

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

June 11th, 2008

Spotlight on the Board is a synopsis of notes and recordings taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Frank C. Whiteley PTA's school board liaison, Jennifer Mondy. 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. These Notes are not endorsed by District 15 or the Board of Education. Below are the highlights from the June 11th Regular Board of Education Meeting.

2008-09 Student Assignment Plan and Demographic Report

The administration's draft of the student assignment plan shows it is a little under class size averages set by the Board. Allocations of teachers are made by adding the number of students in either the primary (1st through 3rd) or intermediate grades (4th through 6th) and then dividing that group by the target average. It was noted that each school makes its own decisions when assigning the number of sections at each grade level. The Demographic Report indicates that enrollment is declining. There has been a gradual drop of approximately 200 students per year and that trend is expected to continue over the next five years when there will be 1,000 less students than today.

Citizens Address the Board

Nine residents addressed the Board on topics relating to first grade class sizes at Thomas Jefferson, teacher credentials for the SIP special education program at Marion Jordan, junior high boundaries for the Dawngate community in Rolling Meadows and a request for an open dialogue forum to be scheduled between Board members and the community.

Status Report on Facilities Study by Architectural Firm

Architects provided the Board with copies of their full presentation and detailed principal interviews. Data collection continues through next month and school building models will be completed by early August. Several Board members felt strongly that the study/audit should come out of the Facilities Committee so that the entire Board can be involved in its direction. A majority verbally agreed that further direction given to the architects take place during a Board of Education meeting.

Plum Grove/Carl Sandburg Junior High Schools' Boundary Lines Clarification

Errors were found in the Dawngate community's attendance map when comparisons were made with the VersaTrans transportation system in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The Board unanimously approved the motion to reaffirm specific areas on the map that had always been designated as Plum Grove JH but were color coded incorrectly when boundary maps were redone in 2004.

Capital Projects to be considered for the 2008/2009 Budget

The Board approved \$2M for major capital improvements with the knowledge that these projects will be reviewed by the Board for prioritization before final authorization.

Full detailed notes for this meeting and all past meetings can be found at www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm
Subscribe to the *Spotlight on the Board* notes and have the highlights emailed to you whenever a Board meeting occurs. The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 13th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine.