

Lexington Community Unit #7 School District  
Lexington, Illinois  
Special Board Meeting  
“State of the District Meeting”  
January 30, 2016

President Jason Thomas called the regular meeting to order in the high school gymnasium at 2:00 p.m. Roll was called with the following members present: Mike Beard, Mike Hawkins, Andrea Hoggins, Bruce Klein, Chris Olson, and Jason Thomas. Also present were: Dwight Stricklin, Superintendent/ High School Principal; Paul Deters, Junior High/ Elementary School Principal and Patti Thomas, recording secretary. There were several members of the community present as well.

Superintendent Dwight Stricklin updated the community on where the district currently stands as far as the finances. Mr. Stricklin wanted to let the community know that two years ago when the community came to the school board with concerns about the financial status of the school district that the board heard their message loud and clear.

The board promised to reduce an administrator by the end of the 2016/17 school year. The board has reduced the number of administrators to two with each administrator picking up more responsibilities in an effort to reduce cost two years ahead of what was promised. Several other cuts were made that the board felt would impact the students the least. The projected deficit figures at the end of 2015/2016 are \$151,000 for the Education fund which is down from the peak deficit of \$851,530 at the end of the 2013/14 school year.

Along with the cost cutting efforts by the board of education and the school district, Mr. Stricklin would like to thank the community members for the generous donations for the “Count Me in Campaign” in the amount of \$352,000. Mr. Stricklin would also like to thank the City of Lexington for its generous donation of \$150,000 during the 2014-15 school year to help bring the deficit down. He would also like to thank the City of Lexington for their generous donation of \$90,000 made to the school district for this current fiscal year.

After consideration of our need to financially stabilize the district and in an effort to be financially proactive, the Board has made the decision to place on the ballot a question asking the voters to increase the Education fund rate from \$3.40 to \$3.90 at the next election on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

#### Public Participation

Rick Barkes addressed the board congratulating them on reducing the deficit. He was also wondering what the other options they have looked into at this time.

Josh Martin addressed the board on a question inquiring if the current deficit included the fundraising efforts from the community members and the City of Lexington.

Don Revelle addressed the board with a couple of questions. What is the board doing with the teachers' salaries? He also was wanting to know how we are going to make sure that the tax increase will go away after the four years.

Amber Keagle addressed the board to let them know that she is proud of what they have accomplished. She is aware and happy to see the new program starting up in the high school where we are trying to keep kids in school and graduating on time.

Representative Dan Brady addressed the board about what has been happening in Springfield. He said the state did pass a K-12 education budget.

School Board Member Mike Hawkins spoke to the community about the importance of having our school within our community. He referenced a few communities nearby and how losing their high schools affected their home values and the main streets of their communities. He also spoke about how the school and the city are in this together.

Jason Thomas moved to adjourn at 3:04 p.m. Seconded by Chris Olson.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Jason Thomas, President

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Michael F. Hawkins, Secretary