

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

February 22nd, 2006

Carlson was absent for this meeting. This Board of Ed Meeting was a “Committee of the Whole” meeting and is mainly for discussion.

The “Bond Restructuring” agenda item was pulled from the agenda and will be on the agenda for the next BOE meeting on March 8th, which is a “Regular” meeting, intended for recognitions and voting.

Citizens Address the Board

Ken Kliakowski

Concerned about excessive testing, which is boring to the kids and wished there were more projects. Also commented on the salary schedule, wondering how we can afford doctorate level teachers. Thought teachers should be required to take classes in the summer, and salary should be connected to performance.

2006-2007 Operations and Maintenance Budget

Dr. Sophie, Craig Phillips and Mr. Nohelty presented the proposed 2006-07 Operations and Maintenance budget (see handout at www.phpta.org). The budget revenues included \$5M from bond restructuring and expenses included both “A-Urgent” and some “B-Need to be done” items from the 10 year Life/Safety review.

March 22, 2006 BOE Meeting

The Administration will be putting out a flyer clarifying that the March 22, 2006 BOE meeting is an open invitation for the presentation of the parents “list of issues” (previously called “wish list”) from each school. The Board is asking the PTA leadership to gather and prioritize their top-10 list of issues that are deemed most important by the parents at each school. The March 22nd meeting will provide a chance to have a dialogue about these issues. All of the top-10 lists will be shared with all the PTA presidents prior to the March 22nd meeting.

Board Committee Reports

D15 Hearts of Gold: Raised \$29,523 for the D15 Ed Foundation.

Facilities Committee: Keenan asked for the Board to approve moving forward with investigating various facilities options. She wants to split out into different committees to be able to have reasonably sized committees for the investigation phase. The Board indicated it wanted Keenan to proceed in this direction

Nutrition: Keenan wants to investigate different menus, possibly getting rid of ala carte items that are just junk food. Higher quality foods are available, but what is the cost and will kids eat it? Would we need to raise prices?

Legislation: Boucher noted that D54 is pursuing the idea of having large districts getting more votes in IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards), rather than the one vote-one district policy currently in place. D54 wants votes proportional to the amount of dues paid. Currently they feel the suburbs do not have their issues represented.

District 211 proposed Calendar change: Since D15 feeds into more than one High School system, if D211 changes to a new calendar D15 will be faced with a difficult choice about what calendar to follow. D211 is taking feedback from the

community at their website (http://www.d211.org/calendar_feedback/index.htm).