

Board of Education Highlights

September 24, 2008 - Wiesbrook Elementary School

Recognitions and Achievements

Dr. Brian Turyna, Principal of host school, Wiesbrook Elementary, introduced Marilyn Cocogliato, the English Language Learner (ELL) teacher, who shared some information about the program. She reported that the ELL program at Wiesbrook has been in place for just over a year. There are currently ten students in the program, representing 14 different languages. There are students from Russia, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Greece. The challenges for these students primarily are in the areas of reading and writing, as opposed to the spoken language. Two students from the program, Mihir Kumar and Hadja Turay, shared their successes with the Board and commented how much the ELL program has helped them.

Dr. Turyna also introduced several other students who shared with the Board how the District's belief statements are realized at Wiesbrook. They highlighted a portion of the District's belief statement that says, "Each student deserves a challenging, rigorous, and comprehensive curriculum that leads to academic achievement, social-well being, self-realization, good citizenship, and personal growth. Each student should have the opportunity to enhance these characteristics through a comprehensive extracurricular program." Fifth graders Luke Sammons, Hannah Scudden, and Eric Rasch described programs, events, and activities at Wiesbrook that support and fulfill these belief statements.

Dr. Drury recognized School Board Members, Marie Slater, Ken Knicker, Rosemary Swanson, and Barbara Intihar for receiving recognition from the Illinois School Board Association for their participation and achievement in board member training.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Drury reported on the results of the severe rains and flooding. Bower Elementary School was flooded and closed for five days. Dr. Drury extended thanks to Bill Farley and members of his facilities staff, Tom DeHart and Colin Wilke, and to Dr. Robert Rammer, for their work in addressing the Bower issue. Thanks to their efforts the school re-opened on Monday, Sept. 22 and repairs and restoration are well underway.

The Board took the following action:

Approved to post Policy 7.70, Attendance and Truancy; Policy 7.50, School Admissions; and, Policy 6.300 Graduation Requirements. Policies are posted for 30 days for public review and comment and can be viewed at the schools, local libraries, and on the District website.

Approved the 2008-09 Budget which will now be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education. The budget includes the abatement of \$7 million from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund.

Approved revised Policy 6.210, Instructional Material, as posted. The significant revision to the policy is regarding the use of foreign films which were previously banned. Foreign films may now be used in the classroom but must undergo the same advanced approval process as all other films.

Written Reports

The Board received a written report on the District's ELL program. The report shows a steady increase in enrollment and outlined the program as it is implemented at the different levels. A review of academic testing and funding was outlined as well as the ELL Parent Advisory Committee which is an integral part of the District's ELL educational system. District 200 uses interpreters/translators for conferences, meetings, letters, etc. to ease the communication with non-English language families and also offers a Spanish-speaking phone line.

A written review of the District's 2008 Summer School program was given to the Board. It highlighted the number of students served in the different high school courses, Driver Education, and band. New to the program this summer was a summer literacy and reading book bag program for elementary at-risk and ELL students. Student response to these two programs was great and data regarding the academic success of each will be available at a later date.

Next Meeting:

October 8, 2008 at Wheaton North High School