



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

Board of Education Regular Meeting — October 25, 2012

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

2011-2013

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.

Recognition of the District 31 Education Foundation: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson recognized the newly reorganized District 31 Education Foundation and introduced the new Foundation Chairperson Laura Sanchez-Greenberg to the Board. Mrs. Sanchez-Greenberg reported that the Education Foundation has launched the “ACT NOW: Advancing Classroom Technology” campaign to raise \$750,000 for technology funding over the next three years to put technology into the hands of every single student in District 31 and make our district a leading example of technologically-enabled primary and middle school education. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Field School Learning Center. The campaign has already received a pro bono donation of \$25,000 in marketing services from the Avenue Marketing Agency including the development of a new logo design for the ACT NOW campaign.

PTC Report: Terah Bozarth, PTC Vice President of Publicity, reported that the PTC Movie Night was a success on October 19 and that the deadline for the November Hoops Program at Winkelman was extended to October 30. She said the PTC is pleased to partner with the Foundation in the ACT NOW campaign.

Introduction of Certified Staff: New certified staff introduced themselves to the Board including: Erica Sherman, Winkelman Russian Bilingual Teacher; Jennifer O’Grady, Winkelman 2nd Grade Teacher; Christina Liakos, Winkelman 5th Grade Teacher; Katie Porter, Field 6th Grade Humanities Teacher; and Mary O’Brien, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher.

Consent Agenda Approval: The Board approved the Consent Agenda. Highlights include:

- Affirmation of the accuracy of the FY 2013 School District Library State Grant Program. The State authorizes up to 75 cents per pupil expenditure for schools to purchase books and instructional materials. Traditionally, Field uses the money one year and Winkelman the next. This year’s grant funds will be used for Winkelman.
- Adoption of Board Policies including *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*, *Access to Electronic Networks*, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*, *Curriculum Content*, *Library Media Program*, *Personnel Records*, *Safety*, *Teacher Qualifications and Use of Automated External Defibrillators*. The Board agreed on a modification of the *Exemption from Physical Activity* policy.

Action Item: The Board approved the District’s Improvement Plan for the Title III State requirement. Dr. Nicholson explained the District had to develop the Improvement Plan for Title III language instruction for limited-English-proficient and immigrant students. Of the 20 indicators the District needed to fulfill, all were implemented except hiring a second certified Spanish Bilingual Teacher at Winkelman. Dr. Nicholson said Winkelman is still recruiting for this position.

Information and Discussion Items

ISAT: Dr. Nicholson summarized the District’s 2012 School Report Card results. She reported that 89.6% of all students met and/or exceeded State standards in math, and 92.5% of all students met and/or exceeded State standards in reading. The District and schools are not on the State or Federal Improvement Status. In response to a question about the lack of a breakdown for ISAT scores of our Spanish speaking students, Dr. Nicholson explained that there has to be 40 students in this category to have a separate report from the State. Dr. Nicholson also noted that the State will be revising the School Report Card but specifics are not known at this time.

Buildings and Grounds Update: Cathy Lauria, Director of Business Services, reported that the District has moved forward with the energy efficient lighting changes. She also reported that Bertog Landscaping has donated 17 bushes and 2 trees for school grounds. The Board acknowledged and thanked Bertog for this donation.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 29, in the Field School Learning Center, 2055 Landwehr Road, Northbrook.