

# BOARD BRIEF

## ACTION

- ✓ Personnel
- ✓ Foundation Activities at Homecoming
- ✓ Food Service Bid Award
- ✓ Security System/Communication Upgrade
- ✓ SPED Staffing Increase
- ✓ Technology Lease
- ✓ Bond Refinancing
- ✓ Consolidation Study
- ✓ 2008-09 School Budget

### Personnel — The Board of Education ...

- approved the employment of following certified staff: **Jennifer Alexandrakis** (Special Education); **Elizabeth Allroth** (Special Education); **William Bautista** (Social Worker); **Allison Baxter** (World Languages); **Hal Chiodo** (Physical Development); **Judith Harwood** (Information & Technology); **Louis Kermend** (Special Education); **Henry Maher** (Math & Science); **Doug Mullaney** (Athletic Director); **Brandon Pedersen** (Math & Science); **Sharon Ramey** (Humanities); **Whitney Rusin** (Dean of Students); **Michael Schneider** (World Languages) for the 2008-09 school year.
- approved the employment of: **Sara Baker** (Staff Nurse/Support Services); **Jessica Caldwell** (Personal Care Assistant/ Special Education); **Rachel Fisher** (Personal Care Assistant/Special Education); **Noah Fitzenreider** (Program Assistant – Special Education); **Mary McGinty** (Clerk/LRC); **Blanca Ruiz** (Deans' Assistant); **Mike Weigand** (Personal Care Assistant/Special Education)
- approved the appointment of **Pete Martino** to the position of Assistant Principal for Administrative Services.
- approved the transfer of **Edie Freund** from Clerk/LRC to Deans' Assistant/Deans' Office); and of **Laurie Majchrowski** from Special Education Program Assistant to Special Education Personal Care Assistant.
- accepted the resignations of **Macarena Alarcon** (Program Assistant/Special Education); **Josh Chambers** (Assistant Principal for Administrative Services); **Gail Green** (World Languages); **Karen Jealouse** (Program Assistant/Special Education); **Rosemary Manimbo** (Special Education); **Connie Sosa** (Social Worker/Support Services); **Randy Zeidler** (Math & Science) all effective the end of the 2008-09 school year.
- accepted the resignations of **Clara Blevins** (Info & Technology) effective July 30, 2008; **David Hernandez** (Deans' Assistant) effective July 21, 2008; **Catherine Page** (Special Education/ Program Assistant,
- approved the following 2008 Summer School teaching positions: **A. Lynch, D. Schmied** (Special Education); **R. Kost** (GAIN); **L. Sanders** (GANAS); and **T. Carstensen, D. Delnagro, J. Philips, W. Rau, C. Reagan, D. Sayner, and R. Wilken** (Drivers' Education)
- approved leave(s) of absence(s) for **Julia Tirado** (PCA/Special Education) for the 2008-09 school year.
- approved the waiving of Policy 6105P for pre-approval of coursework for **Whitney Rusin** (Humanities); and **Tricia Lazzaro** (Math & Science)
- appointed **Kim Wallner** (Activity Director) and the following activity sponsors for the 2008-09 school year. **Art Club** Dave Exner/Megan Dulkynys [split]; **Band Director** Steve Govertsen; **Band – Jazz** Steve Govertsen; **Cheerleading** Terri Rohrdanz; **Chess Team** Joe Splinter; **Choral Group** Brandon Fantozzi; **Dance Production** Helen Zmrhal; **FBLA** Donna Durbin/Mia Wirth; **Flag Corps** Catherine Steere; **Horticulture Club** Annette Rubino/Corrie Stieglitz [split]; **International Club** Sarah Bellis; **Intramurals** Maro Godinho; **Key Club** Ward Rau; **Marching Band Associate** Brandon Fantozzi; **Math Team** Kirstina Mallon; **Math Team Assistant** Jen Culbertson; **Mind's Eye Literary Magazine** Katie Wood; **National Honor Society** Kristina Mallon; **Orchestra** Steve Govertsen; **Pep Club** Dave Jennings/Mitch McKenna [Split]; **Photography Club** Mike Conroy; **Play Director – Fall** Mary Hafertepe, – **Winter** Chuck Bergland; **Assistant Play Director – Fall** TBA, – **Winter** William Rush; **Play Set Director – Fall, – Spring, – Winter** Tim Shelley; **Poms** Devin Vassar; **SADD** Dave Jennings; **Scholastic Bowl** Nick Caltagirone; **Skills USA** Patty Kozlowski; **Speech Team** Jason Kling, **Speech Team Assistant** Maggie Haas/Chris Covino/Blair Brown [split]; **Spring Musical: Director** Mary Hafertepe, **Assistant** Maggie Haas, **Chorus** Brandon Frantozz, **Orchestra** Steve Govertsen; **Student Council** Eric Lasky; **Student Council Assistants** Chris Lukas/Barb Laimins; **Thespians** Mary Hafertepe; **Wildcat Chronicle** Laura Kuehn; and **Yearbook Advisor** Patty Santella

**District Goals 2008-09****(As approved July 15, 2008)**

The proposed District Goals for 2008-09 are derived from four sources:

1. District Goals for 2007-08.
2. Results from the Goal Planning meeting on June 26, 2007.
3. Performance goals in the Superintendent's Contract for 2006-07 through 2008-09.
4. Dr. Cheng's approved school improvement plan initiatives.

