

# Board of Education Highlights

---

December 13, 2006—Pleasant Hill Elementary School

## **Recognitions and Achievements**

The Board recognized the Wheaton Warrenville South High School football team and its coaches for winning the Class 8A state football championship last month.

The Board also recognized the Pleasant Hill Elementary School administration and staff for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The award recognizes the school's high test scores and incremental improvement over the last three years.

## **Superintendent Search**

Board President Andy Johnson said the Board is on schedule to select a new superintendent to succeed Gary T. Catalani, who is retiring in June. The Board interviewed five candidates selected by the search firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates and invited three of those individuals back for a second interview. The Board will meet again on January 3 to continue the selection process.

## **Hubble Update**

New information on the costs of a new or renovated Hubble Middle School were given to the Board along with projections of increased property tax revenues that could be generated if the existing Hubble site is sold and developed. Patrick Brosnan from Legat Architects estimated that a new school based on the program offered to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders would cost \$46.8 million, not including the land. The new estimate was developed after architects worked with the Hubble staff to identify the specific spaces to be included in a new building. The estimated cost of renovating the existing school based on the same program standard is \$55.7 million. Bill Hepworth, a public finance manager with William Baird & Associates, discussed the financial advantages the community would realize if a new middle school is built on another site and the existing property developed with a high density multi-use project. He projected that District 200 could receive from \$16 million to \$21.2 million in property tax dollars from the development through 2026. More information on these two presentations will be posted on the District's website at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org).

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

- Adopted the proposed 2007-08 school calendar. The calendar follows the recommendations of the Regional Office of Education.
- Adopted the proposed 2006 tax levy. While the action seeks a 15.1 percent increase, the Board is aware the actual amount will be substantially less and most likely in the 4 percent range. The higher amount is requested in order for the District to access all tax dollars available to support the educational program.
- Approved the purchase of mobile laptop carts for the middle schools. The carts can be moved from classroom to classroom and will give students the opportunity to

access online instructional resources right at their desk. A presentation station that includes a laptop and LCD video projector is part of package.

- Approved an agreement with Constellation New Energy to provide electricity services on a fixed price basis to Wheaton North High School. Constellation New Energy has been a reliable electrical supplier to the District since 2003. Being part of their Fixed Price Program provides budget certainty at a time when costs fluctuate with other providers.
- Adopted the 2006-07 Board goals. Although the Board and staff have been working toward implementation of the goals, the formal wording was not adopted until the meeting. The six goals relate to the new vision and mission, superintendent search, curriculum, communications, Hubble Middle School, and finances.
- Posted for public review the middle school technology curriculum. The curriculum can be reviewed online at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org).

**Next Meeting:**

January 10, 2007 at Franklin Middle School