



## West Northfield School District 31

# Board Briefs

*A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— May 24, 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

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.*

**Student Recognition:** The meeting opened with a recognition assembly for Winkelman and Field student accomplishments during the school year. Following the student awards, Field Middle School Principal Erin Murphy accepted a plaque from a representative with the Association of Illinois Middle-Level Schools (AIMS) in recognition of Field's re-designation as a Horizon School Watch.

**PTC Report:** Holly Anderson, PTC Executive Board member, reported that the PTC Sports Challenge raised \$2,000 for new District technology. The PTC is providing \$11,000 in funding this summer for three additional sets of classroom technology (wall mounted projectors and document cameras) as well as updates for the District's Weather Bug station at Field. PTC officers for the coming school year will include several new participants including Leslie Herman Resis, Treasurer, and Carolyn Welch, Vice President of Student Activities. Dr. Nicholson thanked the PTC on behalf of the District for everything they do for District 31 students and staff throughout the school year.

**Approval of New Business Services Director:** The Board approved the employment of Catherine Lauria as the new Director of Business Services, effective July 1. Dr. Nicholson introduced Catherine Lauria at the meeting. The Board also approved hiring Dr. Craig Schilling, CEO, SBM, PROS, LLC, for professional services to the District for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Dr. Schilling will mentor the new director and provide oversight and assistance with major items such as budget development and long range planning.

**Approval of Student Fees for 2010-2011:** The Board approved student fees for the 2010-2011 with slight increases for all Winkelman grades that reflect the actual materials and supplies costs. The new fees are Kindergarten - \$60; Grades 1-2 - \$75; Grades 3-4 - \$85; Grade 5 - \$95. The Grade 6-8 fee remains unchanged at \$115. In answer to Board questions at the previous meeting, Dr. Nicholson explained the \$50 reed fee for band students helps ensure that they will have the correct reeds for their instruments on hand as needed during practices. The Board also approved the transportation fees.

**Approval of Technology Purchases:** The Board approved technology purchases of \$107,910 for the 2010-2011 school year. These purchases include wireless infrastructure with the entire \$35,000 cost being funded by the District 31 Education Foundation; 16 wall mounted projector sets with 10 sets funded by the District and six sets funded by the Parent Teacher Club; new laptop computers for staff; two Apple iMac computers for the school computer labs; and a new multi-function copiers and printers. In a technology presentation to the Board, Erin Murphy, Field Principal, explained the District's 5-year Technology Plan which will bring 21st century technology to the classroom and support the District's new mission as part of the 5-Year Strategic Plan: "Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's World." Dr. Craig Schilling highlighted the financial strategy for implementing the technology plan.

**Approval of Student Travel for International Competition:** The Board approved payment for the cost of 22 Winkelman students and a staff member participating in the Destination Imagination Global Finals in Tennessee. Dr. Nicholson highlighted Winkelman and Field students' successes and achievements in recent regional and national gifted program competitions including the Destination Imagination competitions for Winkelman students and Future Problem Solvers (FPS) competition for Field students. One team of Field students also qualified for the (FPS) international competition and will travel in mid-June to LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

**District 31 Finances:** Dr. Craig Schilling reported on the development of the 2010-2011 Budget and the need to hold summer meetings with the District's Finance Committee and Board to work through strategies that will be utilized to implement the District's fiscal vision.

**Board Reports—Foundation Donation:** Board member Bonnie Schoenberg announced that the Education Foundation will sponsor its 5K race on September 26, 2010.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10, at 7 p.m. in the Field School Learning Center.