

# Spotlight on the Board

## Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

### May 23rd, 2007

This was the Board of Education annual retiree reception meeting. In addition to recognizing several groups of students, staff members and the retirees, Board business was conducted. Board member Nancy Lee Carlson was absent.

### Retiree Recognition and Reception

A 2006-07 Retiree Recognition booklet was available to those in attendance. It listed the names of the retirees and their years of service. Many retirees also provided a history of their District 15 career and future retirement plans. The 49 retiring employees representing 1,248 years of service are:

**Michelle Allen** (Virginia Lake), **Susan Barnum** (Hunting Ridge), **Marilyn Bellandi**, **Jan Belzer** (Willow Bend), **Catherine Berry** (Winston Campus JH), **Carol Bordenkircher** (Transportation), **Richard Bordenkircher** (Transportation), **Patricia Brennan**, **Linda Brown** (Marion Jordan), **Deborah Cade** (Winston Campus JH), **Patricia Campbell** (Board of Education secretary), **Laurel Drew** (Thomas Jefferson), **Thomas Drew** (Sundling), **Elvira Duffey** (Thomas Jefferson), **Siv Eisland** (Conyers Learning Academy), **Barbara Figlewicz** (Sanborn), **Joan Freud** (Lake Louise), **Venus Gintowt** (Winston Elementary), **Joan Groneman**, **Amadeo (Dale) Hernandez** (Whiteley), **Roxanne Hillas** (Kimball Hill), **LaVerne Irwin** (Sundling), **Nancy Janek** (Sundling), **Sandra Johnson** (Sundling), **Marie Jumes** (Sandburg JH), **Kathy Jungblut** (Plum Grove), **Victoria Kiviranta** (Lincoln), **Gail Kostka** (Paddock), **Kathleen Lacijan** (Winston Campus), **Jane Leaf** (Hunting Ridge), **Hilda Marin**, **Kathy Merkelz** (Lake Louise), **Mary Kay Ochal** (ESC), **Irene Pezdirtz** (Sandburg), **Jean Pope**, **Judith Pratt** (Willow Bend), **Judith Ramsey** (Transportation), **Ruth Rohr** (Pleasant Hill), **Thomas Ruffolo** (Pleasant Hill), **Gail Russell** (Marion Jordan), **Robert Sander** (Willow Bend), **Lynise Schlader** (Whiteley), **Theresa Smith**, **Nancy Tirado** (Sandburg JH), **Jeffrey Vittenson** (Sundling), **Mary Jo Waller-Sapit** (Sundling), **Ronald Williams** (Whiteley), **Kathleen Wingler** (Sandburg) and **David Zack** (Transportation).

### Board Discussion and Reports

#### Board Committee Assignments

**Board President Tim Millar** asked Board members their thoughts on the committee list sent by email from **Dr. McKanna** (D15 Superintendent). The list contained committees from the 2005-06 school year as well as suggestions for new committees.

**Board member Gerald Chapman** – Asked what Millar’s expectations were for Board member involvement in committees.

**Millar** – Responded that it is up to the individual Board members and their personal preference as to what/how many committees they would like to serve on

**Board member James Ekeberg** – Asked Millar if he had an idea from the 2005-06 school year as to the success of the different committees – what the committee was to accomplish? What were the specific goals as they moved through the year, etc.? Was there a track record as to which committees were worthwhile and a good idea – or if a committee did not accomplish what it was supposed to do?

**Board member Wendy Rowden** – Said that since she has been on the Board, she hasn't seen a lot of committee use. Rowden was involved on a textbook selection committee, along with **Board member Kelly Keenan**, to educate themselves on the textbooks that the staff were considering. Thought that committee was efficient and went well. Mentioned Board representation on the District 15 Educational Foundation – and also IASB and Ed-RED. Said that the committees she has been involved with have been administration committees.

**McKanna** – Spoke regarding the difference between standing committees that the District administration has vs. Board committees. Said that the Board will decide what will be Board committees that have Board of Education goals and what the Board wants to accomplish. Then the Board can invite administrators to possibly serve on those committees or help set direction. McKanna stated that committees may be decided at the upcoming planned Board workshop with the IASB facilitator.

**Chapman** – Suggested that each Board member give the Board President their first choice and alternate for administration committees and also for Board committees.

**Millar** – The committee list will be refined, some may be consolidated. Asked if members could get back with their choices in one week.

**Keenan** – Had already submitted suggestion for a committee to discuss non-educational (non-curriculum) issues from the children's point of view – such as: bullying – encompassing the playground, CARE, after school programs, etc

**McKanna** – Will summarize Board member feedback and send to Millar. McKanna will list all possible committees and his ideas on what the committee should look like/purpose.

## **Establishment of Board Development Workshop Date with Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)**

Board members discussed their availability and tried to pin down a date where all seven Board members could meet with the IASB representative to hold a Board workshop.

