

# Board of Education Highlights

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October 12, 2005 – Johnson Elementary School

## **Recognitions**

The Board of Education recognized the twelve National Merit Scholar Semifinalists for their outstanding achievement. The semifinalists scored in the top one percent of students in the nation on the PSAT they took last spring. The students are Jennifer Chaney, Nicholas Ericksen, Gina Francis, David Hoffer, Chris Maxwell, and Julie Vroman from Wheaton Warrenville South High School; and Dayna Christensen, Michelle Kloempken, Sara Lykken, Thomas Seewald, Ian Slack and Jana Verden from Wheaton North High School.

## **Summary of 2005 State Testing Results**

District 200 scores on the state's achievement tests continued to increase this year with nearly all subgroups identified by the No Child Left Behind act (NCLB) scoring at higher levels. The higher scores represent a targeted effort by the District 200 staff to improve student learning overall and to identify and help those students who are struggling in reading and math. On the eleven subjects and grades tested by ISAT and PSAE, scores increased overall in seven, remained the same in three, and declined in one by only one percentage point. The District will continue to fine tune its efforts to help all students learn at higher levels. Each school has analyzed its demographic and achievement data and developed an improvement plan with specific goals and strategies to help all students meet the Illinois Learning Standards. More information is or will be posted on the District's web page at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org).

## **Public Hearing Set on 2005 Tax Levy**

Set November 9 for a public hearing on the proposed 2005 tax levy. The hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Franklin Middle School. The tax levy is the amount of money the District raises from property taxes and is used by the County Clerk to determine the District 200 tax rate within the limits allowed by the tax cap and authorized by voters. The District is seeking a 10.71 percent increase in the levy in an effort to collect all the property taxes available under the tax cap legislation. Typically, however, the District receives much less due to the tax cap's restrictions, which limit increases to 5 percent or the CPI, whichever is less, plus any new construction growth. Last year, for example, the District approved a 10.20 percent increase in its levy and actually got a 3.15 percent increase. Over the last eight years the District's actual levy increase has ranged from a high of 5.11 percent in 1997 to a low of 2.73 percent in 2002. The District is required to identify the amount of money it needs from property taxes by December, months before the assessed value of property in the District is known. The levy request, therefore, is made based on projected, not actual, increases in property values. More information is or will be posted on the District's web page at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org).

## **The Board took the following action:**

- Approved an electronic system for preparing and reviewing Board of Education meeting reports and conducting the meetings online. The Board agenda and associated materials will be available on the District's web site at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org) preceding each meeting. Those attending the meeting can follow the agenda as materials and reports are projected on a screen for public viewing. Board Members access materials from a laptop computer, which they use for personal note taking and voting. The system is designed to provide greater access to Board Meeting materials and to save money in the preparation, printing and distribution of paper Board Meeting books.
- Approved the use of the Docufide Transcript System, which allows students to request the high school guidance office's to send their transcripts online to the schools of their choosing. School registrars must approve the release of the transcripts. There is no cost to the District, but students must pay a \$5 fee for each transcript request. Paper copies may still be obtained in the registrar's office for the same \$5 fee currently charged.
- Approved the previously discussed goal statements for the 2005-06 school year. Those goals are as follows:
  - Curriculum Goal**  
Each student in a District 200 school will be provided appropriate and challenging learning opportunities resulting in increased student achievement as supported by comprehensive course and program offerings, an articulated curriculum which is aligned to the State Standards, and an inclusive and extensive professional development program.
  - Communication Goal**  
The Board of Education will identify and utilize additional opportunities for Board Members to dialogue with the community in order to receive information and provide feedback about District 200, its programs and services.
  - Negotiations Goal**  
The Board of Education will successfully negotiate agreements with both the WWEA and the CEA by June 7, 2006 that provide financial stability and predictability to the District.
- Approved the 2005-06 school and District improvement plans, documents that set improvement targets for the year and identify strategies for how to meet them. The School Improvement Plan for each school is available for review in the school's office. The District Improvement Plan is available in the School Service Center and will be posted on the District's web site at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org) by the end of October.

**Next Meeting:**

October 26 at Hawthorne Elementary School