



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

A Summary from the Board of Education Meeting— October 29, 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

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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.

Visitor Comments: District 31 resident Ken Eppelheimer, Assistant Director of the Northbrook Park District and member of the District 31 Stakeholder Financial Advisory Committee, spoke in support of District 31's option of going for a referendum to increase the tax rate due to its long term financial picture. He pointed out that District 31 currently has the lowest tax rate in the township.

2009 Illinois School Report Card: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson presented an indepth look at the results of the ISAT test scores by students at Winkelman and Field Schools. Results from these tests generate the Illinois School Report Card and determine our District's compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Once again, District 31 students' overall test scores are well above state norms and the District is in full compliance with NCLB. Complete ISAT data as part of the 2009 School Report Card is posted on the District's website.

Five-Year Financial Projection: Cheryl Roberts, Director of Business Services, presented three 5-year projections to the Board for their consideration assuming variations in revenue, expenditures and the tax rate. She noted that the purpose of the projections is to be pro-active about short-term and long-term planning, especially as the District faces the affects of the economy and paying off its long-term debt.

2010 School Library Grant Program: In accordance with Illinois State Library policy, the Board affirmed the accuracy of the District's FY 2010 School Library Grant Program Application signature page. District 31 has been allotted 75-cents per pupil to purchase library materials. Traditionally, Field uses the money one year and Winkelman the next. This year's grant application funds will be used to enhance Field's collection of high interest young adult literature at a variety of reading levels.

Administrative Reports:

- Cheryl Roberts, Director of Business Services, summarized preliminary 2009 tax levy options for the Board's consideration. She reported that a draft copy of the audited financial statements will be available soon. Because tax bills were delayed by the County, District 31 has a need for short-term borrowing until the tax money is received. As a result, Mrs. Roberts presented several short-term borrowing options for the Board to consider. The Board scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 8 a.m. to approve a short-term borrowing resolution.
- Maria Kalant, Winkelman Principal, discussed preparations for parent teacher conferences, Winkelman teachers involved in a literacy group, service learning programs and drug awareness programs. She also reported the construction activity on the Glenbrook Hospital property next door and explained the work will not impact Winkelman School.
- Erin Murphy, Field Principal, discussed preparations for parent teacher conferences, the 8th Grade Leadership Day program, the 8th grade trip to the Pilsen area of Chicago, 7th grade visits to senior homes and art programs. She also reported that the Education Foundation has funded a trip to the National Middle School Conference for Ms. Murphy and four teachers.
- Joanne Panopoulos, Director of Student Services, reported that she and five Winkelman teachers are involved in ELL professional development workshops. She also noted that the Student Services Program had a smooth start and that non-certified staff are involved in professional development workshops that connect to meeting our students' needs.
- Nancy Wasielewski, Director of Communication, reported on the District's Communication Survey that will be available during the Parent Teacher Conference timeframe, recent press coverage in the local newspapers, a podcasting workshop she attended with Dr. Nicholson, and the latest issue of the staff newsletter.

Board Reports: Board members highlighted recent meetings of the Township Board Presidents, NSSD, IASB and the Glenview Plan Commission. Members complimented the recent programs sponsored by the Education Foundation and Parent Teacher Club.

Next Meeting: A special meeting is planned for Thursday, November 12, at 8 a.m. in the District Board Room. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, in the Field School Learning Center.