

# Board of Education Highlights

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August 23, 2006 -- School Service Center

## **Budget Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held on the proposed 2006-07 budget. The new budget is about 5 percent higher than last year's, but in most other ways it mirrors the 2005-06 budget, Bill Farley, Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations, said during a public hearing Wednesday night. The numbers reflect the District's continuing effort to contain costs and minimize reductions that directly impact classroom operations. The Board is scheduled to adopt the budget at its September 13 meeting at Bower Elementary School.

The education fund—the main operating fund—is balanced, while other operating funds show a small negative balance. That is because money from those funds has been diverted to the education fund through the tax levy process. In future budgets, Mr. Farley said, the district will have to adjust that practice in order to rebuild balances in its two other operating funds—operations and maintenance and transportation.

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

- Approved the purchase of software to standardize the writing of Individualized Education Plans (IEPS). The purchase includes training, evaluation reports and diagnostic test tools. The software will be used at five schools this year—Edison, Pleasant Hill, Whittier, Washington and Lowell—and extended to the other schools next year.
- Adopted a Wellness Policy developed by a group of citizens and staff. The new policy 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. A copy of the policy is attached for review.
- Increased the daily rate for substitute teachers from \$80 to \$85 to remain competitive with neighboring districts.
- Approved the proposed middle school list of novels to be used in language arts courses and adopted a social studies textbook for middle school English as a Second Language classes.
- Accepted the proposal from Orthopaedic Associates of DuPage, LTD to provide certified athletic trainers for the two high schools. The district does not have staff available to fill these part-time positions.

- Rejected bids for field house storage units due to disparities in the bid specifications and replies. The Board authorized staff to seek new proposals through an RFP. Funds for the units were included in the project budget.

Approved a contract with Majestic Underwriters as the Stop Loss Carrier for health insurance claims.

**Next Meeting:**

September 13 at Bower Elementary School