

BOARD BRIEFS

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

At the November 17, 2008 Board of Education Meeting held at West High School, the Board:

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: The Board recognized visitors from Herget, Hope Wall, West, AEAW, WAOPA, SCAC .

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: The Board recognized the following people for being selected for this year's Golden Apple Award. Congratulations to Kathy Gaddis, Exceptional Needs teacher at Hope D. Wall School, Scott Robowski, Chemistry teacher at West High School, and Kathy Wagner, Social Studies teacher at Herget Middle Schools. All three teachers were awarded with a Golden Apple award, their name engraved on a special plaque and \$350 for use in their class. Congratulations for being chosen for this outstanding award.

November 15th was Illinois School Board Member's Day. Our School Board consists of President, Allan Rhea and Co-president Sonni Herget. Other Board members are Laurie Hoffman, Neal Ormond, Angie Smith, Jim Toynton, Jonathan Wood, Student Board member Jessica Hamilton and Board Treasurer, Jack Meyer. We appreciate our School Board members and the crucial role they play in representing our students, staff, parents and community.

November 17 kicked off American Education Week and apples were delivered to all schools. Events are planned at many of our schools.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVED the 48 month lease of a 2009 Sierra 2500 HD 4WD pickup truck in the amount of \$31,690.00 including monthly payments of \$752.26 with Key Government Finance, Inc.

APPROVED the adopted Identity Theft Prevention Policy and place the policy on display for 30 days.

APPROVED the change of policy 4:60 to reflect the new bidding parameters of Public Act 95-0990 and place the amended policy on display for 30 days.

APPROVED THE PERSONNEL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2008 including the resignations of: Linda Hathaway, Paraprofessional and Maria Morales, Custodian.

APPROVED APPOINTMENTS OF: Elia Arcilla, Early Childhood Support Paraprofessional @ Todd, Suzanne Fatout, Grants Coordinator @ Administration Office, Heidi Tartaglia, Special Education 1:1, Paraprofessional @ McCleery, Pamela Bacon, Special Education Severe Needs 1:1 Paraprofessional

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

TEACHING AND LEARNING

West High Principal, Dan Bridges discussed the Student Board Member application, the requirements of applicants, time lines and answered questions. This position is open to all juniors.

West High Principal, Dan Bridges also gave review on the dynamics of the 8 period day. He explained the longer day and longer academic periods allowing for more flexibility in scheduling career exploration and electives for students. All students have Instructional Resource and this had allowed small class settings with the teacher. A 17-20% drop for freshman failing classes is anticipated by semester end. Increase to Project Excellence is being offered to students (all 8 periods and located in the Nexus). Small Learning Community (SLC) is helping overwhelmed freshman with the transition from middle school along with more homework due to more classes. Student attendance rate is up. West has higher expectations from students and staff with the implementation of the 8 period day.

Cynthia Latimer, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, spoke about the Herget E-plan and the required meeting with RESPO coaches on Thursday. Board approval is requested on December 1, 2008 meeting to allow for ISBE timeline.

SAFE AND SECURE FACILITIES

Pete Kerl, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, is requesting disposal of a Paragon electric kiln Model TNF82 and a Skutt Cone Fire kiln Model 18-both kilns are damaged and unfit for use. Approval for disposal will be requested at the December 1, 2008 meeting.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Vickie Nissen, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, presented the change in the Public Act 95-0707 regarding the increase in the bidding expense parameters. Bids over \$25,000 will need to be placed on our website.

Vickie Nissen, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, presented information on the 403b service providers. Approval for using this provider will be requested at the December 1, 2008 meeting.

A list of technology and electronic equipment that is broken, obsolete or unable to be repaired will be recycled through a recycling company. Approval for disposal will be requested at the December 1, 2008 meeting.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Chrissy Poppen, Coordinator of Community Relations, gave an overview of how the new registration procedures and how the process can be improved upon next year. Feedback was received by SCAC members, parents, office professionals and improvement can be made on the express lines at West High, class fees listed on receipts, better communication with parents, residency verification and affidavits. Some pieces of paper can be removed from the elementary packets.

CORRESPONDENCE

MISCELLANEOUS

Board member, Jessica Hamilton, spoke of the food drive that is underway at West High and last year they collected over 5,000 food items. Donations are made to Vital Bridges the drive runs until the 23rd. Starting in December Student Council will be organizing a New Toy Drive. They would appreciate a donation on new unwrapped toys. Board member, Sonni Herget thanked everyone for the Board recognition and thanked the West Aurora staff for all the dedicated work they do for our students. Board member, Jonathan Wood reminded the audience that the West High Jazz Band is playing at a coffee house.

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 17-21, 2008	American Education Week
November 21-23, 2008	Triple I Convention, Chicago
December 1, 2008	Board of Education Meeting
January 5, 2009	Board of Education Meeting
January 20, 2009	First Day to File Nominating Papers for School
Board candidates at Administration Office – open 8:00 a.m.	
January 26, 2009	Last Day to File Nominating Papers for School
Board candidates at Administration Office – close 5:00 p.m.	
February 7, 2009	Fine Arts Festival
February 24, 2009	Board Briefing by Teaching & Learning Team