Also discussed was the possibility of more than one session so that every Board member could attend at least one of two sessions, whether the workshop should be held during a Board meeting, and the usefulness of past IASB facilitators.

McKanna will coordinate setting up a workshop date with the IASB.

*Reference:* [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com) (Illinois Association of School Board Web site)

## **Action Items**

### **Transparency – Board of Education Policy, Bids and Budget**

Board discussion –

**Board member Sue Quinn** – Referred to an email she sent with her ideas on this subject. Basically thinks the Board needs to let the public know what the Board is voting on at Board meetings. Mentioned having amended Board policies available to the public before a meeting so that the audience will know what the Board is referring to during their discussions. Wanted to apply this to bids and the budget. Nohelty has already put some budget information on the Web site. Additional budget information has been given to the Board and Quinn would like that available so that the public has a point of reference when they come to Board meetings.

**Rowden** – Is in favor. Said the public has expressed an interest in having more information available.

**Chapman** – Would not object but thinks the Board should be aware of agenda items in advance of a meeting. Suggests that this item (transparency) be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

**Keenan** – Agrees. Keenan would like more information on exactly what the Board wants to put on the District's Web site. .

**Quinn** – Looked at the last couple of agendas and listed what she would have liked to have seen on the Web site before the meeting. From the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Department of Instruction budget information that came in the Board packet; the amended Board policies in the first reading; bids for the curtain wall, freezer, natural gas, etc. Said that McKanna thought it was technically feasible to get that information out on the Web site to meet the 48 hour requirement (Open Meetings Act).

**McKanna** – Wanted to clarify if it was the executive summary information that would be put on the Web? Said that Board policies and budget information were pretty straight forward and could be put online. McKanna stated that it would take a long time to put everything in the Board packet online.

**Quinn** – Said that not everything would be put online. Quinn was particularly looking at the RFP (request for proposal) for the computers and monitors that were recently voted on. There was a lot of interesting information in there – information that the public would like to know – not just for the Board to be transparent but for the public to see what is coming in the District. For example, for the public to know that 1,000 computers are being installed this summer. **McKanna** – Suggested that the District take a look at providing electronic Board packets in the future.

**Rowden** – Added a suggestion of having an agenda category for "future business". This would let everyone know what can be expected at the next Board meeting – for example: tentative budget presentations. The public would know ahead of time. Board members would know and be able to ask questions. This would be especially helpful for new Board members. **McKanna** – Since the District will be hiring a new Board of Education secretary, an outline will be prepared of anticipated items for the next 12 months. This can also be given to Board members.

**Millar** – Asked if Board packets could be received earlier than the Friday before a Board meeting. It has been a challenge to get questions answered in time before discussions/voting takes place.

**McKanna** replied that it is tough to get department information together for the packet but would try.

**Ekeberg** – Asked if a change was anticipated since there will now be only one Board meeting a month vs. two? **McKanna** – The District may be able to get the information packet out on the Wednesday before a Board meeting and can possibly send attachments.

**Quinn** – Stated that there will be more information to go through if there is only one meeting a month.

**Millar** – Said that having Board committees will be good in getting additional information. He served on the finance committee and then had more information before the Board meeting discussion.

**Keenan** - Thinks RFPs (request for proposal) should go on the Web site as soon as they are sent out. Asked if there would be a commentary along with the budget? Also asked if there would be a commentary (explanation) with the Board policies – for example: this policy is being changed because it is an IASB requirement, etc? Said that the Board needs to figure this out first.

**Kevin Nohelty** – Commented that under Board directive about 5 to 6 months ago, the District started putting all of the bids on the Web site as soon as they were published in the newspapers.

<http://www.ccsd15.net/AboutDistrict15/DistrictOffices/BusinessAndAuxiliaryServices/Index.html#BidProposals>

**Quinn** – Wants the public to know what the Board is actually voting on. The RFPs state the requirements that the District wants companies to bid on. This may not be the same information that the Board is actually voting on at a meeting. Quinn likes the idea of writing down a list of what should be listed on the Web site. Agrees to table this agenda item until the next meeting.

Motion to table – Unanimously approved.

*Reference to Open Meetings Act* – [www.iasb.com/files/schboardmeetings.pdf](http://www.iasb.com/files/schboardmeetings.pdf)

And [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/government/open\\_meetings.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/government/open_meetings.html)

## **Executive Session**

The Board went into Executive session at approximately 8:45 p.m.

## **Action Items**

The Board reconvened into open session at approximately 9:45 p.m. to vote on two personnel items.

**Compensation for the Transportation department as recommended by the administration** Unanimously approved 6:0

**Adjustment in the compensation for an individual Transportation department staff member** – Approved 5:1 (Keenan dissenting)

Meeting adjourned.