**Goal #1: To improve instruction by:**

- Considering the implementation of a literacy center.
- Refining and improving the content of the advisory period.
- Implementing the house concept for ninth grade students.
- Developing strategies in reading and writing across the curriculum.
- Implementing the chosen findings from the special education study.
- Focusing on Response to Interventions strategies.
- Continuing curriculum mapping and course alignment.
- Beginning discussions regarding grading and assessment practices.

**Goal #2: To continue work on NCLB strategies through the:**

- Analysis of test results.
- Alignment of curriculum with State Standards.
- Emphases incorporated into the School Improvement Plan.
- Determination of next steps for both making and not making AYP.

**Goal #3: To aggressively pursue staff development in:**

- The new teacher evaluation plan.
- Response to Intervention.
- The advisory period.
- Full and effective utilization of late start days.
- Evaluation strategies for late start days.
- Instructional practices (i.e., - cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, learning by design, etc.)
- Understanding cultural diversity and poverty.

**Goal #4: To develop a long range facilities plan resulting from:**

- The findings of the internal facility study conducted by Wight & Company.
- The findings of the external facility and grounds study conducted by Wight & Company.
- Other District data designed to project financial needs and capabilities.

**Goal #5: To plan and deliver good transition in administrative leadership for:**

- The superintendent.
- The business administrator.
- The assistant principal.
- The athletic director.
- Any other administrative positions that may become vacant.

**Goal #6: To continue to improve communication by:**

- Continuing discussions with feeder districts on collaboration and consolidation.
- Fully implementing the parent communication strand from the Collaboration Study Committee.
- Enhancing intra-building communication.
- Inviting staff and students to appear before and address the Board.
- Working to build more trust with all entities in the District.

**Goal #7: To maintain a balanced budget by:**

- Persistently monitoring and tracking expenditures
- Developing long-range financial projections.
- Relying on audit reports to conform District practice to best practice.
- Improving the data processing and report generating capabilities.
- Striving to increase fund balances.

**Foundation Activities at Homecoming** —

Sherry Bowne, VP of the Education Foundation, spoke to the Board regarding the activities being planned for Homecoming. The goal of the Foundation is to raise support for CHS and she encouraged the Board to get involved as a group and as individuals to promote the following activities:

**Friday – October 10:**

- ♦ Tent sale of furniture donated by Merchandise Mart
- ♦ Announcement of 2008 Hall of Fame inductees
- ♦ Selection of 3 raffle winners

**Saturday, October 11:**

- ♦ Hall of Fame Inaugural Gala
- ♦ Silent and Live auctions
- ♦ Announcement of Hall of Fame Distinguished Achievement Awards

**Sunday, October 12:**

- ♦ 3-on-3 Soccer Tournament
- ♦ Pool Party
- ♦ Movies
- ♦ Min-Golf
- ♦ Tent Picnic
- ♦ School Tours

**Food Service Program Bid Award** —

The District sought bids to run the food service program effective with the 2008-09 school year. Two bids were received — one from Arbor Management and one from Quest Food Management Services, Inc. Arbor was the District's provider last year.

Dan McCarthy and Tony Reyes spent extensive time ...

- ◆ analyzing the bid proposals
- ◆ visiting a Quest program in operation in another District
- ◆ compiling survey results from students and staff on the current food service program.

After this thoughtful and thorough review, it was their recommendation that the District award the bid to Quest. Such award was made in June and Quest opened its tenure with the District last week.

**Security System and Communication Upgrades** —

The District is acting to upgrade its closed circuit television security system. Over the spring and summer, quotations were sought from three vendors. That search culminated in an award to **Aurora Tri-State** on June 17<sup>th</sup> in an amount not to exceed \$30,958.

Included in the security package are the following:

- ◆ 1 – Hard Drive Digital Video Recorder
- ◆ 13 – Color Cameras with Day/Night Feature
- ◆ 1 – Viewer Software package.

Arrangements are currently being made to install the equipment.

In addition, the District approved an all-call system, which enables it to make phone calls to all listed phone numbers for emergencies and other critical needs.

**SPED Staffing Increase** —

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved a request to add 2.0 certified teachers and 3.0 one-to-one personal care assistants to the Special Education program. The additional cost at that time was estimated to be \$209,000.

Rationale for the request included:

- ◆ Need for additional facilitated sections due to the increase in English and mathematics requirements.
- ◆ Facilitation needs in biology
- ◆ Facilitation needs in social science
- ◆ Three new students who require one-to-one personal care assistants as designated in the IEP's

**Technology Lease** —

At its July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved a technology lease with **Providence Capital Network** in the amount of \$35,081.

