



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 19, 2004. 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

TWO PORTABLE PURCHASES APPROVED: A public hearing was held on a four-classroom portable unit for installation at Hadley. Also, the board approved purchase of a \$79,280 used unit for Hadley and a \$70,400 used unit for Churchill (the public hearing for which was held in March). The units will **accommodate growing enrollment next year**. The district investigated purchasing new units but found them not within budget. D41 will place the units on the west sides of their respective buildings.

FACILITIES UPDATE: With a total of 12 portable classrooms planned for next year, the district has outgrown its buildings. D41 will hold its fifth public forum this year on how to accommodate growing enrollment with a learning session on the option of multi-track, year-round education on Monday, April 26. Multi-track, year-round education allows buildings to accommodate more students by staggering schedules. Students and staff have the same number of instructional and vacation days as before. No decisions have been made.

PRESENTATIONS: Hadley science teacher Bob Thompson reported on the Science Olympiad, and the board recognized the achievements of D41 students, some of whom will participate in the state meet. Quality Specialist Patty Corwin presented the results of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and CoGATs (Cognitive Ability Test), which showed that D41 students are doing well, but have the potential to achieve more. The board heard the third in a series of reports on the teacher evaluation process that is being developed to promote quality teaching and professional development.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED: In honor of National Volunteer Week, Board Vice President Willie DiFabio read a proclamation recognizing the many examples of volunteerism that inspire and enrich the D41 community.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY UPDATE: Superintendent Dr. Jack Barshinger reported on the administration's efforts to provide quality programs for students on the eight late-arrival mornings resulting from the new School Improvement Plan Day calendar. The district, park district, library and YMCA are looking at options for families that either need morning childcare or would like to provide structured time during those eight mornings. The program fees will be on a cost-recovery basis.

NEXT STEPS

The units will be outfitted the same as other classrooms, will meet all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and will be fully networked, furnished and air-conditioned.

There will be one more public forum held during this school year, date and time to be announced. The board is still in the data-collection phase of its long-term facilities planning.

Volunteers are instrumental in creating a quality school environment and are involved in many aspects of the district.

The district hopes to have specific options for SIP Day mornings available before summer break. The district will evaluate the impact of the calendar changes over the course of the next school year.

POLICY REVIEW: The board is continuing its systematic review of Board Policy, one of the most important legal documents by which D41 does business. Currently, the board is reviewing sections on conflict of interest and ethics.

The sections up for review are posted on www.d41.org so that the public can read them and comment.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting is set for **Monday, May 17** at 7:30 p.m. in the board room. The public is welcome. GETV Channel 17 videotapes the meetings for broadcast the following Monday at 8 p.m.

Listening Post, an opportunity for the public to talk informally with board members, is held from 7-7:30 before the board meeting. There is no obligation to stay for the meeting.

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.