



West Northfield School District 31

Board Briefs

Board of Education Regular Meeting — September 27, 2012

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 District 31's 2012-2013 Budget: Cathy Lauria, Director of Business Services, reviewed updates made to the tentative budget within the past month. There were no questions from the Board or audience.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

PTC Report: Loren Schyman, PTC President Elect, provided the Board with information about the current PTC's Fall Catalog Sale, Family Movie Night on October 19, and the November Hoops Basketball Event on November 3.

Introduction of Certified Staff: Several new staff members were invited to introduce themselves to the Board including Karen Schur, part-time speech pathologist; Dan Scott, part-time physical education teacher; and Erika Bolte, reading specialist. Additional new staff members will be introduced at the October Board Meeting.

Parent Recognition: Dr. Alexandra Nicholson recognized and thanked Suzanne Kahn, recent PTC president, for her service to District 31, and presented her with a crystal engraved bowl as a remembrance of her service to the District. Mrs. Kahn, who led the parent organization for 3 school years until June 30, 2012, told the Board how much she enjoyed the opportunity to serve the District and its students through her work leading the PTC. Dr. Nicholson also introduced and recognized Susan Harrison, new PTC President, and Loren Schyman, PTC President Elect, and presented them with bouquets of flowers. Dr. Nicholson also thanked Nancy MacRae, outgoing Education Foundation Chairperson, and Laura Greenberg, new Education Foundation Chairperson. Neither were able to attend the meeting.

Consent Agenda Approval: The Board approved the Consent Agenda. Amongst the items approved were donations from the Harrison family, funds to support school activities for students who can not afford to pay the fees, and the Weiss family, a multi-purpose game table for the Field Commons. The Board also adopted the following formal policies: *Communicable and Chronic Infectious Diseases, Teaching About Controversial Issues, Teaching About Religions, and Using Animals in the Educational Program.*

Action Items:

The Board approved the District 31 budget for 2012-2013. A copy of the budget is available in the District Office as well as on the District website.

Information and Discussion Items:

Business Services: Cathy Lauria reported several items to the Board. Amongst them was the District's work with several agencies to review possible energy savings options.

Board Reports: Jeffrey Silver reported that he and Dr. Nicholson attended an Illinois Assn. of School Boards annual meeting with featured speaker Judi Barr Topinka, State Treasurer, who reported on the State's financial difficulties. Dr. Silver also reported that four seats on the District 31 Board will be up for election in the April election. Board Member packets are now available in the District Office.

Winkelman Principal Search: Dr. Nicholson reported that she has initiated the search process for a new Winkelman Principal with the upcoming retirement of Maria Kalant on June 30. She has conducted a series of meetings with parents, staff, and administrators to discuss qualities they would like to see in a new principal and shared these qualities with the Board and audience. Parents who could not attend the meetings are invited to send an email to Dr. Nicholson with their thoughts.

Student Enrollment: Dr. Nicholson reported on student enrollment, currently at 832 students.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, in the Field School Learning Center, 2055 Landwehr Road, Northbrook.