Since 2006, the District has entered into four-year lease arrangements to acquire technology equipment. Such leases have been executed twice per year because of the sheer volume of equipment and the limited storage capacity for it.

Equipment included in the lease includes, among other things:

- ◆ 84 — Dell monitors
- ◆ 47 — Office 2007 Pro
- ◆ 44 — Windows Server CAL5
- ◆ 20 — Classroom Projection Systems
- ◆ 16 — Printers

In addition, the Board approved running fiber optic sufficient to double the existing band width.

**Bond Refinancing** —

On several occasions discussions have been held on refinancing the bonded indebtedness. Recently, three vendors submitted a quotation on the same day. Subsequently, a modified proposal was received from one vendor.

At its meeting on June 17, 2008, the Board adopted the following motion: "That the Board of Education work with **First Trust** to develop a plan for refinancing bonded indebtedness exclusive of the debt service grant for presentation to the Board of Education at its July meeting."

This action was followed on July 15<sup>th</sup> by Board action to approve a Resolution providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$13,750,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2008, and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds.

The Finance Committee had been given the prerogative to act at such time as was most advantageous to the District. That date came on August 12<sup>th</sup>. As a result, the sale of bonds provided a savings to taxpayers of \$1.3 million over the term of the repayment ... scheduled to be fully repaid in 2017.

**Consolidation Study** —

A Consolidation Committee, comprised of representatives from Districts 25, 33, 34 and 94, had been meeting since last spring to discuss the possibility of, and potential for, consolidating the districts into one.

A Joint Board meeting was held on July 7<sup>th</sup> to hear a presentation on this topic from Dr. William Phillips, a Professor from the University of Illinois, who has done several consolidation studies.

The District 94 Board approved a Resolution on July 15<sup>th</sup> authorizing the "procurement of a proposal to conduct a feasibility study of the reorganization options." Since then, the same or a similar Resolution has been adopted by the three elementary Boards.

Therefore, the superintendents have prepared a request for proposal from in excess of 15 firms to explore their interest in conducting a study. The RFP's are due back on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The last study was conducted in 1996.

**2008-09 School Budget** —

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved the 2008-09 school budget in the amount of \$31,488,735 which represents a 3.86% increase over the previous year.

The significant additional expenditure for the year is that of replacing the roof over the Auditorium and related tuckpointing in that area. That cost is projected to be \$560,000.

Interesting information from the budget includes the following:

- ◆ Over 70% of the budget is funded by property tax (57% in State)
- ◆ General State Aid provides 3.9% of the revenue (18% in State)
- ◆ Federal programs provide 3.3% of the District's revenue (8% in State)
- ◆ Total FTE personnel count increased from 235.785 to 241.760 for the coming year.
- ◆ Salary and benefits account for about 65% of the total budget expenditures.

**Other Board Action** —

- ◆ Appointed **Dr. Barbara Clark** from District 33 as Suspension Hearing Officer for this school year.
- ◆ Appointed **Pete Martino** as District Hearing Office for District 33.
- ◆ Appointed **Gail Aronoff** as Compliance Officer for Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ◆ Appointed **Kim Chambers** to serve as Compliance Officer for adult/adult and adult/student discrimination complaints and the Deans to serve as Compliance Officers for student/student discrimination complaints regarding Title VII; Title IX; Student Sex Equity; Sex Discrimination; Sexual Harassment/Intimidation; and related matters.
- ◆ Renewed a contract with **Andy Frain** to provide security services to CHS.

**Facility Study** —

This summer, **Wight & Company** conducted a study of the internal portion of the High School facility. A study of the external condition of the building is planned for next summer or sooner, depending on the availability of funds.

A report on the study to date is expected in September. Among the items included on the internal study are the following:

- ◆ Interior construction and finishes
- ◆ Mechanical plant equipment
- ◆ Plumbing
- ◆ Fire protection
- ◆ Elevators
- ◆ Railings
- ◆ Pool and theatre systems
- ◆ Bleacher seating

**Superintendent Search** —

As shared via e-News, Dr. Marin Edwards will be in the District on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to interview staff and community members about the qualities they would like to see in a new superintendent. Dr. Edwards is from the consulting firm of Hazard, Young & Attea (HYA).

HYA asks that those coming to a meeting to share perceptions complete a Leadership Profile Assessment and bring it with them to the meeting. The form can also be accessed on-line and sent directly to HYA.

The scheduled meeting times are:

**Wednesday, September 3, 2008:**

- 9:00 a.m. - Administrative Team
- 10:00 a.m. - Teacher Association Leaders
- 3:00 p.m. - Open Forum – Teachers
- 7:00 p.m. - Town Hall Meeting

**Thursday, September 4, 2008:**

- 10:00 a.m. - Support Association Leaders
- 2:00 p.m. - Open Forum – Support Staff

In addition to the above times, Dr. Edwards will meet with student groups, individual Board members, three community groups, and the feeder Superintendents.

**2008-09 School Calendar**

Attached is the latest edition of this year's calendar, which was approved on the 19<sup>th</sup>. This edition supersedes all previous versions.