

# Board of Education Highlights

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April 26, 2006 -- Lincoln Elementary School

## **Recognitions:**

The Board recognized Wheaton North students Chris Janjigian and Tom Seewald for winning the state championship in public forum debate, as well as placing 1st and 2nd, respectively, on the All-State team. It was the first time the school has participated in the tournament in more than 15 years. The group is coached by Ed Klemm.

## **Superintendent's Report:**

**Tentative Agreement Reached**—A tentative agreement on a three-year contract extension has been reached between the Wheaton Warrenville Education Association (WWEA) and the Board of Education. Details of the agreement will not be released until both groups ratify the contract. These meetings are scheduled early in May.

**Barbara Bush Foundation Grant**--District 200 is the beneficiary of a grant recently awarded to the College of DuPage by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. The college will expand its program, "Together Families Learn", to District 200 to include English literacy, cultural, and relationship skills for non-English speaking families with kindergarten children. The District, in cooperation with COD, has offered a similar program at Washington School for the last two years using funds from a Chicago Tribune grant. The Bush Foundation grant will allow the program to expand to a second school and includes a partnership with the Wheaton Public Library and the People's Resource Center, as well as COD. The program brings families together twice a week for dinner, English language instruction, field trips, and other learning experiences.

**Award of Excellence**--Nina Koelpin, gifted specialist at Hubble Middle School, recently received the 2006 Illinois Math and Science Academy's Award of Excellence. The award is given to educators who have most challenged, inspired, and supported students' academic and personal growth prior to their enrollment at IMSA. Mrs. Koelpin was nominated by Priyanka Prakash, now a sophomore at IMSA.

**Students Get Published**--The winter edition of the Illinois Mathematics Teacher includes an article written by students in Andy Samide's advanced geometry class at Wheaton North High School. It marks the 20th time in Mr. Samide's 38 years of teaching in District 200 that his classes have published articles in the magazine. The article presents a problem that teachers may take to their classes for students to solve.

**State Math Competition**--Greg Gauthier and Sam Krc took 1st Place in the freshman-sophomore two person team competition at the Illinois Math Finals at the University of Illinois last weekend. Greg also placed third in the Algebra II oral competition. Congratulations to these students.

**Pleasant Hill Nominated for Blue Ribbon School**--Pleasant Hill Elementary School is among 16 Illinois schools nominated for the national No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools program. The program focuses on results and recognizes schools that have worked to make significant progress in closing the achievement gap and whose students achieve at the highest levels. Winners will be announced in September.

### **Overpass Construction to Begin**

The Wheaton Park District has received official notice that construction can commence this summer on the pedestrian overpass behind Monroe Middle School. Plans for the overpass were started in the mid 1990's after Monroe student Lori Most was killed while crossing the tracks behind the school. District 200 initiated the multi-partner project and worked closely with the Wheaton Park District and others to make it a reality. The \$3.3 million project is primarily funded from state and federal grants with contributions from participating partners in the amount of \$500,000.

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

- Agreed to pursue talks with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. regarding their services, timeline, and costs associated with assisting the Board in the search for a new superintendent. The Board had earlier talked with four firms that provide these services, but selected the Glenview firm for several reasons, including the fact that it had assisted the Board in recruiting and selecting the current superintendent, Dr. Gary T. Catalani, who is retiring in June 2007.
- Renewed its contract with Follett to provide all District 200 libraries with automated circulation and catalog software. The contract also includes software to check out textbooks to high school and middle school students.
- Approved an attendance boundary change which would send students in the Mission Court subdivision north of Geneva Road to Pleasant Hill Elementary School and Monroe Middle School instead of to Longfellow and Franklin.
- Posted for public review a new reading curriculum for high school English as a Second Language students. The curriculum may be accessed and reviewed from the District's website at [www.cusd200.org](http://www.cusd200.org).
- Posted for public review textbooks for the following high school courses: adult living, AP microeconomics, business law, business management, child development and preschool, college literacy skills, communication studies, computer literacy, desktop publishing, driver education, fashion merchandising, graphic design, marketing, photography, popular literature, themes in literature, and world civilizations. The books are on display in the public libraries in Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield and Carol Stream and in the School Service Center.
- Reappointed Maureen Zyburgt as District treasurer.

**Next Meeting:**

May 10 at Edison Middle School