

# Board of Education Highlights

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August 26, 2009 - School Service Center

## **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Drury congratulated Board Members Marie Slater, Rosemary Swanson, Ken Knicker, and Barbara Intihar for maintaining their Master Status with the Illinois Association of School Board Master Board Member Program. These awards will be presented to them at the September 29 IASB DuPage Division Fall Dinner. These awards represent their commitment to life-long learning and their dedication to serving the community.

Linda Knicker, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, gave a report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the educational arm of the federal stimulus program. ARRA represents funds from the federal government earmarked for public education and are intended to help support the costs of educating students with special needs. Ms. Knicker indicated that it costs approximately four times as much to educate a student with special needs as it does a student in regular education; therefore, the federal dollars are appropriately being applied to these services. A portion of these funds may be used to offset costs that the District spends on these programs that are not supported by federal grants or allotments.

One of the requirements for using ARRA funds, aside from very strict accounting and monitoring regulations, is to extend educational opportunities for students. Ms. Knicker and her staff have added to the District's very successful afternoon High School Academy by implementing a day Academy at both high schools. These academies target students who may otherwise drop out of school for a variety of reasons and provides tailor-made educational opportunities to help them attain their high school diploma. Students who may be credit deficient or who may be dealing with personal or educational challenges are enrolled in these Academies and work with certified teachers to regain lost credits and fulfill graduation requirements.

The afternoon Academy has been very successful and all indications are that the day Academy will meet the needs of some students who may otherwise not be able to meet graduation standards through traditional means.

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

Approved the request form for an occupancy permit for the new Hubble Middle School. The request is submitted to the Regional Office of Education as required of all new construction.

## **Next Meeting:**

September 9, 2009 – Pleasant Hill Elementary School