



## West Northfield School District 31

# Board Briefs

*A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— January 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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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.*

**Audience Comments:** Members of the PTC Executive Board addressed the Board regarding the PTC's unincorporated status.

**Strategic Plan Update:** Dr. Nicholson updated the Board about the productive first day of the Strategic Plan Team's meeting on January 19. The Team includes Board of Education members Mary Crowe-Richards and Bob Spector; parents Kismet Saglam, Katy Schwartz and Robert Resis; parent and community member Susan Lynch; classroom teachers Kelly Couvreur, Deanne Chiganos, Shay Walk, Kelly Tess, Nancy Tammillo, Mary Beth Hulting and Andrew Fenton; student service personnel Lisa Chinitz and Tina Bishop; applied/fine arts teachers Jill O'Reilly and Betsy Maher; Glenbrook School District 225 Associate Principal for Curriculum Kris Frandson; Technology Facilitator Dave Del Boccio; and administrators Maria Kalant, Erin Murphy and Joanne Panopoulos. Before getting started on the development of the plan, participants reviewed the book "Sixteen Trends" and discussed how these trends impact our educational system. Team members worked together to develop core values/belief statements, strategic parameters, and a new mission statement. Members reviewed the results of the SWOT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses and external opportunities and threats) gathered through stakeholder meetings and an online survey. This analysis led to the development of strategic success factors for the areas of finances, extra-and-co-curricular offerings, operations, communication, community, personnel and educational programming. Corresponding goals and objectives will be developed during the next meeting scheduled on January 25.

**Possible Referendum Options:** The Board continued its discussion about a possible referendum. The District's last bond payment is coming due with the 2009 tax levy in the amount of \$1,528,800. As a result the tax rate will drop in 2010 by approximately \$.18 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation (EAV) resulting in a yearly revenue loss of almost \$1.5 million. The District can approach the voters with a referendum proposition in November 2010 to keep the tax rate the same and continue to provide funds that are needed for the education of District 31 students. Cheryl Roberts discussed the second of three referendum options which is a blend of options one and three. Option two would provide a \$.10 (per \$100 EAV) tax rate referendum and an \$.08 (per \$100 EAV) rate for issuance of limited bonds. Once the bonds are paid back, the tax rate would decrease by \$.08 per EAV.

**Action Item—Impact Fee Reimbursement:** The Board approved the request for the reimbursement of impact fees by Jon Elliot Builders totally \$3,160.00.

**Administrative Reports:** Cheryl Roberts reported that the CPI (Consumer Price Index) has been announced as 2.7%. This was good news for the District since previously the CPI was .1%, which is the percentage used to determine the maximum allowable yearly increase in the tax levy. Reports on school and student news were also heard from Winkelman Principal Maria Kalant, Field Principal Erin Murphy, Director of Student Services Joanne Panopoulos, and Director of Communication Nancy Wasielewski.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, at Field School.