

# Board of Education Highlights

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February 9, 2005 – Lowell Elementary School

Good News:

**Future City Competition--**Two of our middle schools captured top honors in the recent Chicago region Future City Competition. The Hubble Middle School team, under the direction of teacher Nina Koelpin, narrowly defeated the Franklin Middle School team to earn a trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C. later this month. The Franklin team, which won the regional competition last year, is under the direction of teacher Melissa Chadwick DeCarlo. Congratulations to the team, teachers and parent supporters of this competition, which is held in conjunction with National Engineer's Week.

**Golden Apple Winner--**Victoria Hollister, social studies teacher at Hubble Middle School, was named last week as one of 32 finalists for the prestigious Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching. She will be honored by the Golden Apple Foundation at an event this weekend. The 10 winners will be announced in early March following site visits to the schools of each finalist. Mrs. Hollister joined the District 200 faculty in 1984.

**Jefferson Preschool Accredited--**Jefferson Preschool has earned the accreditation of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. The honor follows a year of self-study, parent surveys, building revisions, and other preparations which ended in a three day observation of the program by NAEYC officials. Congratulations to Principal Stephanie Farrelly and the staff at Jefferson Preschool.

**Helberg Earns Top Honors--**Don Helberg, Wheaton North teacher and Boys Track coach, was selected by his peers as the 2004 Class AA Boys Track Coach of the Year. He was honored at the group's annual meeting last month. Congratulations to Mr. Helberg!

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

- Delayed adoption of the proposed 2005-06 calendar to give staff and parents time to react to a suggestion that would replace the four, half-day inservice days with two, full-day sessions. The full day programs would be scheduled on Tuesday, October 11 following the Monday Columbus Day holiday and on Tuesday, February 21 following the Monday President's Day holiday. No other changes will be considered for the calendar—the start and end dates of school would remain as proposed, as well as the winter and spring breaks. Comments about the proposed change in inservice days may be directed to [communications@cusd200.org](mailto:communications@cusd200.org) by February 17. A copy of the proposed calendar is attached.
- Authorized the administration to request a waiver from the State Board of Education to allow freshman and seniors to be excused from school on PS&E testing dates each spring. The request also seeks to have sophomores excused on the second testing date. The District currently has such a waiver, but it expires this year. The new waiver would be

effective for five years, but the District anticipates using it only until construction is completed at both high schools. At that time, there will be sufficient space for all students to be in attendance and an appropriate testing environment established.

- Approved loans from the District's own working cash fund to the education and transportation funds. This action occurs each year to improve cash flow until the June tax collection is received. At that time the working cash fund is repaid.
- Approved a bid for Mondo flooring for the new fitness room at Wheaton Warrenville South High School.
- Approved the student fee schedule for the 2005-06 school year. The fees are unchanged from this year.
- Posted for public review the renewed high school English and psychology curriculum. The curriculum can be reviewed in the Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield and Carol Stream public libraries and the School Service Center.
- Extended for one year a rental agreement for a small house that supports the District's transition program for 18 to 21 year olds. The program is required by state and federal law for students who need to develop skills that allow them to transition to adult life at home, in group homes or in the workplace.

**Next Meeting:**

February 23 at Pleasant Hill Elementary School