

Board of Education Highlights

October 27, 2004 – Monroe Middle School

Recognitions

The Board recognized the District's ten National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. The students scored in the top 1 percent of students in the nation on the PSAT qualifying test. They are now eligible to compete for college and corporate scholarships. The students are: Deepika Ravi and Kyle Hopkins from Wheaton Warrenville South High School; and Kathryn Johnson, Evan Kuite, Matthew Luedke, Erik Lykken, Marius Millea, James Nyenhuis, Devin Patel and Devon Phillips from Wheaton North High School.

2004-05 Budget Approval

The Board approved the 2004-05 budget, with revenues of \$122.8 million and expenditures of \$126.8 million. The \$4 million deficit exists despite \$6.9 million in reductions over the last three years and a \$1.5 million increase in state aid this year. The amount of state aid, however, remains \$1.3 million less than it was three years ago. The Board, on the recommendation of the Citizen's Finance Committee, sold \$16 million in working cash fund bonds in July to help the District maintain its fund balances over the next several years while a long-term solution to the District's financial situation is developed and implemented. That process will begin this year when the public is invited to participate in discussions that will ultimately help the Board develop a new vision and mission statement that reflect the priorities of the community. The new vision and mission statements will subsequently be used by a new Finance Committee to develop a long-term plan for financial stability and predictability.

School Improvement Planning

Improvement efforts in District 200 continue to pay off as overall student performance on the state's achievement tests increased from the previous year. Dr. Margo Sorrick, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, told the Board of Education that District and building level initiatives to improve scores in reading and math were successful for many students. On the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) administered to students last spring, reading and math scores increased in all tested grades in the elementary and middle schools. There were significant performance increases in some of the subgroups identified by NCLB, indicating that new teaching approaches used by teachers are working, she said. Following a year of increases in all areas tested on the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) given to high school juniors, reading and math scores dropped slightly, but trend data indicates no significant difference in the past few years. School improvement planning will continue at the school and district level, with particular emphasis on improving reading and math scores, the subjects targeted by NCLB.

The Board took the following action:

- Seated new Board Member Joann Coghill. Mrs. Coghill was selected from a group of six candidates who applied for appointment to the seat vacated by Bob Davis. Mr. Davis resigned in September to spend more time with his family in Colorado. A

Carol Stream resident, Mrs. Coghill is a Wheaton realtor and past president of the Wheaton North Falcon Booster's Club.

- Posted for public review and comment two sets of mathematics textbooks for kindergarten through fifth grades. Both sets of materials are currently being piloted by selected teachers throughout the district to determine which series best supports the recently renewed elementary math curriculum. The curriculum and the textbooks are on display in the School Service Center and will be available in the public libraries in Wheaton, Warrenville, Carol Stream and Winfield on November 3. Comments on the curriculum and textbooks will be reviewed by staff before formal adoption in December.
- Posted for public review and comment renewed curriculum in the following high school courses: argumentation, French 1, German 1, 3, 4, and 5, Introduction to Algebra 2, Journalism, and Spanish 1. The curriculum is available for public review in the School Service Center and the public libraries in Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield and Carol Stream.
- Amended its motion to build a new middle school in the southwest part of the district to indicate that a referendum to gain authorization and funding for the new school would be binding.
- Approved the purchase of 14 computers to upgrade the Computer Aided Drafting lab at Wheaton North High School.

Next Meeting

November 10 at Wiesbrook Elementary School
Public Hearing on the Proposed 2004 Tax Levy