during the 2014-2015 fiscal year and four are in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. We will be able to take advantage of the state contract to purchase replacement buses on a non-bid basis. It was noted that with their 2014 models already purchased, Midwest Transit who is the vendor holding the state contract, is offering us their 2015 models instead.

Although we have included funds in our 2014-2015 budget for this replacement at an estimated value of $50,000 each we would limit the purchases to a maximum package price of $47,000 each allowing for the cost of district lettering and logos. Administration will work on trade-in values closed to the delivery of the new vehicles.
Discussion continued among the Board Members with their main concern being should we look into leasing versus purchasing. It was noted that the mileage on these vehicles makes the district a good prospect for leasing. It was the consensus of the Board to table until the next meeting so that the Business Office could look into leasing. Mr. Kosowski stated that leasing could be a cost savings which would make the Board more accountable. In addition, the Board felt we need to look closely at our rotation schedule.

Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mrs. Burmeister to table this agenda item until the September meeting which will allow the Business Office to look into leasing versus purchasing. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

RECOMMENDATION BID FOR LIBRARY FURNITURE PACKAGE AT EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

The Library Furniture Bid package hosted its bid opening on Thursday, August 14 at 9:00 a.m. receiving and opening three sealed bids for the subject project. The newly remodeled LRC at Eisenhower did not include furniture in the bid package last year. Eisenhower is requesting to furnish the main entrance of the LRC to create an inviting atmosphere for small meetings with students and community members. At the back of the LRC movable partitions, along with movable tables and chairs would benefit the many students that receive COOL Place tutoring.

It was noted that bid specifications were prepared and duly advertised in the Southtown Star as prescribed by law. In addition, the bid packet was posted on the website as well as mailed to all known local contractors.

Administration is asking the Board to table this bid until more research is done. The lowest qualified bidder is Hertz Furniture and the district has not purchased from Hertz Furniture in the past. Therefore, we need to ensure that they are a responsible bidder and we need to review their bid and look at the quality of their furniture.

Mr. Kosowski moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to table this agenda item until research can be completed with the furniture company. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Holmes, Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

PERSONNEL LIST #2014-#8

Dr. Pratl had requested this agenda item be removed from Consent asking if any of the new hires were in the audience and asking if so, could we introduce them. Dr. Byrne responded that in the past all new certified hires had been invited to a Board Meeting and he will talk with Dr. Harting.

The Personnel List consisted of one administrative resignation, one administrative appointment, one certified appointment, six part-time certified contracts, three certified leave of absence, three classified terminations and thirteen classified resignations.
Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Heuser to approve the Personnel List #2014-#8 as presented. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Mr. Harris, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, Mr. Kosowski, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Heuser wished everyone a happy school year.

Mrs. Burmeister thanked everyone for their participation in the Health Fair as it was another huge success. Dr. Byrne stated that Mr. Corsi attempted to dunk him while he was in the dunk tank. (he was not successful)

At 7:50 p.m. Mrs. Burmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Harris to go into Closed Session to discuss employment of specific employees and possible litigation. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, Mrs. Burmeister, and Mr. Heuser voting aye.

*******CLOSED*****

At 9:50 p.m. Mrs. Burmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes to come out of Closed Session. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Corsi, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Heuser, Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes, Mrs. Burmeister, and Mr. Kosowski voting aye.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments.

Dr. Pratl asked that the minutes reflect that as a matter of record the district interviewed superintendent search firms at their Special Meeting on August 16 and will use one of these firms to assist us in our superintendent search.

At 10:00 p.m. Mr. Heuser moved, seconded by Mrs. Burmeister to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on roll call with Mr. Kosowski, Mr. Harris, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Heuser, Dr. Pratl, Mr. Corsi, Mrs. Burmeister voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

___________________________
President, Board of Education

___________________________
Secretary, Board of Education