

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

February 11th, 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 February 11th Regular Board of Education Meeting.

ED-RED Council/Legislation

The downturn in the economy has affected the IMRF which is the retirement fund that District 15 pays into for employees that do not participate in the Teacher Retirement System. The IMRF had a negative 26% return last year which will require the district to increase its contribution rate from the current 9% to approximately 17% in 2010. The additional cost has been added to the Five-Year Financial Projections that will be reviewed at the February 25th Board meeting.

Committee of the Whole meeting – February 25th

Per a Board member's request, the agenda will include a discussion on class sizes. The administration will provide information on how much it would cost to lower average class sizes by one or two students in each of the grade level groups, including junior high.

Board Members' Requests for Information

A member's objection to a delay in receiving the Five-Year Financial Projections led to a larger issue of Board members not receiving available information concerning the district's finances and other topics that have been previously requested.

Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA)

Ten requests were received requesting information pertaining to district policies, the Board of Education candidates (6 requests), a candidate's Statement of Economic Interest, transcripts of Board member emails during a specific period of time and various items related to an investigation into the District 15 Concerned Parents organization.

Board of Education Election – April 7th

Eight candidates will be on the ballot for the four open seats. They are Nancy Lee Carlson, Margaret "Peggy" Babcock, Vicki Wilson, Richard L. Bokor, Steven Miller, Mark J. Bloom, Matthew Taylor and Timothy Millar. Their campaign Web sites or contact information including relevant newspaper articles can be found at www.fcwpta.org/election.htm

Full detailed notes for this meeting can be found at www.fcwpta.org/pdf/d15_feb_11_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 Committee of the Whole meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 25th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 11th, 7 p.m.** at the same location.