



Verbatim Response Document

SMALL GROUP WORK ACTIVITY

SESSION #3

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

ACTIVITY

TASK #1: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW DISCUSSION

Reflect on tonight's presentation. Take some time to discuss the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges of Lisle CUSD 202's financial outlook. As a small group, complete the Task #1 Activity Poster on your table focusing on the prompt questions included in each box.

TASK #1- When considering Lisle CUSD 202's financial health and future				
TABLE #	What does your small group see as <u>STRENGTHS</u> of the District's financial outlook?	What does your small group see as <u>WEAKNESSES</u> of the District's financial outlook?	What does your small group see as the District's financial <u>OPPORTUNITIES</u>? <i>For example: student programs, learning resources, staff development, facilities, etc.</i>	What does your small group see as <u>CHALLENGES</u> of the District's financial outlook?
# 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Reserves *Low Debt *Favorable Bond Rating *Sup-has strong financial background 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Factors beyond our control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Should we payoff bond? What is the rate? Benefits of debt? *There will be <u>opportunities</u> in 2019 w/ bond paid off-facility needs- *Are we using cloud services for tech? Are we cost effective? *Continue professional development *Do we participate in speech and debate-student programs *Social-emotional curriculum district wide *Violence prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Possible facility needs *Community support for decisions made
# 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Credit rating *Fund balances/cash reserves *Growing revenues *Well financially managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Unknown state financials/laws *Facilities-current needs due to age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *manage technologies: web-based/downloads; one-on-one *Staff/Administration education *Financially responsible use of technologies *Other revenue options *Do we run without debt? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Unknown state financials/laws *Do we renovate/repair/build new *Do we run without debt
# 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Good financial planning *Bonds will up and we'll be debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Being too conservative can affect day to day facility needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Selling the Meadows *Our facilities' future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Selling the Meadows *Our facilities' future

TASK #1- When considering Lisle CUSD 202's financial health and future

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> free *Tax Base composition is diverse *Not relying on state funding for high % 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Need to spend the funds on facility needs and requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Refinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *How to spend # with no regrets or minimal. *Variable costs.
# 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Bond rating *Future vision *Good financial management *Maintain current salaries/benefits *Maintaining retention of quality staff *Pooling with other districts *Intergovernmental Agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Reliance on State and Government *Limited new avenues of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sponsorship by local business "advertising" *Review costs of benefits – spousal surcharge *Bring back the track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Retaining quality staff while staying fiscally responsible *Keeping up with unpredictable expenses; i.e. fuel costs
# 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Minimal debt *ISBE rating/moody rating *Partnerships to cut/save money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Future uncertainties-taxes/revenue *Land locked or built out *Legislative factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Becoming debt free *Considering new facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Keeping up with technology *Updating facilities *Maintaining higher standards in classroom
# 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Financial reserves *Financial health awards *Tax rate *We're <u>NOT</u> dependent on state funding. *Savings of 10% for many years. *Bonds-debt free by 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We have a facility that's not used for education *Land locked-Could district boundaries change to have <u>more</u> Lisle residents attending our schools? *Outdated elementary school buildings *Cost for two principals at K-5 level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *<u>Curriculum</u> Cooperatives between districts-rather than reinventing the wheel ourselves again and again. *Fix or build w/o debt and <u>additional</u> tax dollars. *Support <u>Curriculum</u> and Instruction *We want a vision for funding for <u>this</u> as much as for a facilities discussion. *Professional Development – Conferences - Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *If reserves are too high, is it possible for state to take them back? (Lose our reserves)* *What's the financial plan for student programs? Going forward?
# 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Financial reserves *Timing of debt forgiveness *Intergov't shared resource agreements *Fiscally responsible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What to do with bldg. needs *Meadows School *Transportation costs *\$12-21K/Student expenses(How compare to other districts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pay off debt prior to 2019 with revenue surplus *Future bond issues *Continue staff education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pension fundings *Changes in gov't funding *Economy *High taxes *Size of school district

