

Board of Education Highlights

February 12, 2003 – Wheaton Warrenville South High School

Discussion Item:

The Board of Education discussed recommendations from the Finance Committee to reduce from \$3.1 million to \$3.6 million from next year's budget. In introducing the discussion, Dr. Catalani clarified that the proposed reduction for inclusion aides does not increase the ratio of aides to students, but eliminates four aide positions through attrition. He also noted that the proposed reduction in the District's prevention program does not necessarily mean the elimination of the prevention coordinator, but a reduction in the program's overall budget. A citizen/staff committee recommended a combination of fee increases and reductions to help reduce the budget deficit and begin rebuilding ending fund balances for the 2003-04 fiscal year. A list of the proposed reductions and fee increases is attached. The Board is planning to act on the recommendations at its March 12 meeting.

The Board took the following action:

- Approved a change in the school calendar to accommodate the administration of the Prairie State Achievement Exam and the PLAN test. Freshmen and seniors will be excused from school on April 23 and 24 and sophomores will be excused on April 24th only. On April 23rd, all sophomores will take the PLAN test and all juniors will take the PSAE on April 23rd and 24th.
- Authorized the administration to seek a waiver request from the state to charge a fee of up to \$250 for students enrolled in drivers education. The Finance Committee has recommended that the drivers education fee be increased to \$250 next year from its current \$100.
- Approved the revised District 200 technology plan, which when approved by the state will make the District eligible to apply for grants to help fund technology implementation.
- Accepted the 2001-02 audit from the William F. Gurrie & Co. Auditor Tim Cole noted that the District has been given the highest financial recognition by the state, despite the fact that the District is currently operating a deficit budget. He noted that the District has done a good job of managing its resources and he complimented the District for entering its second year of budget reductions, noting that District 200 has done a better job of addressing shortfalls in state funding than most other school districts.
- Approved interfund loans from the working cash fund to the operations and maintenance fund and the transportation fund. This loan will be repaid when the June property tax receipts are received.
- Approved the transfer of interest income from the bond and interest fund to the education fund.
- Agreed to join the Illinois Association of School Administrators in sending a resolution to the Illinois General Assembly in support of changes in the way public schools are funded and the Education Funding Advisory Board's recommendations.

- Approved textbooks for newly adopted curriculum in high school U.S. History and 4th and 5th year Spanish.
- Posted for public review the following high school textbooks to support newly revised curriculum in each area: American government, precalculus, senior rhetoric, senior honors English and AP senior English. The public may review the books in the School Service Center and in the Wheaton, Warrenville and Winfield public libraries.
- Posted for public review and comment textbooks and supporting materials for newly developed language arts curriculum in grade one through five. The materials may be reviewed in the School Service Center.
- Posted for public review and comment newly revised middle school curriculum in health, language arts, and math.
- Accepted gifts to Lincoln, Lowell, and Whittier Elementary Schools and to Wheaton Warrenville South High Schools. The gifts range from cash donations to equipment to outdoor signs.
- Rescinded the retirement request of Kevin Kane, principal at Bower Elementary School. Mr. Kane will remain as principal through the 2004-05 school year.
- Approved the appointment of Marcie Nordlund as the new principal of Johnson Elementary School in Warrenville. Mrs. Nordlund will succeed Barbara MacDowall who is retiring in June.
- Accepted the retirement request of Charles Miller, principal of Hubble Middle School, effective at the end of the current school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Joe McHaley, assistant principal at Hubble Middle School, effective at the end of the current school year.

Next Meeting:

March 12 at Wheaton North High School