

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

March 14th, 2007

This was a Regular meeting. Linda Silverman and Kelly Keenan were absent.

Superintendent's Reports – Other

Dr. McKanna, District 15 Superintendent commented on recent Chicago Tribune reports about what makes a quality school system and how teacher mentoring programs play an important part. A detailed report was recently done on District 15's mentoring program. Highlights include:

100% of District 15 new teachers felt welcomed and warmly accepted in the District 15 community at the new teacher orientation.

75% of new teachers said they were very satisfied with the amount of support they are receiving from the teacher mentoring program.

90% of new teachers said their mentor is supportive and cares about them

65% of mentors commented on how mentoring helped them analyze their own teaching and that they learned a lot from the new teacher

McKanna said that District 15 has an extremely strong mentoring program for its new teachers.

Citizens Address the Board

Peggy Babcock – Plum Grove parent

Fears for new students/families entering the District. Feels tensions are running high between Board members, administrators and even the audience during meetings. Noted loss of principals, teachers and administrators over the years. Stated that the last Board of Education election provided an opportunity to rebuild and to heal. She doesn't think that has happened. Babcock asked if the District has asked departing employees why they were leaving. Stated that there is another opportunity in the upcoming Board of Education election to unite the Board and in turn reunite the District. Says that the District can learn from the past and build for the future.

Board Discussion and Reports

2007-2008 Tentative Budget – Nutrition Services

PowerPoint presentation made by **Kevin Nohelty, Asst. Superintendent for Business and Auxiliary Services** and **Bobbie Desprat, Director of School Nutrition Services**.

Handout of presentation was made available to those in the audience.

www.fcwpta.org/pdf/D15031407NutritionTentBudget.pdf

Highlights included: 6,900 meals and 1,650 meal equivalents in a la carte sales are served daily; breakfast is served to approximately 700 students at 11 district schools; 2007/08 goals are to increase student participation, continue staff development/training programs and investigate application scanning software

Board member discussion after the presentation included:

Board Member, Scott Boucher – Asked what particular application the department was looking to automate? **Desprat** – Responded that the department was looking into a software program that would process the "free and reduced" application data through a scanner. Currently that information is inputted manually and it takes two employees approximately two months to process the applications. It is a software program that is used in many large districts.

Board Member, Tim Millar – Asked about the breakdown of revenue showed in the presentation. Wanted to know how much came from students actually using the services versus local taxes. Asked for a ballpark figure/percentage.

Nohelty – Responded that he did not have that figure readily available

Board President Nancy Lee Carlson – Commented on the fact that 26,000 additional meals were served last year without an increase in staff. **Desprat** – Stated that since 2001, the District has consistently served over 1 million meals per year.

2007-2008 Tentative Budget – Technology Services

PowerPoint presentation made by **James Garwood, Exec. Director for Administrative Services** and **Carol Gajewski, Manager, Technology Services**.

Handout of presentation was made available to those in the audience.

www.fcwpta.org/pdf/D15031407TechTentBudget.pdf

Highlights included:

2007-08 Proposed Hardware Upgrades and Refreshes

- 1310 Desktop computers; approximately 65 computers per school

- 2 Technology enrichment labs for Plum Grove Junior High School

Expenditure Budget

- Increase of approximately \$730,000 – 26% increase over last year

- Equipment portion of the budget increasing; most PCs are 10 years old, need to be refreshed

- From 2003 to 2006, equipment was not upgraded

- There are 7 technology staff members; 3 technicians going to approximately 2 schools per day

- 1,000 computers to be upgraded over the summer

Board member discussion after the presentation included:

Boucher – Verified that Plum Grove was receiving the technology labs; glad that the District is going to standardize on XP; finally getting back on track to refresh.

Garwood – Confirmed that Winston and Sundling Jr. Highs received new labs last year; stated that XP wouldn't run well on 10 year old computers

Millar – Commented that it is good to do long-term planning because a District would get itself in a situation where there would be much greater upfront costs and difficulty rolling these things out. Need to look 5, 10 years ahead to keep the refreshes.

Garwood – Replied that the District may have to revisit the plan over the years and make adjustments based on pricing at the time.

District Fifteen Educational Foundation

Board Member Paula Mikula reported that net profits for the Hearts of Gold benefit on February 3rd have amounted to \$31,000 so far. The Foundation has a meeting tomorrow.

New Business/Other

Carlson mentioned that she and **Board Member Wendy Rowden** went to the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) dinner recently. Carlson applauds the NWSRA volunteers and what they do for children in District 15.

Action Items - Personnel Report

Carlson stated that the Personnel Report would be moved to after the Executive Session.

Action Items

Non-Reemployment of First-Year Probationary Teachers

Unanimously approved.

Non-Reemployment of Part-Time Teachers

Unanimously approved.

Website Policy

Board discussion prior to vote –

Millar – Stated that there are two options for this policy. One is to just use a student's first name/last initial (Option 2). Had a question regarding internal newsletters that are just sent to district staff that are different from newsletters that parents would see.

Dr. Jean Sophie – Said that for management purposes, the policy has to be all or none. The big issue is choosing between Option 1 and Option 2.

Millar – Prefers an Opt-In policy vs. Opt-Out policy

Sophie – Indicated that the District's legal counsel advised that there is no choice. The Board should automatically vote for an Opt-In policy. It will be the District's responsibility to educate parents as to what the policy is; get the information out.

