

# **Spotlight on the Board**

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

### **June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

This Board of Ed Meeting was a “Regular” meeting. Rowden and Boucher were absent.

#### **New Assistant Principals**

The administration introduced five new assistant principals, three of whom are new to the district, including the assistant principals for Winston Elem/Pleasant Hill (“Scott”), Winston Jr. High (“Paul”) and Sandberg Jr. High (“Paul”). Jeanette Sander will be the full-time assistant principal for Lake Louise and Mary Beth Knoppel will be the full-time assistant principal for Lincoln.

#### **Health Care for Kids**

Carlson reported that 500 kids (in District 15) received dental care through SMILE this year. In addition, 45 kids were referred for previously undiagnosed hearing loss (out of many thousands screened) and 522 kids were referred for vision problems (out of several thousand screened). D15 kids made 29,000 visits to the Nursing staff this year.

#### **Ed-RED**

Mikula reported on the current status of legislation moving through the State, including the Governor’s Education plan, universal preschool bill, and the tax cap scheduled to sunset. She added that education and health care spending rose, and were the only portions of the budget that did not have cuts.

#### **Action Items**

The Board unanimously voted to approve “Abatement of Working Cash Fund 2006-07” and Bids for a range of food service products, including packaging, bakery products and ice cream and health supplies.

#### **Consent Calendar**

The Second Reading of the BOE Policy was tabled until August.

#### ***Insurance and Workers Comp***

Keenan questioned why D15 does not have bids for these insurance items, which cost over \$1M. Nohelty replied the district is part of a cooperative (CLICK) that does a “market analysis” to get “bids” from other companies for the insurance estimates. Keenan said she did not want to approve without bids and Millar said the district needs to add a review of the bid process to the next agenda. Carlson agreed that would be on the agenda in August. The Insurance Coverage was approved (4:1) with Keenan voting “no”. Keenan also objected to the lack of bids for workers comp insurance. Millar noted the District had a drop in staff but workers comp insurance was flat. Nohelty replied the premium was down from last year, and that he looked at self-insuring last year but found it was not cost-effective. Millar asked if the district could use a consultant to bring these insurance costs down, thought they were high. Nohelty agreed, said he had some ideas he wanted to discuss with the board. Workers Compensation Insurance was approved (4:1) with Keenan voting “no”.

#### ***Designation of Depository for School District Funds***

Keenan questioned why the district used this bank. Nohelty commented that banks approach the district all the time and that he brings recommendations to the Board based on rates. Millar asked if we used bids. Nohelty replied “no”. Board unanimously approved.

**Resolution Authorizing Participation in State of Illinois Purchasing Program**

Keenan asked what were the benefits of this program. Nohelty replied that the state goes through a formal bid process so that school districts do not have to. The District uses it for price comparison in most cases. Keenan asked if we bid out purchases. Nohelty replied "not necessarily or in all cases". Board unanimously approved.

**2006-07 Illinois Association of School Boards Annual Dues**

Millar moved that the district not join this year (dues \$12k). Last year the Board left the National Assoc of School Boards. Millar said the IASB tends to lobby against us rather than for us, often representing down-state interests rather than suburban interests. Millar said the IASB refused to release their expenditures and said there did not seem to be checks and balances. Millar thought D15 was better served to work with local school districts, and that the D15 policies should be driven by the Board and State of IL, not an outside organization (the IASB). Carlson wanted to keep for another year, saying the IASB does not dictate policy to D15. She also thought D15 should join with other nearby school districts to form some kind of co-op to work together on policy, that intergovernmental organizations could serve the same function at less cost and better quality. Mikula thought it was dangerous to walk away from the IASB without having something else in place; wanted to stick with it another year. Silverman noted there were other services D15 did not utilize with the IASB.

McKanna noted that between D215, D211, D54 and D15 there were a large block of students and that joining or not joining as a group could have some impact. Carlson suggested that Millar should coordinate with nearby school districts in the Fall to form a cooperative. Millar agreed that was a good step, and had also talked to districts outside the area. Millar wished D15 had started this process 6 mos ago, and if D15 did not join IASB they could serve as a model for other districts. Keenan worried this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that the board was approving for "one more year". Carlson committed to forming an ad hoc committee to do this in October. McKanna commented the policy committee would benefit from the IASB.

Board approved joining the IASB (3:2) with Keenan, Millar voting "no".

The Board unanimously approved all remaining items on the Consent Calendar, including a resolution to prepare the 2006-07 Tentative Budget, Fund transfers, and other items.