

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

March 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 March 11th Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Special Education Update

The administration provided details on several ongoing initiatives including a new model for the nationally mandated Response to Intervention (RtI). By January 2010, the district will screen all students through MAP and other testing in order to identify those that are not making progress. Students will then receive targeted interventions for specific deficits without going through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. More students are expected to benefit from the new model.

Citizens Address the Board

Four citizens expressed their views regarding special education proposals in the district. Requests were made to reconsider the elimination of the Language Learning program and to change Transitional Kindergarten from a half day to a full day for the 2009/10 school year.

Technology Plan Update

An overview of the district's challenges and opportunities for implementing 21st century technologies was presented in detail. Board members commented that curriculum should drive technology needs, that there are challenges in increasing staff development and how previous technology budget cuts have affected the district. Results from a staff survey assessing their skills and how they currently use technology along with data on how surrounding school districts utilize 21st century technologies will be presented at the May 27th COW meeting.

ED-RED Council/Legislation

Illinois is expected to receive \$1 billion from the federal stimulus package for appropriations to school districts. Those funds are designated for special education and early childhood. Money for educational technology is also expected for equipment, teacher training and curriculum development. Actual dollar figures have not been finalized and may be less than previously announced. Additional information will be provided April 1st.

Committee of the Whole Agenda – April 1st

Program initiatives to be presented include middle schools and grade level centers. The agenda also includes a continued discussion of the 5-Year Financial Projections including a Capital Expenditures plan for the district.

Board of Education Election – April 7th

Candidate Web sites that include background information as well as Blogs, YouTube Video chats and responses to news media questionnaires can be found at www.fcwpta.org/election.htm

Full detailed notes for this meeting can be found at www.fcwpta.org/pdf/d15_mar_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, April 1st, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 15th, 7 p.m.** at the same location.