



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

Board of Education Regular Meeting — March 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.

PTC Report: Susan Harrison, PTC President, reported on plans for a retirement party for Winkelman Principal Maria Kalant on May 22 at 3 p.m. in the Winkelman Commons. The PTC is planning its April meeting on April 11 and the Taste of District 31 on April 19. The recent food drive for needy families was a success in providing local families with supplemental food supplies.

Consent Agenda Approval: The Board approved the Consent Agenda. Highlights include adopting new Board Policies on Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, Employment Termination and Suspensions, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, Evaluation, Hiring Process and Criteria, Personal Technology and Social Media - Usage and Conduct, and Workplace Harassment Prohibited.

Administrative Reports—State Revenue/Mandates: President Handler had requested that Cathy Lauria, Director of Business Services, research if school districts that do not take State funding are waived from implementing State mandates. How much money does District 31 get from the State versus how much we have to spend on State mandates? Superintendent Nicholson shared that a State-wide initiative is beginning that, if approved, would allow school district boards of education to have local control over which mandates to follow. To not follow a State mandate, a school district would have to establish that what it is doing serves the same purpose.

Monthly Financial Summaries: Mrs. Lauria reviewed Financial Projections for the operating funds as defined by the Illinois State Board of Education, including the education, operations and maintenance, transportation, and working cash funds. She reported that our financial reports still include money that is earmarked for the education fund when the Allstate tax appeals are settled as per the Circuit Court's rulings.

Mrs. Lauria reported that the GlenStar development has been approved by the Village of Glenview and is predicted to provide \$1.8 million in tax revenue to our district within a few years. The Village of Glenview also approved plans for the Greenleaf Townhome construction project in our District that will include 20 townhomes.

The District Safety Committee, including Northbrook and Glenview police and fire department representatives, have recommended the Board consider modifying the Field School and District Office entrances to provide additional security. Mrs. Lauria is meeting with the District's architect who is preparing estimates for the proposed work.

Technology Report: To be prepared for 1:1 technology this fall, the District is moving ahead with plans to upgrade the wireless systems in both schools. The decision on which devices will be adopted is expected to be made this spring.

Board Reports: David Handler, Board President, reported on a meeting with local Board Presidents who discussed how recent school shootings in other parts of the country have had a far reaching impact on all school systems across the country, including our local township school districts. The Board Presidents discussed how their own building security entrance policies have been increased, for example, by having visitors leave drivers' licenses at the front office during the school visit and by planning building safety modifications.

Policy Manual—First Read: Erin Murphy, Field Principal, summarized updated policies on the following topics: Agency and Police Interviews, Assemblies and Ceremonies, Community Resource Persons and Volunteers, Complaints and Curriculum, Conduct Code for Participants in an Extracurricular Activity, Course Substitutions, Curriculum Development, Duties and Qualifications—Educational Support Personnel, Education of Children with Disabilities, Expenses, Extracurricular Activities, Homework, Instructional Materials, Non-Public School Students, Organization of Instruction, Programs for Students At Risk, School Accountability, Student and Family Privacy Rights, Student Assignments, Student Support Services, and Student Testing and Assessment Program. Ms. Murphy noted that these are the last of the policies for review, and when the Board approves them, the new Board Policy Manual will be complete. She is developing a website for the policies.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 15, in the Field School Learning Center, 2055 Landwehr Road, Northbrook. The community is invited.