

# Board of Education Highlights

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March 9, 2005 -- Wheaton North High School

## **Recognitions**

The Board recognized the Wheaton Warrenville South Speech Team and its coaches for winning second place in the state high school speech competition. It also watched a presentation by the Wheaton North High School Performance in the Round, which earned a fourth place rating in the state tournament.

## **Good News**

The State Board of Education has given Wiesbrook and Whittier Elementary Schools an Academic Excellence Award. The award is given to schools when 90 percent of students meet or exceed the state learning standards for three consecutive years and make Adequate Yearly Progress as defined by the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Wheaton Warrenville South High School's symphonic band placed second overall and was awarded the best percussion specialty award at the 2005 Midwest Band Festival. Also at WWS, drafting students won the regional I.D.E.A. Drafting Competition and now move on to the state competition in April. WWS students finished first and second in the Architectural Board Division and the Architectural CAD division.

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

- Authorized the refinancing of \$15.7 million in existing debt to save taxpayers approximately \$1 million dollars in interest costs. The refinancing does not extend the bond repayment schedule nor does it provide any additional operating revenues. The savings result from being able to borrow the money at a lower interest rate. The Board did a similar refinancing in 2003 that resulted in a savings to taxpayers of approximately \$1.8 million.
- Hired Unicom-Arc, a St. Louis based attitude research company, to conduct a stakeholder survey to gather additional information about the programs, activities, and values the community holds for its public schools. Survey questions will be based on data collected from more than 1000 parents, residents, and taxpayers at focus groups conducted across the District during February. The telephone survey will be conducted in April and will be a statistically valid representation of community beliefs and attitudes. The survey is an outgrowth of a Board of Education goal to develop a new vision and mission statement to guide future program and financial decisions. Data from the survey and the focus groups will be used in this activity.

- Approved the hiring of two new elementary school principals. Tim Callahan was named principal at Johnson Elementary School to succeed Marcie Nordlund, who resigned at the end of February. Mr. Callahan joined the District 200 staff in 1996 as a teacher at Pleasant Hill Elementary School, where he taught first and third grades. He earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Eastern Illinois University and a master's in educational leadership from Aurora University. Kelly Wieczorek, a principal in Palatine's District 15, was named the new principal at Bower Elementary School. She will assume the position for the 2005-06 school year, succeeding Kevin Kane, who is retiring after 35 years in the District, the last 24 as Bower's principal. Mrs. Wieczorek has a bachelor's and master's degree in special education from Northern Illinois University, a master's in educational administration from Aurora University and is currently working toward a doctorate degree in educational administration at Northern.
- Approved a bid for a new compressor unit at Edison Middle School.
- Approved the structure of the 2005 summer school program, which will be similar to the 2004 program. High school students may attend the College of DuPage summer program to earn high school credits. Driver education will be held in the District, but offered only at Franklin Middle School due to construction at the two high schools. Mini-courses, band, applied technology, and special education classes will be held at Monroe Middle School for elementary and middle school students. Some special education classes will also be held at Jefferson School. More information about the summer programs is available at each school.
- Posted for public review a revision to policy 6.300, Graduation Requirements, to allow a student with an individualized education program that calls for services beyond the four years of high school to receive a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. This revision is required by changes in law.

**Next Meeting:**

March 23 at Bower Elementary School