



## West Northfield School District 31

# Board Briefs

## Board of Education Regular Meeting — April 15, 2013

*Board Briefs is a summary of developments at Board of Education Meetings for the community and staff.*

### 2011-2013

#### 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.*

**Public Hearing on Legal School Holiday Hearing and Parent Teacher Conference Waivers:** The Board held a public hearing to hear comment from the community on two items: (1) authorizing the Board to hold school or schedule teacher institutes or staff development activities on legal school holidays; (2) authorizing the Board to count the configurations allowed by school law as a full-day P/T conference. There were no objections.

#### **Regular Meeting**

**PTC Report:** Dr. Alexandra Nicholson read a report from Susan Harrison, PTC President, regarding plans for a number of upcoming PTC events including The Taste of District 31 on April 19, the Le-Blanc Laugh Off on May 10, and a retirement party for Winkelman Principal Maria Kalant on May 22.

**Certificates of Recognition:** Dr. Nicholson presented the Board with Certificates of Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that acknowledge the fact that District 31, Winkelman School, and Field School earned “Fully Recognized” status from ISBE and meet all requirements imposed by law.

**Online Board Policy Manual:** Erin Murphy, Field Principal, demonstrated the new online Board Policy Manual that is available on the District 31 website under the Board of Education drop-down menu. This new policy manual includes all the updated policies that the Board has approved in the past year.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda. Highlights include: employment of Jeffrey Linforth as a Field School Physical Education Teacher for the 2013-2014 school year; eliminating the full-time position of Director of Communication effective June 30 and reassigning it as a part-time position effective August 1; adopting new Board policies on topics of Agency and Police Interviews, Assemblies and Ceremonies, Community Resource Persons and Volunteers, Complaints about Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs, Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities, Course Substitutions, Curriculum Development, Duties and Qualifications—Educational Support Personnel, Education of Children with Disabilities, Expenses, Extracurricular Athletics, Homework, Instructional Materials, Non-Public School Students, Including Parochial and Home-School Students, Organization of Instruction, Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure, School Accountability, Student and Family Privacy Rights, Student Assignment, Student Support Services and Student Testing and Assessment Program.

#### **Action Items:**

**Approve Public Hearing on Permanent Transfer:** The Board approved holding a public hearing at the next meeting to seek approval to transfer funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Education Fund.

**2013-2014 Student Fees:** The Board approved keeping student grade-level fees, optional fees, band/club/activities fees, and sport fees the same as last year, with the exception of student transportation fees that will increase by 2.5%. The Board is adding a technology fee of \$125 per student next year that will help fund the implementation of all new technology at Winkelman School as well as a 1:1 technology program for all students over the next three years.

**Next Meeting:** As of the April 15th meeting, the write-in votes for the Board of Education election had not been officially counted and certified. Dr. Nicholson said this information will be available by April 30. As a result, the Board scheduled a reorganization meeting to seat the 4 newly elected Board members at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 30, in the Field School Learning Center.