

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

January 28th, 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 28th Committee of the Whole Meeting.

District Capacity Analysis for Future Initiatives

Architects supplied the Board with data on how all day kindergarten, converting the junior highs to 6th/7th/8th middle schools and grade level centers would impact the district's facilities. In their analysis, existing boundaries were maintained, elementary schools remained with their junior high cluster and guidelines for class size were used with current student enrollments. The full report contains a snapshot of how each building would be affected in these scenarios.

Five-Year Financial Projections

The district expects a loss of \$2.6M in real estate taxes next year due to a CPI (Consumer Price Index) factor of 0.1% released December 2008. A factor of 2.5% had been used in its five year projections. Anticipated TIF revenue from the Village of Palatine is expected but will not be enough to cover the loss. Due to declining enrollment, State aid is expected to decrease as well as the need for certified staff. Salary increases of 3% were determined by current negotiated contracts for most staff. Teachers' salaries were estimated because their contract ends August 31st and a new contract has not yet been negotiated.

Committee of the Whole meeting – February 25th

Program initiatives to be presented include all day kindergarten or a combination of all day and ½ day; a Spanish maintenance program for native speakers and second language instruction in the elementary schools. Administrators will provide highlights of the latest research and discuss whether the district already has the framework to implement these programs. A projection of staff needed in 2009/10 is also on the agenda. Middle schools and grade level centers will be discussed at the April 1st meeting.

Board Member Attendance Rate since May 2007

(Total of 46 Regular and Special meetings) Carlson 61% (18 absences), Chapman 93% (3), Ekeberg 98% (1), Keenan 85% (7), Millar 100%, Quinn 98% (1) and Rowden 87% (6)

Full detailed notes for this meeting can be found at www.fcwpta.org/pdf/d15_jan_28_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. The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 11th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. A Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 25th, 7 p.m.** at the same location.