



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— August 27, 2009

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

2009-2011 Board of Education

David A. Handler, President
Jeffrey M. Silver,
Vice President
Mary Crowe-Richards,
Secretary
Michael Berkowitz
Shel Leshner
Bonnie Schoenberg
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.

Public Hearing:

Parent Teacher Conference Day Waiver: The Parent Teacher Conference Day Waiver hearing was repeated from the July meeting because the newspaper did not publish the hearing notice within the required time frame. No comments for or against the waiver were received.

Regular Meeting:

Corporate Master Card Program: The Board approved authorizing the issuance of individual procurement cards to Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent; Cheryl Robert, Director of Business Services; Maria Kalant, Winkelman Principal; Erin Murphy, Field Principal; and Joanne Panopoulos, Director of Student Services.

Imprest Fund: The Board approved resetting the Imprest Fund to \$4,000,00. Cheryl Roberts said that this account is used for paying expenses that cannot wait for the regular bill paying procedure. Previously the District kept a higher balance in the imprest account. Dr. Nicholson said this fund will not be used as a holding account and that any balance over \$4,000 will be transferred to an interest bearing account.

Transfer of Funds: The Board approved the transfer of \$90,000.00 from the working cash fund to the transportation fund. Cheryl Roberts reported the need for this temporary transfer until the State of Illinois can keep up with payments. She explained that the state is currently six months behind on transportation reimbursements.

Facility Use Request Fee Waiver: The Board discussed a request from the First Student Bus Company to waive the facility use charge for the Field School auditorium for training for bus drivers. The District's facility use policy would require the bus company to pay these fees. The Board took no action to waive the fee.

Administrative Reports:

Cheryl Roberts reported that effective July 1, 2009, the State of Illinois changed the program accounting manual for school districts that affect two key documents including the Annual District Budget Form and the District's Annual Financial Report. She also reported that District 31, along with other township districts, have switched banking institutions from the Bank of America to the Northbrook Bank and Trust. The Northbrook Bank and Trust account will allow District 31 to earn interest.

Winkelman Principal Maria Kalant and Field Principal Erin Murphy reported on the smooth start to the opening of the school year. Joanne Panopoulos, Director of Student Services, reported that the number of students in special education programs is similar to last year, except there was an increase in the number of first grade students. Nancy Wasielewski, Director of Communication, reported on back to school communication on the website and in publications, press coverage of Field's opening day assembly and 5K publicity.

Board Reports: Jeffrey Silver reported on the importance of members attending the Triple III Joint Annual Conference in November. Mary Crowe-Richards reported on NSSED's strategic planning procedure. Robert Spector reported on an upcoming Ed-Red meeting. Bonnie Schoenberg invited everyone to participate in the Education Foundation's upcoming 5K Family Fun Run/Walk.

Student Enrollment Report: Dr. Nicholson reported that enrollment as of August 17 totaled 30 students less than last June. However, she added that students are still enrolling and she will have a more firm report at the September meeting.

Closed Session: A closed session was held to discuss the 2009-2010 Superintendent/District goals.

Next Meeting: The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, in the Field School Learning Center.