

Board of Education Highlights

February 13, 2008 - Emerson Elementary School

REVISED BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

We are sending this “Revised” Board Highlights because inadvertently, the “Recognition and Achievements” section was not included in the initial submission. In addition, Greg Gaughier’s name was misspelled in the Students’ Reports. Greg is one of the Wheaton North High School winners of the 2-man competition at the conference math contest. Greg, we apologize for the error.

High School Students’ Reports

Allie Windberg, a student from WWSHS, reported the South Speech Team won both the regional and sectional contests qualifying in 12 of 13 events and the exhibition event, Performance in the Round. The Team will be competing at the State tournament that will be held at Nequa Valley. Scholastic Bowl Champion Curt Peterson from South was selected by Team Illinois to represent the State of Illinois at the Panasonic National Scholastic Bowl Tournament in Florida in June. As an example of political awareness, nearly 20 South students worked as polling representatives at last weeks Super Tuesday Primary Elections. In sports, both boy’s and girl’s track teams won their first meets this past weekend. The girl’s basketball team won their regional game on Monday night and South qualified 2 wrestlers to the State tournament this coming weekend.

Christine Ward from WNHS shared with the Board that North held a blood drive on Wednesday and although the final tallies were not in yet, there was good participation. The Mother Son Dance will be on Feb. 17 with a high turnout anticipated. The North Speech Team will be competing at the State Speech Tournament on Feb. 15. The math team finished 3rd in the Conference this season while Greg Gotie and Brian Schlick took first place in the 2-man math team competition. In sports, 5 wrestlers qualified for the State tournament and Sara Baste will also be competing this weekend in the State gymnastics competition. On Friday, Feb 15, at the boy’s basketball game, North will honor distinguished alumni including: David Lauber ’85, Scott MacKay ’89, Jeffrey Pochowicz ’95, Anne Ream ’83, and Barbara Alexander-Bates ’73. There will be an alumni reception starting at 5:30 in room 802-804.

Recognitions & Achievements

The Board recognized the Friends of the School core committee for their efforts surrounding the successful Hubble referendum. Their efforts played a key role in helping community members understand facts and the importance of this issue. Special appreciations were extended to the co-chairs of the committee, Ralph Heatherington and Lynn Bryenton. Friends of the School members who were recognized were: Donna Budlong, Sue Cahalan, Cindi Copeland, Ginna Eriksen, Jeanne Hoffer, Mary Ellen Kolbe, Dwight Lund, Vivian Lund, Brad Paulsen, Debbie Perisho, Linda Pille, Mary Plepel and Jim Vroman.

Belief Statement:

Dr. Sorrick, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, spoke to the Board about the District's Belief Statement, "The community has high expectations for the quality of education in its public schools".

Superintendent Report

Kevin Shallcross, a student at WWSHS, has been selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Annually, up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become Presidential Scholars. Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community – and represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's youth. Students who are selected as Semifinalists and Scholars will be listed on the United States Department of Education web site. Semifinalists will be posted in early April and Scholars in early May. We are proud of Kevin and wish him well.

The Franklin Future Cities team won 1st place in the recent competition held in Chicago. The team will be heading to Washington D.C. for the National Championship this Saturday, February 16. The team won several special awards: Excellence in Mobility Technology, High Rise Award, Best Fire Protection Engineering, and Best Essay. The team was also featured on the NBC morning news. Team members include Cole Manschot, Jenny Birman, Karen Suarez, Susan Bywaters, Mari Tader, and Kale Hanavan. We wish them the best of luck in the competition this weekend.

Four WWSHS students participated in the 34th annual Regional Bridge Building contest held at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. The contest challenges students to use the principles of physics and engineering to construct a bridge with the highest structural efficiency. The efficiency is determined by dividing the amount of weight the bridge will hold by the actual weight of the bridge. For the first time in over 20 years, the top 3 places were awarded to students from the same school – WWSHS. Senior Jon Gray took 1st place at the IIT competition, Senior Evan Binkerd took 2nd place and Senior Dan Kim took 3rd place. Jon Gray and Evan Binkerd will compete in the International Bridge Building contest that will be held at IIT on April 26, where they will compete against similar winners from other regional competitions from around the United States and the world. Top prize at the competition is a half-tuition scholarship, renewable for 4 years to IIT; a value of over \$50,000.

The Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) Technology Educator of the Year award honors ICE members who have made outstanding contributions fostering and integrating technology in education. Christy Marchessault, a first grade/bilingual teacher at Johnson School, has received this award and will receive it during the county wide institute day on February 29. Congratulations to Christy.

We are proud to announce that six of our elementary schools have been awarded Academic Excellence Awards of 2007 by Illinois Honor Roll; the schools are Emerson, Longfellow, Sandburg, Pleasant Hill, Whittier and Wiesbrook. Illinois Honor Roll is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and recognizes 166 schools that have sustained very high performance levels. These schools have sustained very high performance for at least three years and met the following criteria:

- 90% of students met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least 3 consecutive years
- Made AYP for the past three years on the No Child Left Behind standardized achievement tests, including: at least 55% meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics, maintained a 95% participation rate in state assessments for all students and each subgroup, and maintained an attendance rate of at least 90%.

We applaud the students, teachers, school leaders, parents and community members that all contribute to sustaining high level academic performance.

The Board took the following action:

Approved to post for public review and comment the High School English Language Learners (ELL) program housing and design.

Approved to change the date of the next Board of Education meeting to Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at Hawthorne Elementary School

Approved the structural steel bid for the New Hubble Project to the low bidder, Lenex Steel of Downers Grove. This is first of 28 bids associated with the project.

Approved the New Hubble exterior color scheme.

Discussion Item

The Board discussed the redistricting of Lowell Elementary School. Final action on the recommendation is scheduled to take place at the February 26 meeting.

Next Meeting:

February 26, 2008 at Hawthorne Elementary School