



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

Board members: Kathleen B. Schmidt, President | John Vivoda, Vice-President | Willie DiFabio, Secretary
Debbie Hoffman | Judy Kinn | John Ruckstaetter | Walter Snodell

Following is a summary of information considered by the District 41 Board of Education at its regular meeting of December 16, 2002.

ACTION

ADOPTED CERTIFICATE OF TAX LEVY AND RESOLUTIONS: The board approved the levy that was presented at its Nov. 18 meeting. The Illinois School Code requires school districts to file a certificate of tax levy at this time, even though the total amount of available property tax dollars won't be available from the assessor's office until April. D/41 is under the tax-cap, a law which limits the increase in total property tax dollars. The certificate of tax levy shows an increase of about 23%, but **D/41 anticipates receiving an increase in total tax dollars of 7.52%**. Tax-cap districts typically over-levy to make sure they receive all the funds they are entitled to in case new construction exceeds estimates. By law, the county clerk adjusts the levy to the legal limit in April; if a district under-levies, the clerk will not increase it to the legal limit.

2003-4 BUDGET PROCESS: D/41 is **committed to a balanced budget** and starts each year with a **zero-based** budget process driven by student and staffing needs. Many items in the budget reflect long-term commitments, such as salary contracts, capital improvement projects and equipment leases. The 2002-3 budget was approved in September; now, the board has approved the budget **planning calendar and process for 2003-4**.

AUDIT APPROVAL: District 41 follows accepted accounting practices and contracts each year with a Certified Public Accounting firm to audit its finances and accounting practices.

GRADEBOOK SOFTWARE PURCHASE: D/41 is purchasing **Gradebook**, a software that provides consistency district-wide in grade record-keeping and integrates with our database to enhance reporting abilities.

APPROVED AUTOMATES EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PURCHASE: In recent years, AEDs, used to resuscitate victims of heart attack, have become simple to use and much more affordable. **Each AED is suitable for use on children and adults.**

NEXT STEPS

The tax levy is recorded with the county clerk, defining the maximum dollars D/41 could receive. In the spring, the county assessor will determine the dollars available based on calculations of Equalized Assessed Valuation and new construction and the **clerk will adjust the levy downward to the legal limit**. Property taxes are due in two installments: June and September.

Discussions begin with staff throughout the district to surface upcoming needs and issues. **Any budget item proposed must meet cost-benefit criteria and support the strategic initiatives** outlined in the district's Vision Statement.

As in past years, copies of the audit will be placed at the **Public Library and Administration Center**. It will also be **posted at www.d41.org**.

The software will be gradually introduced this spring, with full-scale rollout to teachers in fall, 2003.

D/41 will **purchase seven AEDs** receiving a 60% discount through a state program. It will also conduct training for AED users.

APPROVED COPIER LEASE: District copiers are aging, inadequate to district needs and have been a continuing source of frustration for staff and volunteers due to an unacceptable amount of down time and unsatisfactory service. During December, the district is placing **high-speed, high-capacity copiers in each school**. After a comprehensive needs assessment and bidding process, the district chose a lease arrangement from Xerox (at less cost than the district is now paying) including a maintenance agreement that will meet current and future district needs.

RECOGNITION OF TEACHER FRANK TOMASZKIEWICZ: Hadley Technical Arts teacher Frank Tomasziewicz is **District 41's first nationally certified teacher**, having been awarded National Board Certification in Career and Technical Education. Mr. Tomasziewicz's competitive submission focused on the instructional program that his District 41 colleagues and students have developed over the decades. The National Board Certification program was begun in 1993, and to date, only 16,000 teachers nationwide have achieved this distinction. National Board Certification means that a teacher has been judged by peers as one who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about student learning and acts effectively on those judgments and demonstrates a high level of knowledge and skills.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Resident Michael Lynch presented a series of questions about the procedures and information the board has used in recent funding decisions and asked about fund surplus levels. Resident Kathy Paravola expressed concern that not all children are receiving recess and asked for clarification of the district's policy.

NEXT MEETING: The board will meet in closed session on Monday, Jan. 6 in reference to the superintendent search. Dr. Pi Irwin retires in June, and the board is preparing to interview candidates. Due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the next regular board meeting is a week later than usual; **Monday, Jan. 27** at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Center. The **public is welcome and the agenda will be posted** at district buildings and at www.d41.org.

CANDIDATE INFO: Three school board seats are up for election in April; candidate's packets are available from Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Jeanette Kreuz, 790-6413.

Copiers will be placed in school offices during December, with the most urgent needs addressed first.

District 41 continues to place a high priority and value on professional development for its staff and encourages other teachers to begin the road to national certification. Board President Kathy Schmidt noted that Frank Tomasziewicz has taught some 27,000 students during his time in D/41 and is "**an exemplary role model.**"

The board affirmed that it accurately represents district conditions to the public and that fund surpluses are adequate but low according to Illinois School Board guidelines. With respect to recess, Superintendent Pi Irwin noted that district policy has always left recess up to the discretion of the teacher and that a committee is looking at recess in conjunction with all the demands on the instructional day.

Nominating petitions may be filed at the District 41 Administration Center between Monday, Jan. 13, 8 a.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 21, 5 p.m.

About the Board:

- 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.