



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— January 8, 2009

Board Briefs is a regular report that is included with school newsletters and posted on the District web site to keep parents and staff up-to-date on developments at Board of Education meetings.

Board of Education

Kristen Ruben, President
Mary Crowe-Richards,
Vice President
Shel Leshner, Secretary
David A. Handler
James Hofmockel
Jeffrey M. Silver
Robert Spector

Dr. Alexandra Nicholson
Superintendent

Board of Education meetings are held on the second and/or fourth Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Learning Center at Field School. The public is invited to attend.

Closed Session: The Board went into closed session at the beginning of the meeting to discuss matters of employee compensation.

Approval of District 31 Emergency and Crisis Response Plan: The plan was approved by the Board of Education. Dr. Alexandra Nicholson reported that the newly revised plan represents the work of the District's newly formed Safety Committee which met for more than a year to carefully review all aspects of school safety in conjunction with local and national emergency management regulations and policies. The committee was headed by Dr. Nicholson and included Robert Spector, Board of Education member; Lisa Lawler Ludwig, Director of Business Services; Maria Kalant, Winkelman Principal; Erin Murphy, Field Principal; Alicia Aydt, Winkelman teacher; Sandi Newman, Field teacher; Carol Edelson, Field parent representative; and Suzanne Kahn, Winkelman parent representative.

Dr. Nicholson reported that the mission of the plan is dedicated to protecting lives and property by responding to emergencies promptly and properly in accordance with government guidelines. The District has established and maintains a comprehensive emergency operations program that includes plans and procedures, hazard analysis, security audits, training and exercise, and plan review and maintenance. It is both integrated (employs the resources of the district, school, local emergency responders, organized volunteer groups and businesses) and comprehensive (addresses mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. In addition to regular staff training, the information that staff needs to know at a moment's notice will be summarized in a booklet for easy reference in each classroom. Dr. Nicholson noted that the plan will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis by the Safety Committee.

403(b) Plan Adopted: The Board adopted the agreement for the 403(b) Plan Document and Plan Document for employee investing.

Administrative Reports:

- Lisa Lawler-Ludwig reported that the bid process for school bus service will start the week of January 12. She also reported that the District is anticipating the receipt of \$100,000 in state funding in the coming weeks.
- Maria Kalant, Winkelman Principal, reported that 135 students will be taking the Winter MAP reading and language arts tests, an increase of 98 students more than last year. These mid-year tests provide data that help teachers target their instruction to improve their literacy. She also highlighted the upcoming Family Literacy Night that will feature 25 teacher volunteers presenting literacy activities during the evening.
- Erin Murphy, Field Principal, reported that 60 students are taking mid-year MAP tests, 40 of them are 6th graders. Teachers will use the data to provide earlier interventions. She also highlighted a number of inaugural activities taking place at Field including the viewing of the inauguration via cable TV in the auditorium by the entire school population.
- Nancy Wasielewski, Director of Communication, reported that the fall Communicator newsletter will be mailed next week. The winter issue of the Communicator is currently being planned.

Board Reports:

Kris Ruben reported that the Education Foundation approved teacher grants for Family Literacy Night and the Winkelman Snowflurries program. The Foundation's annual benefit is planned for February 7. Mary Crowe-Richards reported that NSSSED is beginning its strategic planning process. Jim Hofmockel reported on the Glenview Plan Commission's review of NorthShore Glenbrook Hospital's expansion plans.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Alexandra Nicholson summarized the timeline for making decisions regarding programming and staffing for the 2009-2010 school year. She also reviewed the proposed Community Use of School Facilities Policy in a second reading for the Board. Changes were proposed during the first reading that were incorporated into the second version.

Closed Session: The Board concluded discussions relating to matters of employee compensation in closed session. Returning to open session, the Board approved tuition credit payments for Field teachers David Kondela, Arlene Ament and Marty Frega.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, in the Field School Learning Center.