

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

December 13th, 2006

Spotlight on the Board is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Frank C. Whiteley PTA's newsletter editor, 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 nor the Board of Education. Below are the highlights from the December "regular" meeting.

Authorization for Certificate of 2006 Tax Levy Approved – Handout available

Final ISAT results announced

- a. All 19 schools made AYP (average yearly progress)
- b. 86% meets/exceeds in reading
- c. 89.6% meets/exceeds in math

Proposed District Web Site Policy presented – Handout available

Key issues addressed – student privacy and external links.

Committee recommended updating district's privacy policy to allow for an option that gives 100% privacy protection. Current policy is "opt out" - the proposed policy would require an "opt in" to release privacy information. The district's Web site will be updated with a disclaimer concerning external links. Special mention was made that the district will not be "policing" PTA Web sites.

Board of Education Policy Manual Review – 1st Reading

Policy items requiring updated legal references were presented to the Board.

Board members disagreed about the purchasing policy. Some were concerned over policy language, wanting option to bid items exempted by school code and advance notice before decisions need to be made. Other Board members believed that the policy does not preclude the district from bidding, sometimes a district can do better negotiating with vendors and bidding only exists to keep school districts honest. Policy will be brought back for a 2nd reading in January.

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

Dispute revolved around a Board member's decision to hire an outside attorney without prior Board approval as per policy. Costs amounted to over \$35,000.

Amendment to Superintendent's 2004-2009 Employment Contract

Board approves (4:3)

(Carlson, Boucher, Mikula, Silverman voting "yes"; Keenan, Millar, Rowden voting "no")

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Next Board meeting is Wednesday, January 10th, 2007, 7 p.m. at Sundling Jr. High – this is a "regular" meeting.