

Board of Education Highlights

January 26, 2005 – Washington Elementary School

Superintendent's Report:

- The District will be holding a number of focus group sessions during February to get information from the community about what it values most in its local public schools. That information will subsequently be used as the Board develops a new vision and mission statement. The two-hour sessions will be held in each of the District's 20 schools February 7 through 17. Community members are invited and encouraged to participate. Members of the community who are interested in participating should contact their neighborhood school or the District office at 630/682-2000 to sign up.
- Wheaton North has won a \$2500 grant from Best Buy based on student work in Ed Klemm's A level speech class. The money will be used to purchase a digital video camera, a computer capable of video editing, and video editing software.
- Kathie Bossier is one of seven statewide educators who participated in the development of a book to help principals work with their teachers to bring best practices in literacy instruction to students in grades 4-8. Information in the book can be used in school improvement planning, staff development, and to help principals focus classroom observations.
- A segment will air on the CBS (channel 2) Morning News on February 2 about a Franklin Middle School student's effort to raise funds for AIDS orphans in Africa. Sixth grader Kendall Ciesemier organized the fund raising effort, Kids Caring for Kids, while facing a liver transplant last summer. She has conducted fund raising efforts on her own and encouraged others to do the same. Her immediate goal is to raise \$60,000 for an AIDS project in Zambia.

Board Workshop on Elementary Technology Skills

Mary Clifford, Director of Instructional Technology, led a presentation on how technology is being integrated into classroom instruction in the elementary schools. Along with teachers and computer aides from several schools, Mrs. Clifford demonstrated how students across the District learn about the computer, how to use the keyboard, conduct research on the Internet and complete a multi-media research project as their culminating fifth grade experience. Those who assisted in the presentation are Barbara Mambu and Becky Bosak, Washington; Lori Iverson, Bower; Karen Jacobs, Madison, Lindsey Lillig, Lincoln; Julie Burdick and Jeff O'Hara, School Service Center.

The Board held a short business meeting before moving into the workshop setting. During the business meeting, the Board took the following action:

- Reaffirmed its commitment to contribute an additional \$90,000 to the Monroe Overpass Project providing the final bid for the project does not exceed

\$2,540,300. The partners in the project have pledged that amount for the overpass, which is expected to be bid later this year. Construction is planned to start early in 2006. With this action, the District has pledged a total of \$191,500 to the project, plus a portion of its maintenance and legal fees.

- Renewed its subscription with N2H2 for software which gives the District the ability to control Internet filtering based on daily updates.
- Declared broken and outdated equipment and accessories as surplus, allowing the District to dispose of them.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the District to issue individual procurement cards to reduce paperwork and streamline the purchasing process. The cards are issued to authorized personnel for small purchases from specified vendors. One monthly bill is subsequently paid to the vendor, rather than several smaller ones, thus reducing time and paperwork.

Next Meeting:

February 9 at Lowell Elementary School