

TO: District 90 Parents & Community  
FROM: Juli Geldner, District 90 Board President  
RE: March Board Meeting Highlights  
DATE: March 18, 2010



The Board of Education held three Board Meetings on Monday, March 15, 2010, in Roosevelt's LLC. The first was a special meeting on Strategic Planning. The purpose of this meeting was to look at our current Vision Statement in relation to the goals and considerations that were developed out of our earlier meetings and work on this topic. We drafted a new Mission Statement, but are still in the process of working on accompanying pieces. The second meeting was a closed session to discuss a student discipline issue and personnel. This lasted for a half hour prior to the regular Board meeting and needed to be reconvened at the end of the Business Meeting to finish the conversation. Finally, we had the regular Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m., the highlights of which are as follows:

**Regular Board Meeting:**

- I. Call to Order/ Roll Call--All Board Members present.
- II. Recognize Visitors and Invite Comments from the Public--No public comment.
- III. Approval of the Agenda--Approved.
- IV. Communications--One staff "Thank You" card was shared.
- V. Student Presentations--Liam, 4th grader from Willard, and Caitlin, 8th grader from Roosevelt, both gave outstanding student presentations.
- VI. Consent agenda--The consent agenda which consists of minutes from past meetings, payrolls, bills, and Treasurer's report was shared and approved.
- VII. School Calendar Review--The District calendar was reviewed and Board Members selected activities that they would attend.
- VIII. Board Committees--Each Board Member provided updates on the various committees they chair.
- IX. Outside Meetings--Each Board Member provided updates on various outside meetings they attend on behalf of the Board.
- X. District Meeting Agendas--Agendas from the following new and returning District committees were reviewed: Green Team, PTO Council, Superintendent Leadership Committee (SLC) and Teacher Leadership Committee (TLC).

## XI. Superintendent Report--

### **Action Item:**

(A) *Resolution Calling a Public Hearing Concerning the Intent to Sell Bonds*--The first step to sell bonds to fund the upcoming Life Safety projects is to adopt a resolution calling for a public hearing in connection with the sale. The hearing is scheduled for April 19th, just prior to the Regular Board meeting. The hearing is conducted for the Board to receive public comments on the proposal to sell the bonds. A notice of that hearing will be published in the paper on March 25th. The Board approved the resolution as presented.

(B) *Resolution Establishing the Fiscal Year and Appointing the Superintendent to Draft the Tentative Budget*-- Each year, the Board of Education adopts a resolution, setting the next fiscal year as July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and directing the superintendent to draft a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board formally approved this resolution.

(C) *Board of Education Meeting Schedule, 2010-2011*-- The Board reviewed the draft meeting schedule for 2010-2011 at the last Business Meeting. The Board voted to approve the meeting schedule as presented.

(D) *Summer School Registration Dates and Fees*--Registration dates for District 90 students and River Forest residents will be April 9-23, 2010. Registration for non-residents will begin April 26, 2010. Summer School fees are as follow: Residents, \$114 per class; Non-Residents, \$143 per class. This represents a 3% increase from the prior year. The Board formally approved the registration dates and fees as presented.

### **Information Items:**

(A) *FY10 School District Library Program Grant*--Once again, the District was informed that we have been awarded a Library Program Grant award for \$966.76 from the Secretary of State's Office. These monies are important to the District as we use them to provide supplementary support for our schools' library and media programs on behalf of all of our students.

(B) *2010 Bright Red Apple Excellence Award*--River Forest District 90 has once again earned the SchoolSearch Award for Academic Excellence. In fact, our District is one of only 83 districts in the State to receive this distinctive award. The accolade is based on five key factors: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, operating expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary. The District is pleased with earning this award and will be sharing this good news with our greater community through both Board meeting notes and a formal press release.

(C) *ISBE Academic Excellence Awards*--In addition to the Bright Red Apple Award, District 90 is also the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Again this year, all three of our schools received this prestigious award. In order to earn an AEA, a school must meet the following exacting standards: 90% of students must have met or exceeded State standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years; and schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2008 and 2009, which requires not only academic achievement as measured on State assessments, but also a 95% participation rate on State exams, and an overall 90% student attendance rate. I also acknowledged and thanked all of our students and staff who have worked so hard to earn this exciting award for our school community.

(D) *Intergovernmental Agreement, Oak Park Township*-- Every two years, the Board is asked to review and renew the Agreement with Oak Park Township for the provision of youth intervention services. A copy of the Agreement, along with a listing of participating agencies was enclosed for the Board's review.

(E) *Demographic Study*--During the last Board meeting, demographic studies and resulting student enrollment projections were discussed. After some discussion about past experiences with this data as well as our on-going need to have good data on which to base decisions for future planning, the Board directed me to identify appropriate firms for this work. In doing research, one name rose quickly to the top of recommended choices: John D. Kasarda, Ph.D. Dr. Kasarda is currently working with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A few years ago, he actually completed a demographic study for Oak Park, including Districts 97 & 200, so he is very familiar with our community, and has already been looking at data trends in this area for some time. The Board was presented with a proposed scope of work and fee for a demographic study. The Board will now determine next steps in this process.

(F) *School Board Goals Update*—Dr. Hagerman reviewed progress on School Board goals over the past month.

XII. *Personnel Report*--The Board took action on 24 items which included resignations (certified and classified), FMLA and other extended leaves (certified and classified), instructional staffing plans from all three schools, honorable dismissals (certified and classified), renewals of probationary teachers (first through fourth years), appointments of tenured staff (certified), re-employment of educational support personnel (classified), appointment of independently contracted staff, summer school staff (principal, special education coordinator, nurse, secretary), summer secretary for our elementary schools, and three proposals involving staff changes (one around a District reorganization, one for a math specialist position at the elementary schools, and one for a math specialist at Roosevelt). The Board tabled the proposals and approved the remainder of the report.

XIII. *Upcoming Meetings*--Committee of the Whole, April 6, 2010, 7:00 p.m., and the regular Business Meeting on April 19, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

XIV. *Public Comments*--There were no comments.

XV. *Closed Session*--There was a brief Closed Session. The Board came out of Closed Session and approved the proposals that were tabled earlier during the presentation of the personnel report. More information on these proposals will be shared shortly.

XVI. *Adjournment*

As you can see above, our next Board meeting will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. The Board will continue working on a revised Mission and Vision Statement during that time. As always, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.