

Board of Education Highlights

January 10, 2007 -- Franklin Middle School

Recognitions:

The Board recognized retiring Warrenville Police Chief Robert LaDeur for his services to the District and his membership on the Safety and Security Task Force.

Public Hearing:

A public hearing was held on the Board's intent to request a waiver from the school code to change the rating system included in teacher evaluations. The request is an outgrowth of two years of work by teachers and staff to create an evaluation system that promotes professional development and improves student learning. One member of the public spoke against the proposal.

Superintendent Search:

Board President Andy Johnson reported that the Board is making positive progress on the search for a new superintendent to succeed Dr. Gary T. Catalani, who is retiring in June. Mr. Johnson said the Board may have an announcement by the end of January or early February.

Risk Assessment Report on Proposed School Property:

Dr. Catalani reported that a meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, January 12, to release results of the risk assessment report conducted by Boelter and Yates, a scientific and engineering firm. The study examined the risks and hazards of locating a school on an 18-acre site north of the BP Naperville Campus. The full report is posted on the District's web page at www.cusd200.org.

The Board took the following action:

- Approved interfund loans to avoid cash shortfalls in three of the District's main operating funds—education, transportation, and operations and maintenance. The loan comes from the District's working cash fund and must be repaid when the June property tax collections are received.
- Approved the purchase of fitness equipment for both high schools. The cost will be equally shared by the Wheaton Park District, which will have access to the equipment when not being used for school purposes.
- Authorized staff to request a waiver from the State School Code in order to change the teacher evaluation ratings on the new evaluation form. The entire teacher evaluation system has been under review for more than a year and is an outgrowth of negotiations with the teachers association. The new system is being piloted in some schools this year and all teachers are being trained to prepare for full implementation next year.

- Posted for public review recommendations for improvements to the English Language Learner program, including the content and location of the programs. The program was reviewed as part of the Curriculum Cycle, which calls for all programs to be reviewed every six years. The proposal is posted on the District's web page under the Educational Services drop-down menu, title Posted Draft Curriculum.
- Approved new curriculum for the seventh and eighth grade family and consumer science courses.
- Authorized the lease of a new postage meter machine with electronic capabilities that will meet the new regulations of the U.S. Postal Service.
- Accepted a gift of \$200 to Lowell School for use in supplementing field trip expenses for needy students.

Next Meeting:

January 24, 2007 at Wiesbrook Elementary School