

# Board of Education Highlights

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March 14, 2007 -- Lowell Elementary School

## **Recognitions:**

Franklin Middle School eighth grader Kendall Ciesemier was recognized for being a state finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Service competition. Kendall was honored for her work in creating Kids Caring 4 Kids, an organization to raise money for African children with Aids.

## **Superintendent's Report:**

- A number of FOIA requests were filed since the last report. They include the following: copier and fax bids, candidate petitions, life safety surveys, architect presentations, employee contracts, Board Meeting minutes, and the contract for the Herrick Road property and related documents.
  
- The Varsity Flying Tigers advanced to the Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament on March 17 at Illinois State University. The Flying Tigers are coached by Alex Moore and Adam Ferguson and include the following students: Raymond Redmond, Rume Stolarz, Matt Hawks, Scott Diaz, Shelby Muehlfelt, Josiah Odom, John-Michael Neumann, Colin Hubert and Ashlye Banks. (The Flying Tigers placed third in the tournament.)

## **Hubble Boundary Subcommittee**

Beth Sullivan, principal of Hubble Middle School, presented a preliminary report on the work of the boundary subcommittee, noting that recommendations will be made to the Board of Education in the fall after the community has had opportunities to provide feedback on the proposals. Initial discussions have centered on neighborhoods assigned to Lowell Elementary School, where students matriculate to different middle schools—Hubble and Franklin--when they leave fifth grade. An informal survey of parents in those areas indicate an interest in exploring options for boundary changes if a new middle school is built in Warrenville to replace Hubble. The subcommittee will reconvene in the summer with the intent of having a boundary plan in place prior to a referendum on the construction of a new middle school in 2008.

## **Options for Renovating Jefferson Preschool**

Legat Architects presented options for renewing, expanding, or building a new Jefferson Preschool to accommodate growth and bring the existing building up to District standards. Architects considered 10 options, but narrowed them to three after considering building needs and costs. The three options are:

1. Renew the existing 12-classroom building at a cost of \$7.4 million.
2. Expand the building to increase the number of classrooms and support spaces for \$12.2 million.
3. Build a new school on the District-owned property directly south of the current school for \$13.5 million.

Estimates are based on the project being bid in 2008. The Board took no action on the report, but briefly discussed whether the option they ultimately select will be placed on the ballot with the Hubble Middle School question.

### **Recommendation to Proceed with Design of New Middle School**

The Board of Education heard from Legat Architects about the advantages of proceeding with the design and bid documents for a new middle school prior to voters approving the project in a referendum. The Board plans to discuss the recommendation at its April 4 meeting and take action on April 25. There are two primary advantages of this proposal:

1. It allows the project to be bid immediately after a successful referendum, which means construction could start soon thereafter and be completed a year earlier than waiting until after the referendum to start the design work.
2. The cost of construction would increase approximately \$2.6 million if bidding were delayed until 2009.

Alternatively, there is a risk in spending the \$1.9 in architect's costs for developing the design and bid documents before voters are asked to approve the project.

- **NOTE:** School district architects are required by law to be selected based on their qualifications. School districts are prohibited from obtaining fee information during the selection process. Legat Architects was selected as the District's architect based on the requirements of law. Specifically, the law states: "...in no case shall a political subdivision, prior to selecting a firm for negotiation under Section 7, seek formal or informal submission of verbal or written estimates of costs on proposals in terms of dollars, hours required, percentage of construction costs, or any other measure of compensation."

### **Extension of Bovis Contract**

The Board discussed the extension of a contract with Bovis Lend Lease, which would provide construction management for a new middle school. Bovis provided construction management for the high school projects and for the other school projects authorized in the 1999 referendum. This recommendation will be discussed at the April 4 Board meeting with action slated for April 25.

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

- Approved an amendment to the contract for the purchase of the Herrick Road property. The amendment restates an existing section of the contract that provides a tax benefit to the current owner.
- Posted for public review the proposed curriculum for a number of high school courses. The curriculum will be posted on the District's website until April 13, 2007.
- Approved the purchase of two Dynavox communication devices to support needs identified in student IEP's.
- Approved a variety of bids for supplies to support copiers, printers, and fax machines throughout the District.
- Approved the 2007-08 fee schedule, which includes no increase in student fees.
- Approved the renewal of a contract with Follett for library automation.

- Approved the renewal of a contract with Progress Education Group for The Assessor software used to score local assessments.
- Approved the renewal of the Novell Software License Agreement. Novell is the District's network operating system.

**Next Meeting:**

April 4 at Jefferson Preschool