

# **Spotlight on the Board**

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

### **November 12th, 2008**

*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 November 12th Regular Board of Education Meeting.

#### **Transportation Study and Bus Replacement**

The study shows that the current system is working reasonably well with students getting to school on time. District administrators want to explore the option of changing to a three tier system in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Several Board members argued against a change in start times and preferred to continue to build efficiency in the current system. Other members believe that a three tier system would be less expensive and more efficient. The district will report back to the Board next month on what they have done to make the existing system work and how it can be improved. In addition, a cost savings projection was requested comparing the current two tier system to the district's former three tier system. Authority was given to the district to seek bids to replace up to 61 buses that are over ten years old.

#### **Capital Improvement Plan and Architectural Fees**

Before reauthorizing \$2M in capital improvements, the Board will review the 2005 Life Safety Study at a Special Facilities meeting Tuesday, November 18th. A report is expected that will identify the highest priority items and whether they have already been completed or are scheduled to be this year. Board members discussed ways to reduce its architect fees. Administrators will review items for which the specifications and supervision can be done by district staff at a significant savings and also request a fixed fee upfront rather than paying a percentage of the project's total cost.

#### **Board Meeting DVDs Available to the Public**

A DVD of the Regular and some Special meetings will be available for checkout typically the Monday following the meetings. To request a copy of the meeting DVD, please contact June Becker, Board of Education Secretary at [beckerj@ccsd15.net](mailto:beckerj@ccsd15.net) or 847-963-3208.

#### **Board Committee vs. Committee of the Whole**

A request to establish a Finance Committee to review budgeting procedures and work on a five year forecast was debated among Board members. Several felt that information was filtered through the committees last year and they did not promote Board cohesiveness. As a compromise, agreement was reached on establishing topic specific Committee of the Whole meetings with the first one centering on the district's finances. These meetings are expected to begin in January and will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month.

#### **Pleasant Hill - SMART Board Donations**

Through fundraising efforts of the Pleasant Hill community, a donation of twenty SMART Boards was made to the school and approved by the Board. This donation initiated Board discussion on whether fundraising can be done for individual schools and the development of a plan to implement interactive whiteboard technology throughout the district.

Full detailed notes for this meeting and all past meetings can be found at [www.fcwpta.org/board\\_notes.htm](http://www.fcwpta.org/board_notes.htm)  
Subscribe to the *Spotlight on the Board* notes and have the highlights emailed to you whenever a Board meeting occurs. The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 10th, 7 p.m.** at Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine.

A Special Board of Education meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 18th, 7 p.m.** Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine. The purpose of the meeting is to further review the District 15 Facility Audit Study by Gilfillan Callahan Nelson Architects.