

Board of Education Highlights

September 28, 2005 – Longfellow Elementary School

Recognitions:

The Board recognized three Wheaton Warrenville South High School teachers for earning National Board certification in their respective teaching areas. Tom Todd and Jim Stankevitz earned certification in science, while Margaret Tibbit earned recognition in mathematics.

Good News:

The District has once again received the Bright Red Apple Award of excellence from SchoolSearch, the Kansas City based firm that provides relocating families with school information. The award is based on five factors: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratios, expenditures per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary.

District 200 will honor its twelve National Merit Scholar Semifinalists at the October 12 Board meeting. Six students from each high school earned the prestigious honor based on the high scores they earned on the PSAT.

The District has welcomed 10 students who were left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. All 20 District 200 schools are participating in ongoing activities that support victims of the hurricane through cash contributions and donations of food, clothing and school supplies.

The Board took the following action:

- Approved a three-year lease for 120 computers to be used in high school science labs.
- Approved the lease of two copiers, one for each high school.
- Declared surplus a number of cleaning equipment items that will now be sold at auction through the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. Four pianos were also declared surplus equipment as they are no longer able to be tuned.
- Accepted cash donations to Lowell and Hawthorne Schools, as well as a donation of computer equipment for District use.

Discussion on Goals and Vision and Mission

The Board discussed the intent and wording of three proposed goals for the 2005-06 school year. The goal statements will be edited and brought back to the Board for formal adoption next month. The goals center around improving student achievement, enhancing District and Board responses to citizen feedback, and negotiating a contract with teachers and non-certified staff.

The Board spent most of its time participating in a focus group similar to the ones held last February to get information about what the community values in its public schools. More than 1200 people participated in 24 focus groups in every District 200 school. The

Board responded to the same questions as the other participants. The information will be used to develop a vision and mission statement that reflects the values of the community. The Board has set a target of January 2006 to agree on preliminary statements and then plans to share the draft documents with the community for response.