



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Glen Ellyn School District 41 Mission: To be an advocate for children and to provide the highest quality educational programs and services.

Board members: John Vivoda, President | Willie DiFabio, Vice President | Debbie Hoffman, Secretary  
John Marcheschi | Carol McElvain | John Ruckstaetter | Walter Snodell

**Following is a summary of the District 41 Board of Education regular meeting of Mar. 22, 2004.** Board of Education meetings are preceded by the half-hour "Listening Post," during which board members are on hand to listen to residents' comments and concerns.

## ACTION

**PUBLIC HEARING ON CHURCHILL PORTABLE:** A hearing was held on the four-classroom portable unit that the administration proposes to lease or purchase for installation at Churchill **to accommodate growing enrollment next year.** D41 will comply with the Village of Glen Ellyn's request to paint the unit a color harmonious with the building and plant shrubs on the west side. The unit will be outfitted the same as other classrooms, will meet all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and will be air-conditioned.

**FACILITY MEETING SET FOR APRIL 26:** The next facilities workshop will be held at on **April 26, 7:30 at Hadley and will focus on multi-track, year-round school.** All five schools are at capacity due to growing enrollment and program needs. The recap of the March 8 meeting and the architects presentations are posted on [www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org) (copies of the presentations are also available at each school).

**2004-2005 CALENDAR APPROVED:** The board approved the new calendar which will pilot the following changes to Thanksgiving week scheduling and School Improvement Days:

- **Parent-teacher conferences** will occur on Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week with school closed Wednesday through Friday. This means fewer interruptions for students and a longer Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no reduction in overall attendance days.
- **School Improvement Days (SIP Days)** align with Glenbard High School District 87 late-arrival dates. Instead of having early dismissal on eight Fridays during the year, there will be late arrival on eight Tuesdays. D41 believes the change will result in better student attendance on SIP days and will address a community concern about large numbers of students converging on downtown Glen Ellyn on SIP Day afternoons.

Prior to adopting the calendar, the administration discussed the changes with staff, parents and Glenbard High School District 87.

**DR. JOHN CORRELL NAMED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** After a nationwide search and extensive interviewing of three finalists by staff, board and community members, Superintendent Dr. Jack Barshinger has selected Dr. John Correll for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Accountability.

## NEXT STEPS

D41 will go out for bids and provide a recommendation to the board in April. The unit will be placed on the west side of the building on a portion of the asphalt play area, displacing two older play structures. A covered walkway will go between the unit and the building.

The meeting will be a panel discussion on multi-track, year-round school. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on [www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org).

The district is working with other local agencies to investigate offering child-care for SIP Day mornings. The district will begin assessing the impact of the calendar changes in January, 2005.

The board will vote on Dr. Correll's contract at its April 19 meeting.

Dr. Correll is currently the Director of Pupil Personnel Services at Community High School District 99 in Downers Grove. Prior to his 14 years in D99, he was Director of Evaluation and Research, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, chaired the school psychology department for Wheaton 200 and has a strong background in special education training.

**TEACHER EVALUATIONS:** The board heard the second in a series of presentations on the new teacher evaluation process, developed by a committee of teachers and administrators. Based on Charlotte Danielson's "A Framework for Teaching," the process focuses on **quality assurance** and **ongoing professional development** and will provide actionable feedback so teachers can build on strengths and improve. The presentation focused on how the process works with non-tenured teachers (teachers who have less than four years with D41, whether new teachers or experienced teachers who are new to D41). GEEA President Ed Klingberg expressed concern that this process will be unwieldy and take an inordinate amount of time to implement for each teacher.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Terry Martin and members of the Special Services team gave an overview of the **comprehensive services provided through Early Childhood Education in D41**. D41's Pre-Kindergarten At Risk program for students ages 3-5 serves students who are at risk for academic failure due to socio-economic or other factors. This program is housed in the Park District's Main Street building. The Early Childhood classes at Lincoln and Forest Glen serve students ages 3-6 with moderate to severe disabilities. Many dedicated professionals work as a team to serve these students and their families: psychologists, social workers, teachers, speech, occupational and physical therapists and parent-educators. Some of the services are provided to D41 through its membership in CASE (Cooperative Association for Special Education).

**ORGANIZATION CHART, JOB DESCRIPTIONS APPROVED:** The board approved the organization chart for Central Services and related job descriptions. Central Services is undergoing a restructuring, resulting in a flatter organization that is more closely aligned with D41's strategic initiatives. Some positions have been added, others eliminated, for an overall gain of one position at no additional cost. No one will lose employment due to the restructuring.

**PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Hadley Assistant Principal Scott Klespitz was appointed chair of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee, which reviews the district's student discipline policies and reports directly to the Board of Education.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular board meeting is set for **Monday, April 19** at 7:30 p.m. in the board room. The public is welcome. GETV Channel 17 videotapes the meetings for broadcast the following Monday at 8 p.m.

The district is piloting the new evaluation process and will **provide training for teachers and administrators**. The committee will continue to communicate to the board and staff about the process, with the next presentation focusing on how the process works with tenured teachers.

Members will be sought from staff and parents. Meetings will be public and posted just as board meetings are.

**Listening Post**, an opportunity for the public to talk informally with board members, is held from 7-7:30 before the board meeting. There is no obligation to stay for the meeting.