

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

February 8th, 2006

Spotlight on the Board is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Pleasant Hill PTAs' District 15 liaison, Susan Quinn. They are meant to help parents and staff who are unable to attend the Board meetings on a regular basis to keep informed about the issues and plans affecting the district. Below are the highlights from the January "Regular" meeting, which is intended for recognitions and voting.

1. Board votes (4:3) to restructure \$22M in bonds for Life/Safety funding
Editorial Note: Bond restructuring is an important, but complicated issue. I have provided a synopsis of the Bond Restructuring issue on the website (www.phpta.org), along with links to relevant Board handouts and Daily Herald articles.
 - a) Keenan, Rowden, Millar opposed: don't want to extend debt with high cost to taxpayers, borrowing just to have money in reserves; believe we can pay for immediate Life/Safety needs with money levied from Transportation Fund; want to go year-by-year, wait until teacher's contract is negotiated and next year's bonds are released.
 - b) Mikula, Boucher, Silverman, Carlson for: want to have reserves to be financially prudent; don't want to pay for Life/Safety from current funds, need bond restructuring to pay for it; want to get rid of CAB's (Capital Appreciation Bonds).
2. Fire Department Field Trips for 5th grade restored
3. Board approves purchase of 4 new buses
4. Student Dental Exams: waivers available for summertime exams and low-income services provided on-site at schools by Smile Illinois
5. Jr. High Social Studies texts approved by Board. Parents will have access to all on-line materials. Next meeting will present Math Curriculum for Grades 3-6.

Full February 8th meeting notes, as well as previous *Spotlight on the Board* meeting notes, can be found at Pleasant Hill PTA's web site: www.phpta.org. Next Board meeting is Wednesday, February 22nd, 2006, 7 pm at Sundling Jr. High. Email questions directly to Board members (see www.phpta.org for email addresses) or to Superintendent McKanna (McKannaR@ccsd15.net).