

BIG HOLLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT #38

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ROUTE 12 PROPERTY CONTRACT

The Big Hollow School Board has approved a contract for the sale of the school district's 12.9 acres located at the intersection of Routes 12 and 134. The contracted purchase price is \$5 million. The purchaser is a development corporation located in Florida. The projected closing date is July 2010.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The first series of conferences are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24. During the week of November 23 – 27 the schedule will be:

Monday ----- Students attend school AM; conferences conducted during the afternoon. There is no afternoon kindergarten session.

Tuesday ----- Students do not attend school; conferences held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday --- Teacher Institute Day

Thursday and Friday --- Thanksgiving Recess

FEDERAL "STIMULUS MONEY"

Beginning last spring, the term "Federal Stimulus money" has been used in terms of banking, mortgages, automobiles and education. How has this "stimulus" money been utilized in Illinois? The Illinois Legislature and State Board of Education decided to use the approximately \$1 billion dollars to fund school district General State Aid payments; the final five payments of the 2008-09 school year and the first five payments of the 2009-10 school year. It is important to note this "stimulus" money was "in place of" rather than "in addition to" Illinois-generated revenue; in other words, the initial state revenue which would have been used for school districts was reallocated to other state programs and replaced with the Federal money. However, for the 2009-10 school year (which started July 1) the state has received only enough money to fund the first General State Aid payment. Illinois school districts have continued to receive their GSA

payments; however, if the state does not receive the expected federal money, what will be the revenue source in May and June?

ONE MORE VERY IMPORTANT FUNDING POINT: From the beginning, Washington and Springfield have consistently stated the “stimulus” funding is a one-time-only action. Consequently, the crucial question is: where will Illinois get the required General State Aid funds for the 2010-11 school year since there will no longer be the federal source?

Federal “stimulus” money has also been identified for school districts through IDEA grants. School districts are eligible for two categories of funding. Big Hollow has been identified for (category 1) \$151,417 and (category 2) \$121,356. The category 1 money is being used toward the purchase of the new K-6 reading programs (total program purchase will exceed \$225,000). Category 2 money has been slotted for the purchase of computers which will be housed in all grade levels; the proposal and release of these funds are being reviewed in Springfield.

The simple fact is that all “new” federal and state funding programs require lengthy periods of reviews and “hoop jumping” (even though they are proclaimed as quick and simple). Experience has shown that patience (with a pinch of weariness) are necessary virtues.