

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

April 1st, 2009

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 April 1st Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Middle Schools and Grade Level Centers

Presentations on these educational opportunities provided background information, an overview of current programming and a summary of the latest research. There was extensive data concerning middle schools and that concept was the primary focus of Board member questions and comments. Although recommendations were not made, it appeared that grade level center cons outweighed the pros.

Review Draft of 2009/10 Budget

Several unknown revenue variables were built into the budget and include property taxes, State funding and potential Federal stimulus funds. Business officials continue to revise/modify the budget as information is received. Most of the district's State funding (13%) comes through transportation reimbursements and special education. Due to Illinois's budget deficit, some reductions in funding are anticipated. Expenditure variables consist of teacher compensation, stimulus related expenses, actual cost of capital projects and insurance. The Board is expected to approve the 2009/10 budget in June although it was suggested that due to the upcoming teacher contract negotiations, it delay approval until the fall.

5-Year Financial Projections – June 2009 through June 2014

Revenues will decrease significantly for the 2010/11 school year when the 2009 CPI of 0.1% takes affect. The district acknowledges that its projections for CPI in 2010 and beyond are its best guess and as concrete information becomes available, the 5-year revenue projections will be revised. Salaries are the district's largest expense and all employee groups, with the exception of the Classroom Teachers Council (CTC), will receive an increase of 3%. For 5-year projection purposes, CTC expenses were calculated with a Base salary increase of 2.13% plus an average Step increase of 2.77%. Benefits for all district employees are expected to grow by 9%.

Capital Expenditures Plan 2009 – 2013

Funding for approximately \$7M of capital projects this summer will come from the district's reserves and a smaller amount of \$451K is anticipated in 2010. Identified Life Safety Study items have been included in the capital expenditures plan for years 2011 through 2013 in order to show the depletion of reserves to fund those projects.

Full detailed notes for this meeting can be found at www.fcwpta.org/pdf/d15_apr_1_2009.pdf
An archive of notes dating back to May 2005 can be found at www.fcwpta.org/spotlight_archive.htm

Subscribe to the *Spotlight on the Board* notes at www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm and receive notification when Board meeting notes are posted online. A Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 15th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. The newly elected Board members will be seated at the **Tuesday, May 5th** Regular Board of Education meeting.