

# Board of Education Highlights

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September 13, 2006

## **Superintendent's Report**

- District 200 has been honored with a Recognition Award by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection. The award is designed to increase awareness and stimulate activity by recognizing efforts that protect children from environmental health risks. The District was specifically recognized for its IEQ Management Plan.
- In response to Educate 200 reports that the BP Naperville Campus is a potential terrorist target, we asked the County's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to give us their assessment of the risk. In a letter dated August 28 the District was told that the BP Naperville Campus poses no greater risk to neighboring properties than any other site the district might select for a new school. "Based on current federal guidance and intelligence data, the BP site has not been identified as being an 'at risk' facility for a terrorist incident," Thomas O. Mefferd, Director, said in the letter. "As such, the area surrounding the BP site is at no higher risk than any other site within the County or District 200."
- The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced that 18 District 200 seniors have qualified as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. The semifinalists represent the top 1 percent of students who took the qualifying test. The students will be honored at one of the October Board Meetings.
- The District's ACT composite scores increased .4 of a percent over last year, twice the statewide average. The District's average composite score is 23.2, while the statewide average is 20.5.
- Reminders on two upcoming events: The first occurs Thursday, September 14, when the nation's poet laureate, Ted Kooser, presents a poetry reading at 7 p.m. at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. The public is invited and may purchase tickets at the door for \$3.
- The second event occurs on Saturday when The NEW 200 Foundation presents its first Fun Run and Festival at Wheaton North High School. This event, a combination 5K and 1 mile family Fun Run will be followed by a community festival at the new Wheaton North High School Field House. All proceeds will benefit District 200 students.

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

- Approved the 2006-07 budget. The budget is about 5 percent higher than last year, but in most other ways mirrors the 2005-06 budget. The numbers reflect the District's continuing effort to contain costs and minimize reductions that

directly impact classroom operations. 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, the district will have to adjust that practice in order to rebuild balances in its two other operating funds—operations and maintenance and transportation.

Revenue sources continue to be relatively stable, with local property owners contributing 81 percent of operating revenue compared to the state's 15 percent and the federal government's 4 percent. On the expenditure side, 68 percent of costs are for salaries and benefits. Purchased services is the next highest expenditure category and includes such things as legal and audit services, busing, custodial services, food service, athletic officials, insurance, and repairs and maintenance.

As part of its long-range planning efforts, the Board will convene a Citizens' Finance Committee this year to make recommendations regarding the long-term financial stability of the District. Residents interested in serving on the committee should contact the District's business office at 630/682-2005.

- Authorized the purchase of three driver education cars to replace three 1996 vehicles that are in need of constant repair and maintenance. The three 2006 Chevrolet Cobalts will cost \$29,895.50, which includes trade-in and government pricing.
- Approved vendor contracts that are designed to generate more than \$1000 in revenue or other remunerations for the school district during the year. This action is now required under a new state law. A revision to the District's policy on purchasing, 4.60, is being posted to reflect this change. Vendors who take school pictures, publish yearbooks, provide vending machines, and run book fairs are among those covered under the law.
- Approved nineteen safety hazard bus routes that qualify under the state's criteria.

**Next Meeting:**

September 27 at Madison Elementary School