



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 August 18, 2003. 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

SUMMER PROJECTS ON SCHEDULE, ON BUDGET: Numerous summer projects are being completed **on time and on budget** so that the schools will open clean and in good repair. The new portable unit at Lincoln will be ready for the first day of school and is fully equipped with networked computers, phones and fire alarms. Student desks for the portable will arrive a week after school has begun, so in the interim, temporary tables and chairs will be set up. Also at Lincoln, a new water main was installed and the area sodded. Franklin's interior has been painted, the multi-purpose room floor replaced and workstations installed in the office, courtesy of a parent donation. Churchill's parking lot has been resurfaced and striped, the LLC wheelchair lift replaced, the old gym's roof replaced, and the stormwater detention work is near completion. At Forest Glen, the exterior doors have been painted and asbestos tile has been removed and new hallway tile installed. Hadley cafeteria equipment has been updated and the pneumatic controls and exhaust fan in the boys' locker room are being replaced this week. Jeanette Kreuz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, praised Building and Grounds Director Ed Maylath and his staff for an outstanding job.

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS UNDER SCRUTINY: Superintendent Dr. Jack Barshinger reported that the district is **monitoring enrollment numbers closely**, as our schools are near or at capacity. A fifth section of third grade has been added at Forest Glen and the district is keeping a close eye on Forest Glen's kindergarten numbers. Dr. Barshinger said assessing building capacity and enrollment will be a top priority so D41 can determine whether the current enrollment pattern is a bubble, as the most recent enrollment study suggests, or a long-term trend that the district must plan for.

BUDGET ON DISPLAY: The district is conducting its annual budget review and the **budget is available to the public at all D41 buildings as well as the public library**. A budget summary will be posted on www.d41.org. District 41 has a balanced budget amendment and has received the highest financial ranking from the Illinois State Board of Ed.

AFSCME CONTRACT APPROVED: The board accepted the district's labor contract with the Association of Federal, State and County Municipal

NEXT STEPS

Arcon, D41's architectural firm, will conduct a **structural inspection** of the Lincoln portable the week of 8-18. In September, the Regional Office of Education will include the portable in its **annual district-wide fire-safety inspection**.

Dr. Barshinger noted that he has met with the Forest Glen principal and PTA board, and if Forest Glen kindergarten numbers warrant it, **the district will work with parents to provide a choice of equitable solutions** that work for the children and their families.

The public hearing on the budget will be held Sept. 22 at 7:15 p.m.

The three-year contract represents an average increase of 6.43% in year one,

Employees, the union which represents most of the district's support staff.
The contract recognizes the value of seniority among AFSCME members and is considered fair and equitable by the district and AFSCME.

DISTRICT FOCUSING ON HUMAN RESOURCES: The board approved a **performance-based model for evaluating the superintendent, assistant superintendents and principals.** The model aligns with the six state and national standards for administrator performance, is comprehensive, provides ongoing feedback and will be the basis for providing continued employment in the district. Board President John Vivoda noted that the evaluations will provide enough detail to be actionable, defining areas that need improvement. Board member Walter Snodell noted that ongoing feedback "is how people and organizations get better."

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS REVISED: School Improvement Teams will be using a new format developed by the Illinois State Board of Education. The format **aligns with the No Child Left Behind legislation for school improvement, is data-driven, complements the Baldrige quality approach already in use in D41 and measures community involvement.** The teams, composed of the principal, staff and parents, work together on school goals throughout the year. While school goals may vary, all will use the same approach to improvement.

LEARNING LEADERSHIP TEAM (LLT) CREATED: The board approved the Learning Leadership Team, created with the input of administrators and the teacher's union (GEEA) **to develop, implement and evaluate curricula using a systemic, comprehensive approach.**

POLICY REVIEW UNDERWAY: The board will review D41 policies to make sure they align with current legislation and district goals according to a schedule for revisions developed by the board.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Teacher Ed Klingberg expressed concern about the appropriateness of using the administrator evaluation model for staff, saying "less is best," and the model is too complex to be practical.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: The next regular board meeting is set for **Monday, Sept. 22**, in the Mary J. Luginbill Board Room in the Administration Center. **The Public Hearing for the budget will be held at 7:15 p.m.**, preceding the regular board meeting. The public is welcome. GETV will tape the meeting for broadcast on Monday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m.

About the Glen Ellyn School District Board of Education:

- Board members are unpaid volunteers, each representing the whole district. The board is accountable to the public and makes decisions as a unit based on what is best for the whole district.
- The board hires the superintendent, sets instructional policy, approves the budget and ongoing expenditures and is ultimately responsible for the performance of the district.
- Board meetings are working sessions held in public with time allotted for public participation.

with increases of 4.28% and 4.71% in years two and three, respectively.

The district will begin reviewing the performance evaluation processes to develop **appropriate performance-based assessments for all its employees.** The board said it will hold further discussions about D41's overall human resource practices.

School Improvement Teams will set their goals in October after D41's Illinois Standards Achievement Test data is analyzed. **The district plans to report its ISAT data to the community at that time.**

The LLT will replace the District Leadership Team, **providing broad representation and community input.**

Once complete, the policies will be placed on www.d41.org for easy community access.

Dr. Barshinger said that the administrator model will not be used for staff, but the concept of performance-based evaluations will be introduced appropriately.

The Listening Post, an opportunity for the public to talk informally with board members, **precedes the regular board meetings.** There is no obligation to stay for the meeting.