

BOARD BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: SONNI HERGET, LAURIE HOFFMAN, NEAL ORMOND III, ALLAN RHEA, ANGIE SMITH, JIM TOYNTON, JONATHAN WOOD AND DANIEL FLAHERTY, STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

At the January 7, 2008 Board of Education Meeting held at West High School, the Board:

HELD A PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTING A WAIVER OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL CODE to allow the District to have 14 hours of practice driving in a simulator system in lieu of 3 hours of the required 6 hours of practice driving in a car having dual operating controls under direct individual instruction.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: The Board recognized visitors from AEAW, West High, Hope Wall, Washington, Transportation, Fearn, McCleery, Herget, AEAW Bargaining Team; SCAC.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION was given to Kathleen Bieritz, McCleery and Tom Kraus, West for achieving National Board Certification.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVED SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OR MODIFICATION OF STATE BOARD RULES AND/OR SCHOOL CODE MANDATES relating to the Driver's Education course requirements.

ACCEPTED FOR A 30-DAY REVIEW the K-5 Science Texts and related support materials as proposed by the K-12 Science Committee.

APPROVED THE LOW BID OF MIDWEST TRANSIT FOR 50 DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEMS in the amount of \$102,750, including installation – these are for bus cameras.

APPROVED NEW 4-YEAR LEASE WITH GMAC in the amount of \$20,614.71/\$524.85 per month, for a new 2008 GMC 2500 HD pickup.

APPROVED RESIGNATIONS OF Evelyn (Penny) Ambre, permanent sub; Maria Johnston, Special Ed @ West.

Approved Retirement of Donna Letzter, English/Drama Teacher and Activities Director @ West. Donna will be retiring August 28, 2008 after 32 years with the District. Thank you Donna.....for all you've done for the students, staff and community of District 129!!!

APPROVED APPOINTMENTS OF: Megan Gabel, Special Education @ West; Nicole Schar, Special Education @ West; Christopher Hawkins, Special Education @ West; Amy Bagliere, 1:1 Paraprofessional @ Fearn; Melody Dean, 1:1 Paraprofessional @ McCleery; Christine Coakley, Registrar @ West; Julie Churchill, Title I Literacy @ Hall and Sandra Osorio, Instructional Parapro @ Schneider.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

BOARD POLICY REVIEW – the Board received Policy 4 for review. This policy will be placed on 30-day review beginning January 22 with approval on February 19.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EVALUATION – Crysta Morrissey completed her review of the Special Education Department, completing the review with finance and communication.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN – Rosemary Pinnick reviewed the District Improvement Plan and how it related to the goals for the Special Education program. She indicated that the goals are to improve reading for students with disabilities and increase learning time by decreasing suspension days for students with disabilities. This plan will be presented for approval at the January 22 meeting.

SAFE SECURE FACILITIES

A revised Plan of Work was included in the backup material.

Freeman Mold Abatement – Approval of a bid for mold abatement at Freeman will be presented for action at the January 22 meeting.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

E-Plan Presentation – Andy Fitzsimons updated the Board on the Technology Integration Plan which allows the district to be eligible for E-Rate dollars, a cost reduction to the district. Approval of the Plan will be requested at the January 22 meeting. The recommended vendor will be AT & T.

Tax Anticipation Warrants will need to be issued to meet short term financial responsibilities. A review of the process and timeline were presented.

Refunding – Vickie Nissen presented information on the opportunity to refund existing debt, utilizing the current market's low interest rates, thus enabling the Board to reduce the financial obligation and saving the taxpayers money.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board's attention was called to correspondence in the backup material, including letters of congratulations to Salvador Baltierra and Barbara Pryor, who were selected as Employees of the Month at West High.

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 15, 2008

January 22, 2008

January 28, 2008

February 4, 2008

February 9, 2008

A+ Illinois Forum @ Prisco Center

Board of Education Meeting

Presentation of School Improvement Plans

Board of Education Meeting

District-wide Fine Arts Festival

Please note: All Board of Education Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held at West High School in the Health Academy Classroom.