



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 April 21, 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

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Superintendent Dr. Pi Irwin read a proclamation honoring D41 volunteers for their countless contributions to the district. **The hours, energy, resources and joy they contribute to our students and staff is simply staggering.** Many of our volunteers come to us through the PTA, others are friends and relatives of D41 families, represent the business community or simply want to support our schools. With **National Volunteer Week** beginning April 27, Dr. Irwin expressed D41's **gratitude to volunteers** who infuse D41 with a special spirit, provide so many programs and serve as role models to our students.

CAFR WINS HONOR: District 41 has received the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2002. D41 has also earned Illinois' highest financial rating, that of Financial Recognition.

VOLUNTEER/SUBSTITUTE PROGRAMS SUPPORT CURRICULUM: Teacher on special assignment Vicki Lafontaine, D41's Volunteer/Substitute Teacher Coordinator, gave an overview of how her programs support D41's mission. Vicki trains substitutes in classroom management, special ed needs, school emergency procedures and more so that students receive a quality experience every day, regardless of whether the regular teacher is there. She also works with two specific segments of the volunteer force: academic mentors who support instruction by working with kids on math and reading and Hadley student and parent service learning volunteers who do good works in the community.

ENROLLMENT: D41 is **monitoring enrollment trends** closely and is recommending **purchasing a two-classroom modular unit for Lincoln** for the coming school year. This is an option the Blue Ribbon Committee urged the district to investigate. Lincoln's space is stressed by the services its student population needs and age distribution. Lincoln houses an early childhood education class, will be adding a Spanish bilingual class and has more kids in the primary grades, where the district prefers to keep classes the smallest. Adding modulars will allow a reduction in some class sizes.

NEXT STEPS

Volunteers will continue to be a huge part of the D41 experience for students, staff and parents. Of special note are the ongoing efforts of the PTAs to align their programs to support the curriculum.

D41 is committed to making its finances available and understandable to the public.

Ahead for next year: **improved substitute training and feedback procedures and expansion** of the academic mentors to more classrooms. Teachers will continue to conduct **pre- and post-tests** in order to measure the impact of the volunteer instruction.

A proposal with prices for purchasing a modular unit for Lincoln will go **back to the board at subsequent meeting.** With the addition of this modular, the district appears to be in good shape with respect to space usage and class sizes.

MAINTENANCE: The board approved bids for the following work: replacement of Hadley Cafeteria Equipment, replacing the Churchill old gym roof, replacing Franklin's 70-year old multi-purpose room floor and contracting for selected landscaping services. The administration rejected the bids for HVAC work at Hadley. The roof and floor are life-safety projects; life-safety is a legal term that describes maintenance that affects the health and safety of students and staff. Life-safety work is monitored by both the Regional Office of Education and the State Board of Education, both of which must approve the scope of the work before it begins and inspect it at completion.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH D87: The board tabled action on a five-year extension of the agreement that allows Glenbard High School District 87 to use the athletic fields at the former Spalding School site, located north of St. Charles Road and east of Main St. D87 would be able to use the fields at no charge, maintaining the fields as necessary. D41 would be able to use the fields when D87 scheduling permits.

ADOPTION OF CELL PHONE POLICY: The board approved a policy revision to be consistent with changes in the law which now allows students to bring cellphones to school.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Dr. Irwin recognized Hadley students Ben Jacobson and Paul O' Neill who were among the winning artists in the Illinois Coal Calendar contest. The calendar is distributed to 10,000 homes, schools and offices throughout the nation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Resident Michael Lynch asked if discrepancies between the D41 fiscal year and the district's receipt of certain funds could result in the appearance of a deficit where one did not exist. The board responded that adjustments to resolve such bookkeeping discrepancies are customarily taken in June so that the books reflect the reality. The state reviews district finances and confirms D41 has no deficits.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting is set for **May 12** at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary J. Luginbill Board Room in the Administration Center. The public is welcome. GETV will videotape the meeting for broadcast on Monday, May 19 at 8 p.m.

The approved work will take place over the summer and the administration will rework the Hadley HVAC project to be more affordable and rebid. The district is committed to maintaining its facilities.

The administration will clarify the terms to ensure that it has the ability to cancel the agreement if it should need the land and bring the policy back for a vote at a subsequent meeting.

The policy closely regulates cellphone usage by students during the school day.

The students each received a certificate of recognition from D41.

Residents are always welcome to contact the administration with concerns, comments and questions.

The Listening Post, during which residents can chat with board members with no obligation to stay for the meeting, is from 7-7:30 on regular meeting nights.

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.