

# **Spotlight on the Board**

## **Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings**

### **February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 February 13<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting.

#### **Recommended 2008-2009 Transportation Plan**

A revised flexible three-tier bell schedule proposal, with four start times within each tier, was recently presented to the Board. Concerns over student safety at several schools were raised to the administration by parents. Board members requested additional information on costs, afternoon route times, the length of time between routes and projected cost savings. Further discussion was halted and a motion to postpone the vote on the recommended plan was approved 5:1. The transportation department will refine the proposal for Board approval at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Discussion of Appropriate Fund Balances**

Continuing a discussion initiated at the January meeting, further explanation was provided for the rationale of a Board policy for maintaining fund balances between 25% and 33% as a guideline for budget making. Board concerns expressed were that there was no need for a policy, the district may elect to build funds over time for capital projects and fund balances should be a decision made by each Board.

#### **Authorize Finance Committee to Review and Suggest Cost Saving Measures – Including Health Care/Wellness Options**

The Finance Committee's goals, as well as a specific task to look into healthcare options, were put forward for Board approval. Several Board members opposed the plan citing concerns over budget assumptions being made and the appearance of an Executive Committee. Finance Committee members countered the objections stating that voting did not take place; its goal was to facilitate bringing cost saving measures to the Board and proposed a change to the charter to come to a resolution. A motion to authorize the charter failed 4:2.

#### **FY2008-2009 Tentative Budget – Version V**

The tentatively approved balanced budget includes an increase in student fees, assumes a three-tier transportation/bell schedule, average class sizes of 24.3 (grades K-3) and 25.6 (grades 4-6) and no capital improvements. Hearings and adoption of the budget are scheduled for the March meeting.

The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting will be held  
**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine.