

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

January 14th, 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 January 14th Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Capital Projects/Authorization

The Board approved \$3.9M of capital projects that included \$2.2M worth of roofs to be completed this summer. An additional \$3M was approved for curtain wall replacements at Winston Campus, Lake Louise and Hunting Ridge as well as parking at Marion Jordan. Concern was raised over the spending down of nearly 20% of the district's reserves and the need for a five year financial projection. A report of four years' worth of additional projects totaling \$16M may be reduced based upon a long term plan for the district.

Transportation Update

Board members debated the merits of the administration's recommendation to purchase 33 new buses to update the fleet and reduce maintenance costs. Some members repeated their request for a report outlining the advantages of purchasing new buses vs. maintaining older ones and the need for a consistent 10 year replacement cycle. Others felt that this was a safety issue and because of the State of Illinois's reimbursement program, the district's cost to purchase would be much less.

Committee of the Whole Agenda – January 28th

The architects will present their conclusions on how programs such as all day kindergarten and 6th/7th/8th grade middle schools would impact each building's capacity. Administrators will begin to present their research and recommendations for these educational programs and others at the February meeting.

Bid Award – School Buses

An amendment to reduce the number of buses purchased to 16 was approved 4:3. The vote to authorize the change was interrupted and a motion was made to approve an additional six buses. Questions over whether Robert's Rules of Order was properly followed resulted in further discussion and a vote to increase the number of buses to 22 was approved 4:3. (Yes: Chapman, Ekeberg, Millar, Carlson; No: Keenan, Quinn, Rowden).

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. A Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 28th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 11th, 7 p.m.** at the same location.

Board Meeting DVDs Available to the Public

A DVD of the Regular and some Special meetings will be available for checkout typically the Monday following the meetings. To request a copy of the meeting DVD, please contact June Becker, Board of Education Secretary at beckerj@ccsd15.net or 847-963-3208.