

# Board of Education Highlights

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December 12, 2007 - Longfellow Elementary School

## **Superintendent's Report:**

### Recognitions

#### Longfellow Elementary Blue Ribbon

Dr. Drury recognized Dianne Thornburg, principal of Longfellow Elementary School, and her faculty and staff for receiving the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award. The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools award, one of the most prestigious education awards in the country, distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. The award recognizes schools whose students achieve in the top 10 percent of their state. Ms. Thornburg introduced her staff and thanked them for the committed and conscientious work they do on behalf of and for students. She showed a video highlighting students who explained why the school won the Blue Ribbon Award. Ms. Thornburg, and recently retired former principal Paul McKinney, just returned from Washington D.C. where they were presented with the official award which is on display at the school.

#### Lisa Kimball

The Board of Education recognized Lisa Kimball, who recently resigned from the District as a media specialist, for her contributions to the District, specifically, her work co-chairing the District's Veteran's Day Committee. The Veteran's Day programs in all District 200 schools have been well received thanks to Ms. Kimball's efforts.

#### Dr. Sorrick

Dr. Drury recognized Dr. Margo Sorrick, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, for being invited to participate in the discussions related to the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind legislation. Her knowledge and reputation on this topic will be very beneficial in these discussions.

## **Reports**

### Belief Statement

Dr. Drury highlighted another one of District 200's belief statements: A safe and secure environment should be provided in all of our buildings. Dr. Drury asked Dr. Lori Belha, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and chair of the District's Safety Committee, to speak about the belief statement. Dr. Belha has presented the District's safety procedures and protocols locally as well as at national events. District 200 has produced four safety videos that have been adopted by DuPage County. Dr. Belha spoke about the strong partnerships that the District enjoys with local police and fire departments and how, through the work of the District's Safety Committee, we have

conducted emergency drills at our schools and improved our procedures in addressing emergency issues at all our buildings.

#### WNHS Top 3% in the Country

Dr. Drury reported that *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Wheaton North High School in the top 3% of high schools in the United States, using data from the 2005-06 school year. The magazine analyzed 18,790 high schools in 40 states (some states were excluded due to insufficient reporting information).

The evaluation of these high schools was based on three criteria. The first two criteria measured how well these schools served all students using proficiency benchmarks. The first measure looked at how students were performing statistically compared to other students in the state, particularly in the areas of reading and math. The second measure considered how these schools were supporting the least advantaged students and how they were performing.

The final assessment judged the schools nationally on college-readiness using Advanced Placement scores as the benchmark (Advanced Placement is a College Board program that offers college-level courses at high schools across the country).

In responding to the achievement, Jill Bullo, Principal of Wheaton North High School said, "It is such an honor for Wheaton North High School to be recognized at the national level. I am proud of the commitment to excellence of our students, faculty, and staff."

#### WWSHS Shows Class On and Off the Field

Dr. Drury recognized Wheaton Warrenton South High School's football program for their outstanding display of sportsmanship and integrity during the season. He read a letter from a parent who described how Coach Muhitch and his staff went out of their way to acknowledge and support a player from St. Rita after a Tiger victory. He also described how our players, after a heartbreaking loss at the State Championship Game, congratulated the winning team and showed support for other conference teams as they took the field for next championship game.

#### Focus on Learning Publication & Hubble Presentation Pod Cast

Dr. Drury announced that the District's Focus on Learning publication will be in the mail by the end of the week. He also reported that the Hubble Referendum Fact Presentation video will be available as a pod cast on the District's web site, [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org), by the end of the week. In addition, the District will be posting School Board meetings on its web site starting with the Dec. 12 meeting. This video pod cast should be available before the end of the month.

#### Driver Education Fee Hearing

Finally, Dr. Drury reported that the District will hold a public hearing prior to the Jan. 9, 2008 meeting to maintain the current \$250 fee for driver education.

**The Board took the following action:**

Approved posting kindergarten through eighth grade critical content for both physical education and social studies. Copies are available at the District office and on the District website for community members to review.

Two policies were approved for posting: 4.110, Transportation, which has been revised; and 6.20, Brief Period of Silence, which is being reposted from the November 14 meeting with only a change in the policy number. There is no change in the language of the policy.

Approved posting the 2008-09 District Calendar draft for public review and comment.

**Action Items:**2007 Levy

The Board of Education approved the 2007-08 Tax Levy.

**Next Meeting:**

January 9, 2008 at Madison Elementary School