



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

Board of Education Regular Meeting — February 21, 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.

Consent Agenda Approval: The Board approved the Consent Agenda. Highlights include adopting new Board Policies on Communicable and Chronic Infectious Diseases; Copyright; Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers, Employment At-Will, Compensation and Assignment; Maintaining Student Discipline; Recognition for Service; Resignations; Staff Development Programs; Substitute Teachers; Suspension; and Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal.

2013-2014 District Calendar: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson reported that the Calendar Committee met to determine calendar dates with input from parent and staff surveys. The school year will begin with three teacher in-service dates from Monday, August 19, through Wednesday, August 21. The first full day of student attendance is Thursday, August 22. All school holidays align with High School District 225's calendar. The last day of school will be June 4 if there are no emergency days during the school year. The Board approved the new calendar.

Emergency and Crisis Plan: Dr. Nicholson reviewed the work of the District 31 Safety Committee since the beginning of the school year. Committee members met once with representatives of the Glenview and Northbrook Police and Fire Departments for the annual review of the District 31 Emergency and Crisis Plan and a second time to review the details of the District's lock down procedures, routine safety procedures, and safety equipment. Information will be sent to District 31 parents and staff outlining the new procedures being implemented in District 31 schools to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Monthly Budget Summary and General Ledger Summaries: Cathy Lauria, Director of Business Services, reported on the Monthly Budget and General Ledger Summaries.

Glen Star Project: Mrs. Lauria provided an update on the Glen Star Project and indicated she has been attending all village meetings.

2013-2014 Student Fees – Kindergarten and Transportation: Mrs. Lauria reported that the administration is recommending keeping the kindergarten fee \$95, the same as last year. Other grade level fees will be considered at an upcoming meeting. The Board approved the bus transportation contract with First Student that includes a 2.5% increase for school year 2013-2014. Round trip routes would increase from \$443.42 to \$454.51 per student. One way routes would increase from \$274.50 to \$281.36.

Technology Report: Dr. Nicholson updated the Board regarding the study being conducted to select a 1:1 device for students. The Technology Committee has narrowed the choice to two devices – the Chromebook and iPad Mini. The pros and cons of each device were summarized and the two devices were shown to the Board members.

New ISAT Cut Scores: Dr. Nicholson reported that the State of Illinois has raised learning standards for students by mandating the implementation of the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Math and English/Language Arts. She explained that the CCSS outline the skills and instructional content students must master at each grade level as well as skills and content on which they will be tested through a new State assessment that is scheduled to replace the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) in 2014-2015. Dr. Nicholson also explained that the State has increased ISAT performance expectations for its final two years of implementation by having 20% of the questions assess the CCSS as well as by establishing new cut scores that make it much more difficult for students to score within the meets and exceeds performance categories. Dr. Nicholson explained that these higher expectations may cause students who have previously met or exceeded ISAT standards to drop into lower performance ratings; however, this does not imply that our students have received less instruction or are less capable than they were in previous years. Instead, the Illinois State Board of Education is simply "raising the bar" by expecting more of our students going forward. Following the Board meeting, Dr. Nicholson's full report will be emailed to parents and will be posted on the website.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, in the Field School Learning Center, 2055 Landwehr Road, Northbrook.

