

SHELDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SHELDON, IOWA
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT LEVY PUBLIC HEARING
September 28, 2005

President Dan Van Gorp welcomed the Board Members and the press.

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:02 p.m. President Dan Van Gorp called the meeting to order. Present: Mark Brown, Kathy Brock, Gary Ihnen, Kecia Hickman, Dan Van Gorp, Robin Spears, and Bill Borchers. Absent none. Guests: Nathan Christophel, Jay Matzke, and Merlyn Kruse.

2. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Mark Brown and seconded by Gary Ihnen to approve the agenda. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Mark Brown, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC HEARING -

A. Hearing on Proposed Instructional Support Resolution -

At 5:03 p.m., Motion by Kathy Brock and seconded by Gary Ihnen to open the public hearing. Roll Call vote: Mark Brown, Aye; Kecia Hickman, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried. Superintendent Spears reviewed the current Instructional Support Levy (ISL), explained that it is funded by a combination of Income Surtax, Real Estate Taxes, and State Aid, with the greatest emphasis on the Income Surtax. Superintendent Spears said that if there was no ISL, the District would have to charge for Driver's Education and textbook fees, similar to what was done before the current ISL was approved by the voters five years ago. The District is not asking for an increase, only maintaining the current level of funding. The ISL will furnish approximately \$250,000 per year. When the ISL was approved last time there was a need to update the Synergistic Lab for \$108,000, and now the lab needs another update. The current update will range from \$60,000 to \$90,000 depending on the modules that will be included in the update. President Dan Van Gorp asked for comments from the Board.

President Dan Van Gorp asked if the District had received any written or oral comments concerning the ISL. Superintendent Spears said that there had been none.

President Dan Van Gorp asked for comments from the public. Merlyn Kruse asked how much the taxable valuation has increased since the last ISL election. Superintendent Spears said that the valuation that is used for the ISL has increased around 2-3 million dollars.

Superintendent Spears stated that the valuation that is used for bonding and PPEL has increased more, as the value of TIF projects is included in the bond/PPEL valuation.

Superintendent Spears said that since the majority of the ISL funding comes from the Income Surtax, the effective change on property taxes won't be that much. Hearing no further comments from the public, President Dan Van Gorp asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

At 5:14 p.m. Motion by Gary Ihnen and seconded by Kathy Brock to close the public hearing. Roll Call vote: Mark Brown, Aye; Kecia Hickman, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.

4. RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM -

Motion by Gary Ihnen and seconded by Kathy Brock to adopt the resolution to participate in the Instructional Support Program, at a rate of 6%, and the levy will be funded by a combination of the Income Surtax, and property taxes. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Mark Brown, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.

5. RESOLUTION CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF A VOTER APPROVED PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT LEVY -

Superintendent Spears explained the history of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL), how it used to be called the Schoolhouse Levy. The usages of the PPEL were explained. The Board discussed the needs of the District. Kathy Brock asked what we do if the roof needs replacing and there are no funds available. Superintendent Spears said that we would have to go to the voters for a bond issue similar to what was done when we needed to replace the HVAC, ceiling and lights at the High School. Gary Ihnen stated that the needs have been listed in the paper, and the funds are necessary. Mark Brown asked if General Fund money could be used to repair the roof. Superintendent Spears explained that according to the Code of Iowa, General Fund money could not be used for roof repair and replacement. Kecia Hickman asked what if a problem comes up, can we adjust the amount. of the PPEL. Superintendent Spears said that if a problem came up we would have to go to the voters to ask their permission to change the amount. Gary Ihnen said we have nice facilities and we need to maintain them, just as a homeowner would do. Dan Van Gorp said we have a working list of the needs. We have an excellent campus and we need to keep it up. Merlyn Kruse had no problems with the need for the PPEL, but asked what the \$15,000 authorization for exercise equipment was for. Superintendent Spears said that the exercise equipment was for the Middle School exercise room, and that remaining Middle School Construction funds were used to pay for that expenditure. Mark Brown said that the residents who had talked to him said that the list should be only for the things that are needed. Motion by Kecia Hickman and seconded by Gary Ihnen to approve the resolution to hold a special election for the purpose of authorizing the District to levy annually, for a period of five (5) years, a voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy at the rate of \$.50/\$1,000 of assessed valuation of taxable property. . Roll Call vote: Kathy Brock, Aye; Mark Brown, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Kecia Hickman, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.

6. ADJOURN

At 5:39 p.m., Motion by Kathy Brock and seconded by Gary Ihnen to adjourn. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Mark Brown, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.