

Board of Education Highlights

September 12, 2007 – School Service Center

Superintendent Report:

Dr. Drury reported that on September 10, the District received official notification from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) that the site for the proposed new middle school was cleared of any environmental hazard. Dr. Drury introduced James Vroman, from the law firm of Jenner & Block, who reviewed the document for the District. Mr. Vroman said, “It doesn’t get any better than this.” The IEPA letter states in part, that the proposed new Hubble Middle School site, “does not constitute a threat to human health and the environment and does not require further remediation...” The document, often referred to as the NFR (No Further Remediation) letter, goes on to indicate that the site is approved for “residential land use” which is the highest standard with the most stringent requirements the IEPA has for land use. The evaluation by the IEPA was done on the site in its current condition without any remediation. This assessment by the IEPA confirms that the proposed new Hubble Middle School site meets or exceeds all environmental safety hazards and would not have any negative impact on students or staff. This report was the final step necessary for the Board to take action on a referendum question. Final costs and figures are currently being developed by the District’s architects and construction managers. The Board of Education is scheduled to take formal action on a referendum question in October when the total project amount is determined.

Dr. Drury provided the School Board and audience with an explanation of events surrounding the storm that occurred on August 23. He accepted full responsibility for the decision to dismiss middle school students a few minutes early because of a predicted thunderstorm and appreciated the concerns that parents had about the safety of their children. He explained that the District did not receive any information from any of its weather sources or the Police Department concerning the severe weather that struck between 3:05 and 3:15 that afternoon. Therefore, the decision was made with the information that was available at that time. He asked Dr. Lori Belha, Assistant Superintendent, to investigate why the district was not notified, and she presented an explanation of the emergency warning systems as well as her extensive contacts with the various agencies responsible for disseminating the warning notifications. In her report, clearly, the District, as well as the Police Department and surrounding school districts, did not receive a report on the tornado until after it had passed the community. The Superintendent described a variety of steps that the district is taking in reviewing its procedures to improve its information collecting abilities.

The Board took the following action:

Accepted gifts totaling \$73,156.00 from the PTA’s of a number of our schools.

Approved Policy 6.210, Instructional Materials, as posted. An Administrative regulation which outlines procedures to be followed when a teacher wishes to use R-rated films or film clips in the classroom accompanies the policy.

Next Meeting:

September 26, 2007 at Lincoln Elementary School