

Afterwards

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

June 18, 2008

Recognition

Southside Special Olympics

Superintendent Dr. Raymond Bryant and Board President Dan Hurley recognized the following athletes from Southside who participated in the state Special Olympics June 13 and 14: Christina Pierce Williams, Thomas Stephens, Leon Benjamin, William Baker, Scott Jones, Kevin Gray, Arika Kelly and Amy Ravert.

Also honored were coaches Deb Todd, Deanna Scouten, Kathy Hassen, Dalton Guisewhite, Matt Arthur and Glen Horton, as well as Principal Chris Krantz and teacher Stacey Graham.

Honor graduates

Dr. Bryant and Mr. Hurley recognized the valedictorians and salutatorians from each high school:

- Brittany Palmer, valedictorian, Alternative
- C.J. Stewart, salutatorian, Alternative
- Molly Poes, valedictorian, EFA
- Julia Frisk, salutatorian, EFA
- Adam Sandore, valedictorian, Southside
- Alyssa Grover, salutatorian, Southside

Outgoing Board members

Dr. Bryant and Mr. Hurley recognized outgoing Board members Michael Crimmins (six years of service), Robin Long (five years), Ethel Stroman (four years), and Robert Woods (3.5 years).

Visitors

Barton Graham expressed opposition to a potential raise for the superintendent. Kevin Jones discussed the 2007 election review committee and asked the Board to reconvene it.

Board reports

Board members

Anthony Fisher said it had been a pleasure working with the four outgoing Board members. He discussed the National Society of Black Engineers dinner and said he

would like the district to establish diversity goals that provide opportunities for students to excel.

Rodney Strange said he had attended Health Plan Committee and Audit Committee meetings. He discussed ceremonies at Broadway Middle School dedicating the yearbook and theater to retiring teacher Paul Olyowski, and he thanked the outgoing Board members for their help.

Ms. Long thanked Board members for their support and help during her time on the Board and wished the new Board members luck.

Lynn Grottenthaler thanked the outgoing Board members. She said she had finished the fraud, waste and abuse course, and had conversations with state agencies that serve as resources to Board members.

Ms. Stroman discussed the Upward Bound presentation and Juneteenth event. She extended an invitation for Board members to attend the Faith Temple scholarship and recognition program on July 27.

Colleen McCall thanked the outgoing Board members and discussed the Juneteenth event.

Mary Beth Turner said she was sad to see the outgoing members go and that she had a DVD produced by Happy House about the pre-kindergarten program.

Mr. Crimmins said he was proud of the accomplishments of the Board during his tenure.

Mr. Hurley said the outgoing Board members had been a true asset to the district.

Associations representatives

ESSAC representative Joyce Carr, Supervisor of Special Education, said this is a busy time of year for ESSAC members. She thanked the outgoing Board members for their service.

ETA President Doug Martin thanked the Board for ratifying the new ETA contract and thanked the outgoing Board members. He said this is a busy time of year for the union, with test prep, Regents and preparing for moves. He said the ETA office is moving from EFA to Booth.

CMCW President Mike Thomas welcomed new Board members and thanked the outgoing members. He said the union has filed an improper labor practice against the district and that the health care contributions are unfair to his union members. He said the Board's behavior reflects on district employees.

Student representative

EFA student representative Kathleen Denicola discussed Regents testing, class and National Honor Society elections, graduation, Senior Day, hall sweeps and the dedication of a bench in honor of Alice Kane. She also thanked the outgoing Board members for their help.

Board committee reports

Advocacy/PR

Chairperson Long said she attended the Mark Twain Scholars dinner, Downtown Cleanup and Juneteenth. She said she is donating two books, signed by author Henry Winkler, to the Riverside library. She also wished good luck to internal auditor Jessica Lawrence in her new position.

Policy

Chairperson Crimmins said current policy allows the Board to go into executive session if a visitor to the Board wants to address a specific person. He said current policy does not govern the Board's use of e-mail.

Buildings & Grounds

Chairperson Fisher discussed abatement at Coburn, Beecher and Southside. He said change orders will be forthcoming at the next meeting and that construction is going smoothly at Riverside and Beecher. EFA plans will go to SED soon, with a five month turnaround time expected. He said the B&G committee cuts down time spent discussing issues at Board meetings because items are discussed at committee.

Audit

Chairperson Strong thanked Ms. Lawrence for her service as internal auditor. Ms. Lawrence then provided a risk assessment update to the Board that included changes to risk levels and recommendations.

Learning & Teaching

Chairperson Grottenthaler said the Options Committee has finished meeting with staff and parents regarding overcrowding. Phase 2 will be to collate documents and notes from these meetings, then expand the committee.

New business

The Board approved:

- A class adviser position at Alternative
- Designation of the Broadway Middle auditorium after Paul Olyowski
- A bid for districtwide technology installation
- An amendment to the contract for the Director of Human Resources & Employee Relations
- An amendment to the Superintendent's contract
- Policies on Regents as final exams, age-appropriate instructional media, attendance and non-resident student tuition
- The internal auditor's corrective action plan

The Board tabled a vote on amendments to the contracts for the Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Human Resources and Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Consent items

The Board approved minutes, financial reports, donations, contracts, a transfer to the capital reserve fund, an addendum to the bids for furniture, fixtures and equipment for Coburn and Riverside, the appointment of a parent representative for the Committee on Special Education, and recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

Visitors

Jessica Lawrence said the Board must accept her report from earlier in the meeting. Barton Graham said he has been collecting articles on diversity and race relations and would make them available to Mr. Fisher.

Personnel

The Board approved personnel recommendations including appointments, tenure, resignations and summer school appointments.