

Community Unit School District 200

Administration and School Service Center
130 West Park Avenue

Phone: (630) 682-2002

Wheaton, Illinois 60189-6400

Fax: (630) 682-2227

NOTICE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 200
DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

A Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the School Service Center, 130 W. Park Ave, Wheaton, IL. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment (See Board Policy 2:230)
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2024
5. Presentation and Discussion on Community Leadership Report for Middle School Facilities Improvements
6. Review and Reminder about District 200 Strategic Dashboard
7. Review of Bylaws and Potential Agenda Topics for 2024-25 CAC Year
8. Discussion of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024-25 School Year
9. What is the Buzz?
10. Adjourn



Rob Hanlon
Board of Education, District 200



Superintendent of Schools, District 200

Community Unit School District 200 is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to attend and/or participate, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to promptly contact the School District's ADA/Section 504 Coordinator at (630) 682-2000. TT/TDD Service is available through the above number.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
August 21, 2024 - Meeting at SSC

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Dr. Schuler
- This meeting was conducted in the BOE Room at the SSC.
- 31 CAC members were present for the meeting; 6 members were absent.
- Others present: Supt. Jeff Schuler, Asst Supt Brian O’Keeffe, Board Member Dave Long.

Public Comment

None

Welcome and Introductions

- Dr. Schuler welcomed all to CAC and reviewed how the committee operates, noting that CAC is a public body based on the charter. The agenda will be posted, public comment will be on each agenda, and the committee will approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- Introductions - all members were asked to introduce themselves.
- Value of the committee - the feedback and the processing to understand perspectives on topics.

Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2024

- Motion to approve the minutes: C. Dabovich; second: G. Aimonette; All in favor.
- The minutes of April 17, 2024, were approved.
- Once the committee approves the minutes from the previous CAC meeting, they are sent to the Board at their next meeting.

Presentation and Discussion on Community Leadership Report for Middle School Facilities Improvements

- Before reviewing the informational presentation, the Administration sought valuable feedback. Are there any elements that are unclear and/or not understandable? We want to make sure we present the information as clearly as possible. The role of the District and Board level is to ensure that what is included in the question being put in front of the community is clear and understandable. We are not in an advocacy stage.
- Dr. Schuler reviewed the referendum presentation, including information on the middle school facilities' projects/referendum. This informational presentation will be given at a series of community town hall presentations (with internal and external groups) between now and early November. This included information on the following:
- District Mission and Goal - creating conditions for students to succeed - creating a passion to excel.
- Noted the focus on learning acceleration, POG (Portrait of a Graduate) programming, quadrupled the number of dual credit opportunities and did not see a dip in the number of students participating, invested time and energy in the Career Pathways Program, and the academic success (school district ratings).
- The national study results from the education recovery scorecard noted the gains, and we are proud of that, as well as the four-year trajectory we have seen in reading and math gains.

- Fiscal conservatism, spending below the state average in the operating expense per student, keeping a lower tax rate, and noting the \$2 million abatement and the district debt dropping off.
- Since 2017, the Board has continued to invest in facilities (at least \$7 million per year in capital facilities projects, targeted primarily at elementary and high schools).
- Addressing the significant needs at three of our four middle schools (MS)—Franklin, Monroe, and Edison—is necessary.
- Identifying where the needs were within the three MS buildings; the buildings have aged with time, and there are challenges with the three buildings: sight lines, safety and security, science lab spaces, music spaces/sound barriers, building systems out of date/end of life, floor/basic infrastructure, and accessibility challenges.
- Since the fall of 2023, we have invested months in community engagement and seeking feedback, developed project packages, and brought them to the Board.
- The levy that will be passed in December of this year will be the last one with any current outstanding debt payment. This creates an opportunity to have a conversation with the community about reinvesting in our facilities while still seeing savings in the bond/interest funds.
- “Tax decrease” in this conversation - tax decrease over where the current portion of our levy is set.
- The debt falling off gives us different opportunities on how to structure the bonds. Noted 15-year vs 20-year payback and how much money would be saved in interest using the 15-year option to structure the bonds. This option allows for a reinvestment conversation sooner.
- The Board voted last week - to advance the \$151.5 million referendum to the community on the November 5, 2024 ballot.
- This would amount to a \$71 savings in that portion of the levy for the median homeowner (property valued at \$403K).
- If the community approves the referendum, three broad areas will be addressed: improving safety and security in our middle schools, ensuring healthy and accessible buildings for all students, and providing students with 21st-century learning environments.
- How do we accomplish the three broad areas - noted reconfiguration of spaces, improved sightlines and student mobility within the buildings, upgraded camera systems and door entry systems; improved infrastructure, overhaul of mechanical systems, accessibility improvements (getting into buildings and spaces inside of the buildings); and addressing key spaces in the school environment (science labs, elective/exploratory labs, classroom sizes).
- Monroe - there are significant upgrades to the Essentials classrooms and programs.
- Renovation and improvement of LLCs (Library Learning Centers), student learning spaces, music and indoor athletic spaces, and student wellness spaces.
- The middle school projects will bring parity across core programs at the four middle schools and provide welcoming spaces for all.
- The tax calculator allows community members to determine the referendum's impact on their individual property. It is available in the referendum information section of the D200 website.
- Reviewed the proposed layouts and plans for the three buildings, highlighting the areas of improvement and the focus for each building.
- Monroe highlights include a new performing arts wing/spaces, new locker rooms (to support P.E. spaces), improvement to existing P.E. spaces, new renovated/resized science labs,

existing classrooms with new finishings (mechanical, floor, ceiling, lights, furniture upgraded), Student Services spaces upgraded and relocated, Essentials spaces, redefined and improved LLCs.

