

Board of Education Highlights

November 14, 2007 - Edison Middle School

Superintendent's Report: Recognitions

- WNHS Coach Don Helberg will be inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame at the association's January 12 meeting. Don is one of only eight inductees from the state this year. Don joins his brother Ken, a teacher and coach at WWSHS, who was inducted in 2006 and their father Ron, a 1979 inductee, who coached at Palatine, Maine East and Evanston. The Hall of Fame was established in 1977 to honor coaches who have made a significant contribution to the sports of Track and Field and Cross Country in the State of Illinois. Congratulations to Don and his family.
- The State of Illinois recently announced the 2006 Illinois Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes academic achievements with three different awards including an Academic Improvement Award and Academic Excellence Award. Community Unit School District 200 is one of five districts in the state to receive recognition for four or more schools.

Bower Elementary School and Johnson Elementary School were recognized with an Academic Improvement Award. Schools qualifying for this award experienced substantial gains in academic achievement in both reading and mathematics for both the 2005 and 2006 testing sessions.

Longfellow, Pleasant Hill, Sandburg, Whittier and Wiesbrook Elementary Schools were recognized with an Academic Excellence Award. Schools qualifying for this award met all requirements for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and 90% or more of the students met or exceeded state standards in reading and mathematics for three consecutive years.

- The N.E.W. 200 (Network for Educational Excellence in Wheaton Warrentville) Foundation, along with its partners the Wheaton Sport Center and Wheaton Park District held the second annual Fun Run on September 23rd, to benefit the schools and students of District 200. The N.E.W. 200 Foundation is a volunteer 501c(3) not-for-profit corporation solely dedicated to funding innovative education for District 200 schools; working in collaboration with District 200 but is independent from it. This year's Fun Run event was a great success and generated nearly \$11,000 for the education of our children and young adults. Grants of \$1000 were awarded to the Pre K – 8 schools that had the highest percentage participation. This year's winners were Madison Elementary School and Edison Middle School. Congratulations to both schools and to the runners from all of the schools who participated.

District Belief Statement

Dr. Drury reviewed one of the District's belief statements, "Schools should promote culture of respect that values individual differences". He described examples of how a number of District schools demonstrate that belief. For example, Washington Elementary School hosted a "mix it up" day during lunch. On this day, students were given a colored wrist band made of yarn as they entered the lunchroom. They then sat at the table that corresponded with their yarn color. The object of the day is to mix up the seating so that the students could meet and learn about new people. A student council rep was at each table to facilitate conversation using some common conversation starters. Wiesbrook Elementary gives out Tiger Awards to students who demonstrate examples of Character Counts during the week.

The Board took the following action:

Approved the posting of Policy 3.15, Brief Period of Silence, for 30 days of public review and comment.

Action Items:

Budget

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education approved the 2007-08 Tax Levy.

Hubble Referendum

Following supportive and encouraging comments from a number of citizens, including the mayors of both Wheaton and Warrenville and the president of the local teachers union, the Board of Education unanimously approved placing a question on the February 5, 2008 ballot to build a new Hubble Middle School in the southwest portion of the District at a cost of \$58 million. The Board also approved the funding of this project that would issue bonds in the amount of the project cost (\$58 million) and maintain the current bond and interest tax rate of 44 cents for 13 of the next 14 years when the rate would decline. This funding plan was one of four developed by the District's bond counsel, Robert W. Baird, and does not extend the District debt calendar. William Hepworth from Baird explained that this financing plan as presented was based on very conservative assumptions. The maintaining of the 44 cents rate does not take into account proceeds the District would receive from the sale of the Hubble property nor any increase in the District's valuation should the property be developed. These two factors would most likely result in reducing the 44 cent tax rate, according to Mr. Hepworth.

Sale of Hubble Property

In addition, the Board of Education committed to sell the current Hubble property following the successful referendum and apply the net proceeds from that sale to reduce the District's debt.

Oral Report:

Jim Oddo of Justified Technology and Tom Kinane, District 200 Director of Technology, presented the Technology Study to the Board. The study indicates that from an industry and area school district comparison perspective, District 200 does not have equivalent staffing, spending, or infrastructure. The District Tech Steering Committee will meet in early December to develop a five year plan to address these reported deficiencies.

Next Meeting:

December 12 at Longfellow Elementary School