

# **Spotlight on the Board**

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

### **Special Meeting - May 14th, 2007**

This was a Special meeting called to vote on several action items. Board members present at roll call were: **Scott Boucher, Nancy Lee Carlson, Paula Mikula** and **Tim Millar**. **Linda Silverman** entered just after the roll call was completed. (**Wendy Rowden** entered the meeting at approximately 6:35 p.m. during Executive Session. **Kelly Keenan** arrived at 6:55 p.m. before the last action item.)

#### **Executive Session**

After roll call, the Board immediately went into Executive Session.

#### **Reconvene**

The Board reconvened into open session at approximately 6:53 p.m.

#### **Action Items**

Motion to approve the **personnel report related to food service employees** as amended by the administration. Approved 5:1 (Rowden dissenting)

Motion to adopt **a one year contract** as presented by the administration for the **demographic liaison consulting contract**. Approved unanimously.

#### **May 14<sup>th</sup> Personnel Report – Agenda item 07-517**

Unanimously approved.

#### **Request for Proposal – Desktop Computers and Monitors**

Tabled from the last Board of Education meeting.

Motion to approve the bids as submitted by the administration.

Board discussion –

**Millar** – Proposes that the District go with one gig of RAM on the PCs as opposed to the two gig. The District upgraded last year from the 512K to 1 gig based on future needs – it would make these not only consistent but believes that with the future value of money on this equipment – it would be money well spent not to invest the extra \$70 today. Said that when the District upgrades to the video monitors, we actually accommodate better performance without having as much memory. Is familiar with VISTA, the new operating system. Thinks part of the premise was of the 2 gig PCs was for the applications. The applications that the District will be using are not typically multi-tasking where there would be six or 7 windows open. By the time the District gets to a point where this may be needed, we should be replacing this equipment because they will have 5 or 6 year old hard drives, etc. Thinks it is prudent to take that extra \$70 and put it towards purchasing more PCs.

**Silverman** – Did some research on this subject. VISTA programs do require 2 gig to operate at an acceptable speed and all the PCs the District is buying do have the licensing on it to upgrade at no cost. Thinks it is more commonsense to do the two gig upfront rather than incur additional personnel costs later.

**Boucher** – Said that the difference in cost is only \$59 per computer and that would buy the District about 90 additional computers. Thinks that the old adage on computers is that you buy as much RAM as you can possibly afford because you are going to use it up as you go forward. Thinks it is the wise way to go to invest \$59 per computer for the extra RAM.

**Carlson asked Jim Garwood** – How long he thought the District would plan to keep these computers? Garwood indicated that past history shows that the majority of computers now are between 8 to 12 years old.

**Millar** – Said that there is no set up with monitors and monitors typically drop in price often. Thinks the District should go out to bid on these monitors with more concrete specifications. Some of the 17 inch monitor prices ranged from \$150 and the monitors the District is recommending are \$168. Those do have some other features but thinks it better to delay that purchase since the price of monitors drop often.

**Boucher** – Said if a decision is not made tonight and pushed off until June, the District won't get the equipment in time to install it over the summer. Said it would put the technology department back substantially. Committed to the five year technology plan and monitors are part of that plan. Thinks the District got a good price from the people that bid.

**Millar** – Doesn't disagree with the upgrade of monitors. Timing wise there isn't any set up. He understands that these new monitors would be going on old computers. The monitors would not be set up at the same time as the new computers. Doesn't see a difference with putting the monitors on the computers at the end and bidding them out again. Said that monitors are more of a commodity.

**Motion approved 5:2 (Rowden and Keenan dissenting)**

## **Adjournment of Special Session**

Adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.