

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

April 9th, 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 April 9th Regular meeting.

Election of Board Officers

Gerald Chapman was elected Board of Education President and Kelly Keenan Board Vice President. Both were approved by 4:3 votes.

Facility/Architectural/Real Estate Committee Report

A preliminary report outlining the progress of the ongoing facility audit will be presented at the June Board meeting. The committee also continues to investigate improving sidewalk access to schools so that the number of free bus riders can be reduced.

Transportation – 1) Performance Benchmarks, 2) Bus Drivers' Children Riding on Buses and 3) Mid-Day Parking of School Buses in Driveways

Benchmarks were proposed by a Board member in order to determine the transportation department's success in achieving set goals. Another member brought liability and legal concerns forward on the district's long-standing practice of allowing drivers' children to ride on the bus and keeping the buses between routes. The three items were referred back to the superintendent for a recommendation with an understanding that the Board will have a legal and insurance review by the May meeting.

Resolution – Advocating Against SB2288 and HB750

A Board member wrote the resolution that would be sent to lawmakers advocating against both bills that introduce changes in education funding. Reasons were outlined in the resolution as to why these changes were not in District 15's best interests. While individual members expressed their opinion for not taking a position on the bills, the majority felt that a proactive stance was preferable instead of waiting for the bills to move forward.

NEA April 12, 2008 Program/Building Use

Concern had been raised over the program's presumed political agenda and that the district was not charging for its costs for the Saturday meeting. Some Board members thought that by charging the NEA it would indicate a lack of appreciation and cause a rift in the relationship. Others believed that since the NEA does not fall under the teachers' union contract, the district's standard policy should be followed. A motion to charge the National Education Association (NEA) approximately \$150 was approved 4:3.

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, May 14th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine.