

# Afterwards

A summary  
of Wednesday's meeting  
of the Board  
of Education

---

May 7, 2008

Board President Dan Hurley congratulated Ernie Davis Principal Derek Almy for being named the Star-Gazette Educator of the Month. He also commended EFA student representative Kathleen Denicola for being featured in the Star-Gazette. Superintendent Dr. Raymond Bryant told the Board that A. Marie Fleming, Ernie Davis' mother, passed away May 6. Mr. Almy will donate his winnings from the Outstanding Educator award to build a memorial garden in her honor at the school.

## Visitors to the Board

Barton Graham discussed the job description for principals on assignment. Ted Lax discussed communication regarding the Contract for Excellence and the use of gift cards to motivate Southside students.

## Capital construction

The Riverside, Beecher and Coburn projects are on schedule.

Contracts are in place for Fassett work.

The Board gave approval to move forward with three change orders for work at Riverside:

1. Reconstruction of the asphalt in the parking area behind the building.
2. Terrazzo in the main office.
3. Reinforcing the wall behind three basketball backstops in the gym.

Mechanical plans for Southside have received unofficial approval from the State Education Department. The soil plan will be reviewed further before approval.

The Diven and Hendy projects are out to bid.

Design development documents for the Booth, bus garage and Ernie Davis projects have been submitted. The architectural documents should be ready to be submitted to SED by August.

## Budget hearing

Assistant Superintendent David Gleason provided an overview of the proposed 2008-09 budget. The budget is an 8.23 percent increase over the 2007-08 budget but will require no tax levy increase.

The budget document is available on the district web site at [www.elmiracityschoools.com/uploadeddocs/08.09.budet.presentation.pdf](http://www.elmiracityschoools.com/uploadeddocs/08.09.budet.presentation.pdf)

## New business

The Board approved field trips for the Southside band and orchestra, and the Broadway Middle eighth grade.

## Consent items

The Board approved minutes, Title I School Improvement Grant Funds, 2008-09 premium equivalency rates, the 2008-09 BOCES service contract and recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

## Substitute teacher

Lynn Grottenthaler voiced concerns about the district's ability to draw quality substitute teachers.

Dr. Bryant provided a summary of substitute pay scales for Elmira and surrounding districts. Elmira pays more than some and less than others.

Dr. Bryant said the sick time incentive in the ETA contract is designed to decrease the need for substitutes.

Ms. Grottenthaler suggested that retired teachers receive more to substitute in other districts and said it would be helpful to have consistent subs for the same buildings.

Dr. Bryant will present a plan to the Board for attracting and retaining quality substitutes.

## Visitors

Barton Graham asked if the Board receives reports on capital construction design errors and omissions and if the Board is following up to see what it should be receiving for these errors and omissions. The answer to both questions is yes.

EFA teacher Mike Robinson said he was happy to hear the conversation about substitute teachers and commended student rep Kathleen Denicola.

## Recognition

Dr. Bryant congratulated Riverside Principal Carrie Rollins, whose tenure was approved by the Board at the previous meeting.