



School District 158

Dr. John D. Burkey - Superintendent

Board of Education: **Shawn Green**
President

Anthony Quagliano
Vice President

Kimberly Skaja
Secretary

Kevin Gentry
Michael Skala

Aileen Seedorf
Lawrence Snow

Press Release

From: Board of Education

Date: July 21, 2008

Re: Union Negotiations

The Huntley Education Association (HEA) issued a press release on July 16, 2008 which says their last proposal (July 14)

“will not result in deficit spending. It will not require a tax increase or budget cuts. Budget surpluses will continue.”

The Board of Education (BOE) believes that this comment about deficit spending and budget surpluses is totally inaccurate.

On June 19, 2008, the BOE passed a tentative budget. Dollars were included for an HEA contract in this budget (HEA contract costs unknown). As a result, the budget has an operating surplus of 1.79 million dollars. This budget will require at least a 1% operating surplus that acts as the budget contingency (this has been done for the past two budgets, much of this contingency has been needed and is consistent with sound fiscal management). Because there are not increased HEA costs in this budget, all new contract amounts specifically proposed by the HEA will be deducted from this surplus.

After taking into account the 1% “contingency” surplus, there is a little over one million dollars in new money available in the budget. Spending significantly more than the new money available in the budget will require deep spending cuts or deficit spending. The HEA’s proposal of July 14, calls for new spending of over \$2.8 million just in the areas of salary, TRS, and medical insurance in year one of the proposed contract. The HEA has also *separately* proposed considerable increases in other areas of compensation.

Even without the needed 1% “contingency” surplus, the HEA’s proposal adds over one million dollars in new spending than what is available. Thus, the HEA’s statement that their proposal will not result in deficit spending or budget cuts is inaccurate.

The Board respectfully disagrees with the HEA’s characterization of the conduct of its bargaining agent and negotiating team. The Board does not choose, at this time, to unilaterally release the HEA’s July 14 proposal which could be construed as an action that could potentially damage the negotiating process.

Administrative Cabinet: Superintendent Dr. John D. Burkey
Associate Superintendent Terry L. Awrey, Ed.S.
Chief Human Resources Officer Ms. Lauren Smith, SPHR
Interim Chief Operations Officer Mr. Dave Jenkins
Interim CFO / Treasurer Mr. Martin McConahay

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However, the Board encourages the HEA to release its July 14 proposal. Such a positive action of transparency would allow the public to directly evaluate the claims made by the HEA.

At the beginning of this process, the Board strongly felt it was in the best interest of all parties and the community to conduct negotiations in public with full transparency. The Board continues to be disappointed that the HEA negotiating team would not agree to this type of bargaining process. The Board will, at this time, continue to conduct negotiations within the agreed upon ground rules, a spirit of cooperation, and respect for our excellent teaching staff. The Board of Education is committed to settling a contract that is fair to our teachers and taxpayers.

(Attachment: District 158 Preliminary Budget document)

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Fund	Operating Funds	All Funds
Education	\$55,563,111	\$55,563,111
O & M Fund	\$8,249,534	\$8,249,534
Bond and Interest		\$8,698,948
Trans	\$4,917,802	\$4,917,802
IMRF	\$1,962,167	\$1,962,167
Site and Construction		\$2,025,363
HESPA/OT-PT Total Package Increase	\$465,000	\$465,000
Administrator & At-Will Raises	\$201,394	\$201,394
	\$71,359,008	\$82,083,319
Projected Revenue	\$73,088,944	\$82,988,944
Projected Expense	\$71,359,008	\$82,083,319
Difference	\$1,729,936	\$905,625
No HEA Potential Increases are reflected on this sheet \$750,000 will need to be moved from Operating to S&C		