- Edison highlights include two smaller additions: a small addition to the performing arts area (and improvements to the existing infrastructure for performing arts) and expanding the existing gymnasium out; expanded student services/support area and relocation of spaces; academic wing—improvement noting a hallway that extends straight through (currently just stops); and renovated science labs and existing classrooms.
- Franklin highlights include a major new addition: a new music/drama wing to the building, noting improved student mobility in that wing; LLC relocation and renovation; office area relocation—expanding health services, student counseling, and support services; improvement to current P.E. and locker room space; new science labs on the 2nd floor and improvements to the classrooms. Franklin is the most complex of the three projects based on the design of the building itself.
- Changes/adjustments to MS electives to better align with pathways at the high school level. This topic is a possible future conversation for CAC.
- There are common elements across all three buildings: science labs and classroom spaces/finishings within classrooms, with reconfiguration of spaces within classrooms for flexibility.
- Project cost (preliminary budget) - total and breakdown by the three buildings.
- Timeline—if the referendum passes in November, target bidding the projects in early Spring 2025; this would allow construction for new components to begin next fall (2025) and take advantage of 2-3 construction summers; noted swing spaces could be used.
- The ballot question that will appear on the November ballot:
 - *Shall the Board of Education of Wheaton-Warrenville Community Unit School District Number 200, DuPage County, Illinois, construct additions to, alter, repair, equip and improve the sites of the Franklin, Edison and Monroe middle school buildings, including constructing safety and security improvements, updating infrastructure and mechanical systems to improve efficiency, improving special education spaces and accessibility, updating science lab classrooms, improving music spaces, completing technology improvements and renovating instructional spaces, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$151,500,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?*
- The question has to be clear about what buildings are being addressed, what work we are doing, and how much it will cost.
- The District has an obligation to do the work that is outlined within the money that is authorized to bond.
- Important dates noted include the Election, virtual informational meeting, and dates of the town halls with tours.
- The table groups were provided with a draft document outlining the informational sessions that will occur in the community before the election.
- Question on what can/cannot be included in the ballot question.
- Three Questions that table groups were asked to discuss and report on:

As you are listening to the informational presentation, consider three things...

 - What questions do you have?
 - What is not clear in the presentation or would require greater explanation or clarification?

- Do you have any suggestions for the communications timeline associated with the informational messaging?
- The table groups were asked to complete the feedback forms.
- The website's section devoted to referendum information provides even more information and includes a space to submit feedback or ask questions.

Review and Reminder about District 200 Strategic Dashboard

- How can outcomes, progress, and impact per student be emphasized regularly?
- School report cards with student learning data will be released in October.
- Helpful for the CAC group to be familiar with the Dashboard on the District 200 website.
- The group was advised to look at the information on the Dashboard (noting the metrics we monitor and the strategies—the specific targeted areas and major work plans for the year).

Review of Bylaws and Potential Agenda Topics for 2024-25 CAC Year

- There will be a discussion with the Board in Sept. on CAC meeting agenda topics.
- Members were asked to jot down agenda topics and forward them to Dr. Schuler.

Discussion of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024-25 School Year

- We will elect a chair and vice chair for CAC at the beginning of next month's meeting.
- Descriptors for the positions are on the CAC bylaws (available on the cusd200 website)
- If interested, please inform Dr. Schuler at least one week before the Sept meeting.
- Whoever expresses interest, will start the meeting by giving an update.
- The chair will facilitate the agenda of the meetings.

What is the Buzz? (What are people talking about out in the community)

- The elementary cameras on the playground were installed and activated over the summer. They are up and running (they may need some tweaking). They are working and effective. Appreciate the District finding the money to get this done.
- The Student Excellence Foundation's fundraiser flyer was distributed for an event on September 21st. The organization supports teacher grants, scholarships, and more.
- Shout out to both Hubble and WWS orientation - both schools did a great job.
- Positive things were heard about the dual credit opportunities in D200, which are currently not offered in some local districts.
- Pleasant Hill is off to a good start with Interim Principal Debby Klein and extra support in the building.
- WWSHS's "Teams" communication tool is coming out. It seems like a great idea for a central form of communication between all staff and parents. Some parents are confused about how that works (noted spam). DOT was notified.
- CAC Roster - The updated roster will be put on the website

Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn: K. Gillenwater; second: G. Aimonette; All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.