

# **Spotlight on the Board**

## **Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting**

### **December 14th, 2005**

The Board of Ed meetings were videotaped for broadcast on local public television. Board meetings are changing to a twice a month format (one meeting for voting, one for discussion). January will have meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> “Regular Meeting” and 25<sup>th</sup> “Committee of the Whole”.

#### **2006-2007 School Calendar**

The 2006-2007 school calendar was approved. Thanksgiving week next year will be similar to this year, with the teacher’s conferences on Mon/Tue, giving students the entire week off from school. Other specific teacher institute days will be assigned pending the teacher’s contract.

#### **Destruction of Audio Recordings of Board meeting**

The Board was split 4-3, voting to destroy audio recording of the June 2004 Board closed meeting. Millar objected that he would like to have the recordings to refer to during this year’s contract negotiations. The June 2004 meeting was regarding retirement packages for administrators and non union employees and will affect the financial liability of the district until 2008. Keenan said that the Board members who were not on the Board at the time (Keenan, Millar, Rowden) would like to listen to those meetings. Rowden, Keenan, Millar all voted “no” to destroying the meeting recordings. Carlson, who voted “aye”, thought they should stick to the standard policy of destroying audio recordings as they come due (after 18 months). Silverman, Mikula, Boucher all also voted “aye” to destroying the audio recordings.

#### **Certificate of Tax Levy**

The Board voted to authorize the 6.5% tax levy = 3.1% new growth + 3.3% tax cap.

#### **Citizens Address the Board**

\* Susan Stanichan: Parent from Virginia Lake – wanted feedback from Kelly Keenan who visited VL. Thinks with larger classes and more diversity that VL needs more resources. Asked Board what parents could do to support the Boards efforts.

#### **D15 Educational Foundation**

Hearts of Gold Fundraiser is February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – Invitations were available at the Board meeting. Tickets are \$100 and must be purchased by Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

#### **Board Committee Reports**

Millar (Budget Committee) – revenue numbers look optimistic; still need to see how teachers contract falls out, but the Board is focused on getting class sizes down.

Keenan (Life/Safety) – audit will be ready for next month.

Silverman (Technology) – looking for ways to prioritize and fund technology needs across the district.

Carlson (Special Olympics) – wants D15 to sponsor, wants to put on agenda for January and will bring financial numbers next month.

#### **Freedom Of Information Act Requests**

11/9/2005 – Mario Bartelliti – Fine Air Press

### **Board of Ed Policies**

\*Wellness Committee working to implement Governor's "no junk food in schools" policy. Some foods (i.e. yogurt) do not meet new requirements. The new policy may even affect birthday treats. The district is working on what the effects of the Governor's policy will be.

Policy 5:10: Prevent discrimination against persons for sexual orientation.

Policy 7:325: Outside groups (soccer, United Way, etc) cannot bring in junk food into schools for fundraiser purposes (scouts are excepted).