



## West Northfield School District 31

# Board Briefs

*A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— December 17, 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  
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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.*

**Tax Levy Hearing:** Director of Business Services Cheryl Roberts gave a report on the proposed 2009 tax levy which will fund the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The consumer price index was .1%, which is the percentage used to determine the maximum increase in the 2009 tax levy, excluding new construction and the amount to be levied for the Bond and Interest. Mrs. Roberts reported the proposed 2009 levy is \$10,833,105 and the 2009 bond and interest is \$1,456,000. New construction was estimated at \$20,000,000 to “capture” all new construction dollars. In the levy year 2008, the actual new construction was \$3,359,970. There were no public comments from the audience and the public hearing was adjourned.

**Regular Meeting:** Following the opening of the regular meeting in the “Recognition of the Audience” segment, Board Member Jeffrey Silver read a response from the Board addressing an anonymous letter. The response answered the questions asked within the letter and provided accurate information regarding data within it.

**Middle School Extra-Curricular Activities Presentation:** Field Principal Erin Murphy gave a presentation to the Board on the variety of extra-curricular activities including clubs, sports and intramurals available to Field students before and after school. She addressed the school’s limitation for indoor sports opportunities due to lack of gym space and said this facility issue could be one of the things considered by the Strategic Plan Team. Also on hand to take questions from Board members following the presentation were Dan Razes, Field Assistant Principal, and Betsy Maher, Field PE teacher.

**Strategic Plan Process Update:** Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, Superintendent, gave a report on the process to develop the District’s new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan Team will be establishing District 31 goals for the next five years that will guide fundamental decisions and actions made by the Board of Education, administration and staff. The Team will consist of 27 members including 2 Board of Education members, 2 parents from each school, 1 representative from Glenbrook North High School and 1 from Glenbrook South High School, 2 community business persons, 1 classroom teacher per grade level, 1 applied/fine arts teacher from each school, 1 student service faculty member from each school, 2 building principals, the Student Service Director and the Business Services Director. Team members are being asked to give 7 to 10 hours of their time to this very important task. The dates and times of the meetings in the Winkelman Learning Center Well are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 19, and 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday, January 25.

**Presentation of Referendum Option:** In addition to the two referendum options presented to the Board at the November meeting, Cheryl Roberts presented “Option III: Debt Service Extension Base Increase Referendum.” She reported that the advantages are a shorter, less complex bond question for voters and it increases the District’s bonding capacity. Its disadvantages are that it is not a permanent operating increase so the revenue/expenditure ratio must be balanced and the difficult economy makes tax increases unpopular.

**Action Item—Tax Levy:** The Board approved the Tax Levy as reviewed in the public hearing.

**Action Item—Personnel:** the Board hired a Grade One Instructional Assistant.

**Administrative Reports:** Cheryl Roberts provided information to the Board on Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance Renewal, as well as District 225 Referendum Information. Reports were also heard from Winkelman Principal Maria Kalant, Field Principal Erin Murphy, Director of Student Services Joanne Panopoulos, and Director of Communication Nancy Wasielewski.

**Teacher Appraisal Process Survey and Plan:** Dr. Alexandra Nicholson reviewed survey results of the Teacher Appraisal Process to ensure that teachers have a good working understanding of the process and know what to expect in engaging in it. She also reviewed the plan the Teacher Appraisal Committee developed as a result of the survey.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, in the Field School Learning Center. This meeting was rescheduled from January 28.