

BOARD BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: SONNI HERGET, LAURIE HOFFMAN, NEAL ORMOND III, ALLAN RHEA, ANGIE SMITH, JIM TOYNTON, JONATHAN WOOD AND DANIEL FLAHERTY, STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

At the January 22, 2008 Board of Education Meeting held at West High School, the Board:

Vice-President Herget began the meeting with a moment of silence to honor Stan Karnoscak, former Art teacher extraordinaire. Stan passed away Tuesday morning from a heart attack. Stan began his career in District 129 in 1974 as an art teacher at Hill, Goodwin and the North Aurora Elementary School. He also taught at Smith, Lincoln, Freeman, Goodwin, Fearn and Herget. He touched the lives of many students – from the young child to the adult learner. Stan retired in June of 2007 and continued his connection with the district by substitute teaching. He will be missed!

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: The Board recognized visitors from AEAW, West High, Fearn, Freeman, Partnership School, Greenman, Goodwin, Hall, Hill, Lincoln, McCleery, Nicholson, Schneider, Smith, Todd, Wall, Jefferson, Transportation, AEAW Bargaining Team.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Students from Fearn and Smith who participated in the Invention Convention were honored. Each student brought their invention and was presented with a book about an invention. Those honored were: Austin Franks, Desk Top Cover; Jason Carrera, High Tech Wheelchair; Kasey Reyes, Light Up Slippers; Ryan Golebeck, Helping Hand; Alex DeBolt, All Use Cargo Chair; Emiliano Gonzalez, Hospital Shirt; Braigen Mueller, Cushy Tushy Organizer; Lucas Warren, Warren Super Dart Bowl; and Joe Garlando, Book Clip Cap. Congratulations to all who participated.

ACTION ITEMS:

ACCEPTED FOR A 30-DAY REVIEW Board Policy Section 4 – Operational Services.

APPROVED 5 YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 73, Win Coalition (CTW).

APPROVED DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

APPROVED SIX MONTH BUS LEASE

APPROVED LOW BID FOR MOLD ABATEMENT AT FREEMAN

APPROVED AT & T AS THE FIBER NETWORKING PROVIDER FOR DISTRICT 129

APPROVED RESOLUTION FOR ISSUANCE OF TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,400,000

APPROVED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION OF AN ESCROW AGREEMENT to issue General Obligation Refunding School Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000.

APPROVED RESOLUTION PROVIDING THE ISSUE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS in an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000.

The issuance of these Refunding School Bonds will save taxpayers of District 129 \$2.7 million over the term of the loan.

APPROVED TRANSFER OF \$3,208,687 FROM WORKING CASH TO THE EDUCATION FUND

APPROVED TRANSFER OF \$1,000,000 FROM WORKING CASH TO THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND.

APPROVED RESIGNATIONS OF Jennifer Starai, Hope Wall and Rasonja Price, Transportation.

APPROVED APPOINTMENTS OF: Jessica Lionhood, Special Education @ Hall; Krystal Brussow, Paraprofessional @ Wall; Jacqueline Garretson, Paraprofessional @ Freeman; Monick Ramos, Paraprofessional @ Hill and Nikki O'Callahan, Paraprofessional @ Freeman.

APPROVED LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR Gina Zager, Readiness Teacher @ Todd and Stephanie Leo, Technology Office Professional, Administration.

APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF CINDI HAMILTON as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

The Board was provided information about the Reading First DIBELS on Palm PDA's and, with the assistance of Reading First staff, had a hands-on experience in administering the DIBELS with the Palm PDA's.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Community Survey – Cynthia Latimer provided the Board with background information on a Federal grant that the district is pursuing which would result in several million dollars to aid district schools over the next four years. A community and staff survey will be conducted as part of the grant application. The grant is designed to make schools safer, foster healthy child development and prevent aggressive and violent behavior, drug and alcohol use among school aged children.

Update on Recycling – Board Member Dan Flaherty, updated the Board on the efforts to increase awareness throughout the district on the need to recycle. Efforts are being made to provide each school with the necessary bins and information to increase this program.

SAFE SECURE FACILITIES

A revised Plan of Work was included in the backup material.

Pete Kerl reported to the Board that the cameras have been installed at West High and at the February 4 meeting, he and Erin Slater will be providing the Board with information on a security system for Greenman.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Vickie Nissen provided a Budget update, reporting on both revenues and expenditures.

Vickie also reported on the work done through PMA with Moody's to increase the District bond rating from Baaa to A-3 – Positive Outlook. This change in rating will assist in the district's credit rating.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board's attention was called to correspondence in the backup material, thank you notes received over the past month, one being from Mayor Weisner who viewed and appreciated the DVD created by the District – "Experience Vision 129".

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 28, 2008
February 4, 2008
February 9, 2008

Presentation of School Improvement Plans
Board of Education Meeting
District-wide Fine Arts Festival

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Board members highlighted some of the events they had participated in over the past month, including Mock Interviews held at West High; the development of an intramural program through the Park District and West Aurora; the Invention Convention held at Smith and Fearn; attending the Martin Luther King Birthday celebration and National Honor Society induction scheduled for January 28.