



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: 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 January 27, 2003

ACTION

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee facilitator Lee Crumbaugh presented an **overview of the Blue Ribbon Committee Report** on school and class size. The report summarizes current school and class size research, presents a community perspective on those issues and provides some recommendations for how the district might meet challenges ahead. The volunteer committee, formed by the superintendent at the request of the board, has now finished the work it began in September. **The report is available at all D41 buildings, the Glen Ellyn Public Library and on www.d41.org.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM: The board had a preview of the new curriculum, which will be on display at the Administration Center through February. **The new curriculum aligns with Illinois Academic Standards, focuses on lifelong fitness and differentiates physical education for a wide range of interests and abilities.** It also follows a smooth progression from kindergarten through 8th grade. The new curriculum calls for purchase of new \$23,000 worth of equipment, the most expensive pieces being 120 pedometers totalling \$2,160 and eight heart monitors totalling \$1,831.60.

PERMIT FOR SOLAR PANELS: Part of a renewable energy education project funded primarily by BP Amoco and a state grant, **solar panels will be installed on the Hadley gymnasium roof entrance.** The installation meets code requirements and the board approved the request of a building permit from the Regional Office of Education.

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES: D41 is eligible for funds from the **low-interest School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) loan for technology purchases** for grades 5-8. With the loan, D41 can purchase computers, calculators, printers, digital cameras and other hardware and software. The STRLP funds for 2002-2003 total \$241,900. In addition, **NDI Solutions is donating \$18,737** toward the purchase of streaming video equipment for Hadley. NDI is D41's technology services provider.

NEXT STEPS

The board and administration will study the report in preparation for **discussion at its Feb. 24 meeting.**

The curriculum is expected to be **on the agenda for approval at the Feb. 24 board meeting;** if adopted, it will be implemented in 2003-4.

The permit request will be submitted to the Regional Office of Education with **installation expected to occur in early spring.**

The equipment will help **students make the most of D41's robust technology infrastructure.** The streaming video equipment will **enhance the Hadley Art Technology lab.**

WHEELCHAIR LIFT REPLACEMENT: The board approved a life safety amendment authorizing the replacement of a wheelchair lift at Churchill School, which was inspected this year when a child who uses a wheelchair enrolled at Churchill. Inspectors said the **lift is safe, but not in compliance** with current state code; the administration recommends replacing it with a new lift that is in compliance.

ENROLLMENT: The December enrollment report showed a **.5% (16 students) increase in total enrollment since last December**, bringing enrollment to 3,454. Lincoln, Franklin and Hadley showed slight increases; Churchill and Forest Glen showed slight decreases.

SCHOOL FEES: The board approved the recommendation that there will be **no increase** in student fees for the next school year. D41 **fees are in line** with other Glenbard District 87 feeder districts.

PRIVATE PLACEMENT: The board approved an expenditure for private placement for the remainder of the school year of a student who needs programs and services not available in less restrictive settings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Resident Michael Lynch questioned whether the district's staffing decisions supported its belief that small class sizes are more beneficial for the lower grades and asked about kindergarten enrollment projections for 2003-4.

NEXT MEETING: Due to the Presidents' Day holiday, the next regular board meeting is a week later than usual, **Monday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.** in the Mary J. Luginbill Board Room. The public is welcome. The meetings are taped by GETV and broadcast at 8 p.m. the Monday following the meeting.

The life safety amendment will be forwarded to the Regional Office of Education; once approved, **the project will be put out for bid, purchased and installed.**

D41 continuously monitors its enrollment to meet its state reporting obligations and to keep on top of staffing and space needs at each school.

Fees are due upon registration.

Superintendent Dr. Pi Irwin stated that the district always strives for the lowest possible class sizes and will have 2003 kindergarten enrollment projections to review after kindergarten registration takes place at the schools.

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.