

Board of Education Highlights

June 14, 2006 – School Service Center

Recognitions and Achievements:

- The Wheaton North High School Girls' Soccer Team was recognized for its third place finish in the state IHSA tournament. The team is coached by Tim McEvilly.
- The Wheaton North High School 4 X 800 girls' relay team was recognized for winning the state championship and breaking the IHSA record for this event. The team is coached by Ken Fasshauer.
- High School parents Lynn Parrish, Jamie Kirchoffer, Linda McHugh and Judy Nickelski were recognized for their leadership in planning and executing the Safe Celebration events held after each high school's prom.
- District 200 employees Ilir Cina and Davit Woldegabir were recognized for their work in setting up equipment to facilitate regular and special meetings of the Board of Education.

Comments Relative to Safety of Proposed School Site

To help alleviate concerns about the safety of the proposed site for the new Hubble Middle School raised by Educate 200, the District has initiated several actions:

- An independent environmental study of the 18-acre will be conducted. A meeting is scheduled with representatives of Mostardi Platt Environmental, Oak Brook, on Monday (June 19) to determine the scope of the study.
- Documentation that DePaul University used in deciding to locate a satellite program on the BP Naperville campus will be reviewed by district staff.
- A meeting will be scheduled with the environmental coordinator at the BP Naperville Campus to discuss the environmental impact of the facility's operation.

In addition, James McNaughton Builders, owner of the property, has ordered the second phase of an environmental site survey on the property. This will include the chemical screening of soil and groundwater beneath the site's surface. Phase I has already been completed and found no evidence of recognized environmental conditions related to the property. The study was conducted by Environment, Inc., Addison.

By initiating these actions, the District is seeking verifiable information and data regarding the environmental status of the proposed school site. The property is located west of Herrick Road between Warrenville and Galusha Roads. It is nearly .4 of a mile north of the BP Naperville Campus and more than a mile north of Building 503 where it is reported that a number of employees developed brain tumors.

“The safety of students and staff while they are in school is one of our highest priorities,” Board President Andy Johnson said Monday. “We would never knowingly make any decision that would place them in jeopardy.”

Mr. Johnson said the Board has every confidence that the 18-acre site is safe and that the environmental studies will indicate there is no reason to abandon plans to build the new school there. Meanwhile, the district will continue to pursue discussions with James McNaughton Builders in hopes of reaching an agreement on the purchase price of the property.

“We have worked tirelessly to find a site in the southwest part of the district for a new middle school. This site was one we looked at early in our search, but we were unable to meet the owner’s asking price at that time. The property has since changed hands and the new owner is very interested in having us build the new school there,” Mr. Johnson explained.

The purchase of a new school site is only one phase of a project that the district hopes will include the cooperative efforts of the Wheaton Park District and the City of Wheaton. The Board of Education will meet with park district commissioners and staff on June 28 to discuss how park district programs currently housed at Hubble Middle School can be relocated to other facilities.

The decision on how the Hubble site would be redeveloped, assuming it is sold by the school district, rests with the City Council. District 200 has no authority in determining its future use.

“The relocation of Hubble Middle School and the potential redevelopment of the existing Hubble property holds great opportunity for taxpayers of this community,” Superintendent Gary T. Catalani said. “It is our sincere hope that the various governmental entities involved in the long-term plans for this property can come together cooperatively to benefit all of our community.”

The Board took the following action:

- Posted a new policy on wellness, which provides guidelines in the following areas: school based nutrition education goals; school based physical activity goals; school based health and wellness goals; cooperative efforts to promote community wellness; nutrition guidelines for food sold or served on school property; and monitoring and evaluation. All school districts are required to adopt a wellness policy to be effective for the 2006-07 school year. A copy of the policy is attached for review. Comments may be directed to Wellness Policy, 130 W. Park Ave., Wheaton or communications@cusd200.org.
- Approved an agreement with the Classified Employees Association for a new, three-year contract. The contract provides an overall increase of 4 percent over

current year's expenditures for secretaries, custodians, aides, and other non-certified employees.

- Approved a contract with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates to conduct the search for a new superintendent to succeed Dr. Gary T. Catalani who is retiring in June 2007. The firm will be paid \$17,000 for their services.
- Approved textbooks for the following high school courses, which have recently been revised and updated: adult living, AP microeconomics, business law, business management, child development, college literacy skills, communication studies, computer literacy, desktop publishing, driver education, fashion merchandising, graphic design, marketing, photography, popular literature, themes in literature, world civilizations.
- Posted for public review materials to be used in English as a Second Language social studies classes. The materials will provide an effective way for English language learners to learn about America while also building English proficiency. They are available for review in the public libraries of Wheaton, Warrenville, Winfield and Carol Stream.
- Authorized the Department of Technology to dispose of broken, unusable and outdated equipment that had an original value of more than \$500.
- Authorized staff to request an extension of time to complete building upgrades required by the School Code at Jefferson School.
- Authorized the transfer of funds from the working cash fund to the education fund and the operations and maintenance fund. The transferred money was generated by a \$16 million bond sale in September 2004.
- Adopted a new curriculum for a high school reading class for English as a Second Language students.
- Approved the purchase of a new intercom system for Bower Elementary School.
- Approved a contract with Septran, Inc. to transport special education students to programs outside of district boundaries. This contract is bid through the district's membership in the SASSED special education cooperative. The cost for these services is slightly less than last year.
- Approved a contract to replace a portion of roof at Monroe Middle School damaged by a windstorm.
- Approved an extension of the contract with SBM Maintenance Contractors, Inc. (now GCA/SBM Services Group) to provide custodial services for the second year of a three-year contract. The cost of the contract increases 3 percent to

mirror the CPI and does not include an escalator for insurance, an issue that is still being negotiated.

- Approval an extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Wheaton for police liaison officers at each high school. The district pays 75 percent of the costs, while the city covers 25 percent.
- Approved a 24-month lease for a temporary two-classroom unit to be located at Washington Elementary School. The additional space is needed to accommodate a growing number of students in special education and English as a second language courses.
- Approved a lease with Midwest Transit for seven, 14 passenger white activity vehicles for use by the high schools. The lease for these vehicles is less the cost of providing busing for students to various events.
- Approved a one year renewal of property, casualty and liability insurance with the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) pool. The cost to the district is \$2000 less than last year.
- Approved changes in Policy 1.30, school district philosophy, to reflect the adoption of the district's new vision and mission statements.

Next Meeting:

July 12 at the School Service Center