Carlson – Agrees with Millar, says Opt-In is safer.

Boucher – Stated that both options are an Opt-In. Boucher still believes that no child should be identified on the District's Web site by name – period. He prefers Option 2 because it is closer to that (first name, last initial for elementary). Option 2 is the most restrictive of the two options.

Rowden – Likes Option 1. Says that the District celebrates a lot of things and parents like to see their children recognized. This policy will not only touch the District Web site but also newspapers, ads, newsletters, annual reports that go out. Rowden is concerned about the safety issue but thinks the parents have that choice when they decide to either Opt-In or Opt-Out.

Millar – Still has concerns with Option 1. If a parent says "yes", will the parent know all the different places their child's name can be used?

Sandy Cramer, District Webmaster – Stated that every time there is a special event, the District will get an additional signed release from the parent for that child's name/picture to be used.

Sophie – Noted that all the different special event options are listed in the back of the policy. Verified that even if a parent says "no" to the general Opt-In form, the parent would still be specifically asked for permission for the special event if the parent wanted their child to be included.

Action Item – Web site Policy

Motion to approve "Option 1" as the District's Web site Policy

Approved 4:1 (Rowden, Carlson, Mikula, Millar voting "yes"; Boucher voting "no")

Board Member E-mail Addresses on District Web site

McKanna – Explained that this item had been on the agenda before and pertains to wanting Board Members to use their CCSD15.net e-mail addresses on the District's Web site. **McKanna** stated that the system has now been changed since the last Board meeting. Previously, the **Board Secretary** would receive all the e-mails that were sent to Board of Education members from the public before the Board member received it. Now, the District has set up the e-mail system so that incoming e-mails to the Board member's CCSD15.net account are automatically forwarded to the Board member's personal e-mail account (if the Board member chooses that option). Since it is automatic, the Board Secretary is not aware of the incoming e-mails – therefore, it is not an issue.

The motion has been made to have all Board Members have a CCSD15.net e-mail address on the District's Web site. **McKanna** stated that when a Board Member receives an e-mail, the Board Member's response can come out of their own personal e-mail address because the e-mail has been forwarded. If the Board Member responds back, the response is from their personal account. **McKanna** further explained that there are no expectations that the Board Member has to use the CCSD15.net e-mail address for communicating back to people.

McKanna indicated that a disclaimer will be added to the District's Web site stating that e-mails sent to the CCSD15.net address are not confidential. If a constituent wants to relay a confidential message to a Board Member, the constituent would be encouraged to place a phone call to the Board Member instead of using e-mail which is not confidential.

Board Member discussion included verification of the forwarding process; automatic roll-offs of e-mails from the CCSD15.net account; and the ability to capture an e-mail (via the CCSD15 account) so that copies can be provided if needed for a particular topic.

Motion – Board Member E-mail Addresses on District Web site

Unanimously approved

Approval – Three-Year Audit Services Contract

Nohelty explained that 27 companies were invited to submit proposals for District 15's audit services. Several of these companies dealt with school districts. Seven proposals were received and four of those met all of the District's qualifications. Prices ranged from \$84,600 (for a 3 year) to \$124,200.

The firm chosen completed District 15's audit last year. The Board is asked to approve a one-year engagement letter only and this letter does not commit the District to anything beyond one year. Services would be for the year ending June 30th, 2007.

Motion to approve the contract as presented

Unanimously approved.

Consent Calendar (7 items)

Carlson noted that there will not be an increase in student fees for the 2007/08 school year. Fees include book and material, lunch and bus.

Motion to approve the consent calendar

Unanimously approved.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

Seven FOIA requests were received by the District from February 1st through February 23rd, 2007.

February 1st – Donald Singer of Buffalo Grove requested a complete list of the names and addresses of all candidates that have filed for the April 17th election. Information was provided to Mr. Singer on February 8th.

February 6th and 7th – Mary Morrissey of Chicago requested copies of the nominating petitions for Lisa Neal, Sue Quinn, Mary Vanek, Gerald Chapman, Richard Bokor and James Ekeberg respectively. Information was picked up on February 7th.

February 9th – Anthony Procebo of Arlington Heights requested the most recent office equipment bids and contracts that were awarded for CCSD15. Information was picked up on February 21st.

February 12th – Tim Millar of Palatine requested copies of all natural gas bills from April, 2005 to April, 2006 and also copies of all petitions filed for all candidates for the 2007 April School Board elections. The petitions were picked up by Mr. Millar on February 12th.

February 15th – Nancy Lee Carlson of Inverness requested copies of the nominating petitions for all six Board of Education candidates. Information was picked up on February 15th.

February 20th – John Kenyon of Washington, D.C. requested information regarding the District's relationship with First Student Inc. Mr. Kenyon was advised that the District does not have a contractual relationship with First Student and supplies its transportation services in-house.

February 23rd – Larry Yon of Lincoln Park, NJ requested a copy of the last bid result that contained class calculators. Information was provided on February 27th.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Post Executive Session Votes

The Board reconvened at 8:40 p.m. to vote on two items.

Vote to approve the Personnel Report

Includes the appointment of Bob Strande and George Lingel as Interim Business Officers effective July 1st, 2007.

Unanimously approved.

www.ccsd15.net/WhatsNew/NewsReleases/HTML/Archive/CCSD1503_16_2007.html

Vote that "Student A" attend an alternative school in Cook County for the remainder of the 2007 school year as per discussion held during Executive Session.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m.