



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— February 25, 2010

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

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Vice President
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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.

Strategic Plan Presentation: Dr. Nicholson presented a slide show about the proposed Strategic Plan developed by the Strategic Planning Team at meetings in late January. After reviewing the steps involved in the planning process, she highlighted that the Team reached consensus on lists of core values and belief statements, strategic parameters and success factors. Board Members asked for some clarifications and minor word changes. She introduced the District's new mission statement which is: Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's World: We educate our children to achieve their highest potential in all growth areas — Intellectual, Emotional, Social and Physical. She also reviewed proposed Goals and Objectives for the District. The Administration will make some minor revisions requested by the Board. The Board will vote to approve the new Strategic Plan at the March 18 regular meeting.

Appointments: The Board approved the appointment of Craig Schilling as Interim Director of Business Services and Assistant Treasurer of School District 31 for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. The Board appointed Tina Nielsen and Joni Barker, Administrative Assistants in the District Office, as the District's Freedom of Information Act officers. The Board approved the employment of Laura Barbanente as a full-time Literacy Specialist at Winkelman for the remainder of the school year.

Summer School Programs Approved: Maria Kalant, Winkelman Principal, and Joanne Panopolous, presented information about the District's proposed Summer School Programs. The Board approved the following Title I funded programs: Readers Under Construction (Grades 1-2 by invitation); Reading Rocks (Grades 3, 4, 5 by invitation); and Read to Succeed (Grades 6, 7, and 8 by invitation). The Board approved three ELL (English Language Learner) classes to support students in developing their literacy skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking English. For students with special needs who have been recommended for additional instruction by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team, the Board approved Extended School Year (ESY) Program classes for Grades K-3, Grades 4-8, and Speech. Finally, the Board approved the District's popular fee-based Brush Up course open to all students entering first through fifth grades which reviews reading, writing and math concepts to jump start students for the upcoming school year.

2010-2011 School Calendar Approved: Dr. Nicholson reviewed the District Calendar Committee's proposed school calendar for the 2010-2011 School Year. She noted that prior to the committee meeting, online calendar surveys were available for parents and staff to complete. Input provided was strongly considered by the Committee and results are reflected in the proposed calendar. She highlighted that the school year will begin with three teacher institute days followed by the first full day of school on Thursday, August 26. The last day of school, if no emergency days are used, will be Tuesday, June 7.

Reports: Administrators reported on activities and programs in the schools. Board members reported on community meetings they attended. A new report is now being given by the Parent Teacher Club in this segment of the meeting. Suzanne Kahn, PTC President, reported that the PTC is filing the paperwork to be a separate tax exempt group and discussed the PTC's new Sports Challenge Night coming up on April 23.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, in the Field School Learning Center.