

Board of Education Highlights

October 8, 2008 - Wheaton North High School

Recognitions and Achievements

Jill Bullo, principal of Wheaton North High School, shared with the Board some of the activities that her faculty participated in over the summer. The school's focus for this year is continuing to improve student achievement. To that end, members of the North faculty read over 100 books dealing with education and instruction, participated in 96 graduate courses, and attended 83 conferences or workshops dealing with the development or delivery of curriculum and instruction. Contrary to popular opinion, teachers are not "off" during the summer.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Drury informed the Board that, through a very thorough process, the City of Wheaton has selected SB Freidman as the consultant to help develop the current Wheaton property for sale.

High school student representatives will return to School Board meetings in the near future. Following a very successful project last year where students from Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South High Schools made reports to the Board about activities that were occurring at their respective schools, this year a representative from each school will sit at the Board table. Although they will not be voting members of the Board, they will be able to offer student perspectives on issues that directly impact them, as well as providing their event and activity reports. In addition, the Board will hold one of their Saturday morning "Chat With the Board" sessions at each of the respective schools to provide students an opportunity to interact directly with members of the Board.

Dr. Drury, Board Vice President, Rosemary Swanson, along with Wheaton Mayor, Mike Greske, participated in the Walk to School Day at Madison School on Oct. 8. This national event encourages students to walk to school to save energy, reduce pollution, and improve their physical fitness. Dr. Rammer, Director of Communications, participated in the Longfellow event. All participants found the walk to be a lot of fun.

Dr. Dury read a letter from the fifth grade teachers at Bower Elementary School thanking all the people who supported and helped the school following the September flood. The letter is presented here.

Dear Dr. Richard Drury, Mr. William Farley, Dr. Robert Rammer, Dr. Margo Sorrick, Mrs. Linda Knicker, and all the CUSD 200 Administrators

Thank you so much for your support during the recent flood of our wonderful school.

As we faced the devastation of our building, the loss of our classrooms, and the disruption of our schedules, we were saddened and concerned. Those emotions were soon replaced by feelings of gratefulness and appreciation.

During the week of closure, as we planned how and where we would deliver instruction, we were asked to list what we would need. Soon after we turned in a list, we would think of more items that would be necessary and we would begin a new list. By Monday morning we were ready to meet students and begin classes.

This was possible because of the hard work of our principal, Mark Kohlman, the Bower P.T.A., and the efforts of our administrators. We thank you for that support. We thank you for knowing how to react to a crisis and bring resolution to problems. You worked quickly to protect our building to the best of your ability, care for the safety and well being of our children, and support the staff and parents of the Bower community. When we had the opportunity to look through the boxes that were packed from our rooms, it was obvious that the company hired took care with the packing. What we expected to be an emotionally draining activity became an uplifting and heartening experience. We were elated about how much had been salvaged and the consideration that was given to our “stuff” as it was preserved. Again, we thank you for hiring a company that has compassion and understanding.

You created and nurtured a community of caring. The outpouring of support and concern from our colleagues in other buildings is vast and awe-inspiring. We have received offers of building use, curriculum materials, lunch, and gifts from other buildings.

Our feelings of frustration, helplessness, and sadness were very soon replaced by feelings of extreme gratitude and overwhelming support. Again, thank you to all of you. We know that Bower will be better than ever when we return to the renovated building. Everyone did the absolute best they could in trying times, and we will be forever grateful. We work in the best community, school district, and building possible.

*Sincerely,
The Fifth Grade Teachers at Bower School
Melissa Berry
Meghann Ferguson
Jan Skewes*

The Board took the following action:

Approved the FASTT Math (Fluency and Automaticity through Systematic Teaching with Technology) program.

Next Meeting:

October 22, 2008 at Jefferson PreSchool