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *High teacher costs *Technology adaptation
# 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Money in reserve (surplus) *Debt free in 2019 *Continued to only spend what is collected at a local level (since federal/state \$ is unknown) *Sharing costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *\$8 million debt *Facilities deteriorating *Landlocked community (little opportunity for new business revenue) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Bringing more commercial revenue since there isn't much land to build residential tax revenue. *Having \$ available for improvements for student learning (technology, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *How to spend \$ (facilities) *Budgeting for uncertainties (plan for the worst case scenarios?)
# 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Current reserves! *Employees watching over our district-the money guy and Keith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Old buildings *A lot of unknown info.-missing links 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Restructuring facilities-Kindergarten with age appropriate kids. *Hire staff for curriculum development (for Common Core) *Quit taking teachers out of the classroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Hire staff for curriculum development (for Common Core) *Quit taking teachers out of the classroom. *Immediate upkeep of buildings-safety *State of IL
# 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mostly independent of state funding *Strong reserves *Strong Bond Rating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Inability to predict unexpected revenues and expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ability to address facility issues without passing a referendum. *Unused property (Meadows) *Expanding staff and programs (Full Day K., summer school) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Uncertainty with future student population *Uncertainty with future State contributions *Decision on what to do with available resources/funds
# 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Comparative tax rate is low *Debt will be paid off in next 3 years *Time for planning facility modification and making informed decisions about the future 	<p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Delayed payment *Potential negative fiscal consequences of bankruptcy <p>Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Weak business base (Downtown) *Land locked-No large new businesses projected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *District has ample monetary reserves *Debt will be paid off in next three years *Time for planning facility modification and making informed decisions about the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Unknown variable with the state *Where do we put additional learning resources *Staffing costs

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# 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cash reserves *Debt balance *Good bond rating *Low tax rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Legislative uncertainty *Funding uncertainty *Percent savings in budget potentially decreasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Timing good to decide allocations in the future *Being proactive *Consider on-line course instructions *Consolidating facilities e.g. 1 elementary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Legislative uncertainty *State fiscal health poor *CPI *Economic uncertainty in county, state, nationally
# 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Debt free in 2019 *Saving 10% for past 11 years *One of the lower taxes in DuPage *Excellent Credit Ratings *Proven Community Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Financial State of IL *Legislative factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Flexibility to maintain programs *Stay competitive with neighboring districts and state-wide initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Older buildings-maintenance *Keeping up with technology
# 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Running surplus *Great bond rating *Coop purchasing *Fiscally conservative/balances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *90% revenue from residence and commercial *Taxes for school exceed CPI *Facilities cost *High cost per student *Pension funding *Illinois legislative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Take advantage of being debt free *Small school district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Illinois legislative *Infrastructure aging
# 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Debt free in 2019 *Positive cash revenues *High ratings *90% of total revenue is local *Current property tax rate is low *Participate in cooperatives and partner with local entities *Continue to attract and keep quality teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Buildings in need of repair *Mobility and low income are on rise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Have opportunities to make choices about future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Uncertainty of future *Legislative factors

TASK #2: QUESTIONS - MANAGING FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As a small group, discuss the question below. The recorder should enter the group's thoughts on the GREEN Task #2 Activity Sheet located in the center of your table.

- What additional questions do you have about how Lisle CUSD 202 has been managing the community's financial resources?

TASK #2: What additional questions do you have about how Lisle CUSD 202 has been managing the community's financial resources?	
TABLE #	SUGGESTIONS
# 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We wonder if there is an advantage to paying off the bond early? *Are we learning/collaborative with other school districts regarding best financial practices? *Are we missing federal programs/opportunities because we have less federal funding?
# 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What happens if the state goes bankrupt? *What would happen if state takes money from our district to give other (poorer) districts?
# 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *How many businesses make up the 40% of property taxes – are we relying on just a few companies – are we diversified. *Building up Ogden Ave. and downtown are key. *If we implement full day kindergarten and other programs what are the expenditures associated with that and how will these long term reoccurring expenses be handled?
# 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Are you able to “pool” insurance benefits for the employees with other agencies?
# 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What is the District's plan for future loss of funding, i.e., SB16, TRS, ACA, State bankruptcy and how does it affect future spending?
# 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *No Response
# 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pay off mortgage early? *Financial position of the Meadows Center?
# 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Can we run below what we are collecting locally? (Since we cannot depend on state/federal funding) (without sacrificing what we offer to staff/students/community); i.e. if we are collecting 90%, can we spend 80-85%?
# 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Does the Meadows building pay for itself? *Parking *How much do we spend on subs? *Breakdown of financials for each building? *New building? How will it be financed? *What happens if IL goes bankrupt?
# 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *How are reserves invested, interest earned?

TASK #2: What additional questions do you have about how Lisle CUSD 202 has been managing the community's financial resources?	
TABLE #	SUGGESTIONS
# 11	*No Response
# 12	*What are the administrative salary costs? *How do percent of expenditures in Lisle compare with other school districts? *Are there more opportunities for partnership with other intergovernmental services? E.g. have Park District Preschool use same curriculum as school?
# 13	*How do we plan to improve the security and to build safety into the front entrances of the schools? What is the back-up plan if we lose revenue to State being unable to fund?
# 14	*How does Lisle compare on spending percentage as shown on slide 25? *Impact of TIFs on School District Revenue.
# 15	*How does the incorporation status of the different neighborhoods affect finances?
# 16	*No Response