

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meetings

September 9th, 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 September 9th Regular meeting.

Final Student Assignment Plan

Enrollment declined 1.2% with 139 fewer students in attendance as of the 6th day enrollment report. Class size averages are within established parameters although several buildings across the district are experiencing higher class sizes in some grade levels. The Whiteley School principal explained how they established 1st/2nd multiage classrooms in order to reduce class sizes.

Transportation Update

The superintendent admitted that the district's lack of communication contributed to hundreds of parent complaints with the bus system this school year. Transportation administrators reviewed why route changes were made, parent concerns with the new bus stop locations, State of Illinois guidelines, distances walked by children and who was responsible for safety and supervision at a bus stop. Board members asked them why parent emails and phone calls had not been acknowledged, if they had anticipated this amount of concern with the new routes and if information could be put on the district's Web site. Administrators indicated that every situation would be evaluated but they would not make every change requested by parents. An updated report on transportation will be presented at the October 14th meeting.

Architect's Update – Curtain Wall Projects, Phase II

Work on replacing portions of the outside walls at Winston Campus will continue through early November. Recommendations on whether to begin the extensive Lake Louise project or postpone it until next summer when the building is not occupied will be made next week at a special Board of Education meeting.

Citizens Address the Board

Fifteen citizens or citizen groups addressed the Board regarding the safety and logic of newly created bus stops this school year. Frustrations over the district's lack of response to emails and phone calls were expressed by numerous parents. Questions were raised as to why changes were made and why the community was not informed that significant route changes would occur. Requests were made for a parent meeting with the transportation department and an analysis of what was gained in terms of efficiency and effectiveness as well as financially.

Full detailed notes for this meeting can be found at www.spotlightontheboard.org/d15_spotlight.htm
An archive of notes dating back to May 2005 can be found at www.spotlightontheboard.org/archives.htm

Subscribe to the *Spotlight on the Board* notes at www.spotlightontheboard.org/subscribe.htm and receive notification when Board meeting notes are posted online. The next Regular Board meeting will be held **Wednesday, October 14th at 7 p.m.** Sundling Junior High on Smith Street in Palatine.