

Lisle School District 202 Board Highlights Sept. 15, 2008

New teachers and administrators welcomed to District 202

At its Sept. 15 meeting, the newest teachers and administrators in Lisle School District 202 received a warm welcome from the Board of Education. New teachers include Robin Charnevsky, half-time kindergarten teacher; Stacy DeGeer, elementary social worker; Lauren Finaldi, high school Spanish teacher; Carol Frueh, half-time art teacher at Tate Woods School; Jonathan Jocson, junior high/high school English teacher; Kevin Perez, high school Spanish teacher; Christine Podraza, fifth grade teacher at Schiesher School; and Bernice Szumski, fourth grade teacher at Schiesher School. New administrators include Superintendent Dr. Patricia Wernet, Director of Student Service Karen Gordon and Tate Woods Principal Wesley Gosselink, who is also the staff development coordinator.

Board of Education adopts 2008-09 budget

The Lisle School District 202 Board of Education formally adopted the 2008-09 school budget at its Sept. 15 meeting, following the required public hearing. Keith Filipiak, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, described the estimated revenues and their sources along with the estimated expenditures and their purposes at the hearing. Prior to the meeting, the Finance Committee completed its review of the budget and passed it along to the full Board for adoption. The budget reflects total estimated revenues of \$29,472,961. Total estimated expenditures are \$27,776,505.

Local sources provide the majority of revenue, 89 percent, which includes real estate taxes, corporate replacement taxes, interest and fees. State funding, which includes general state aid, special education reimbursements and categorical grants, provides 8 percent of the total revenue. Federal funding is 3 percent of the total revenue. Total revenue is projected to increase 7 percent from the prior year. Mr. Filipiak indicated the increase in revenue would have been closer to 2 percent, but a significant amount of property taxes and state and federal grant payments budgeted last year were not collected until FY 2009.

On the expenditures side, salaries and benefits are 64 percent of the total; purchased services are 14 percent; supplies are 6 percent; equipment (includes capital improvements) is 4 percent; tuition to public and private entities for vocational and special education is 6 percent; and other (includes long term debt payments) is 6 percent. Total budgeted expenditures reflect an 8 percent increase from the prior year.

Five booster organizations recognized by Lisle school board

Each year, school-affiliated organizations composed of parents and other interested individuals are required to submit a formal request for recognition to Lisle School District 202. Five organizations presented the necessary information and received approval from the Board of Education at its Sept. 15 meeting. The organizations are the Lisle Home and School Organization, Kim Drennan, council president; the Lisle Band Parents Organization, Kelly Foster, president; the Lisle Booster Club, Dan Palicka, president; the Lisle District 202 Choral Parent Organization, Kathy Puccini, president; and the Lisle Foundation for Educational Excellence, Dr. Christine Messina, chairwoman.

Lisle schools off to a great start

Superintendent Dr. Patricia Wernet shared the latest enrollment figures with the District 202 Board of Education at its Sept. 15 meeting. An additional class of kindergarten at Schiesher School was added to maintain small class sizes, which provides optimum learning opportunities for the school district's youngest learners. As of January 2007, the district's enrollment was 1,634 students. At the start of the 2008-09 school year, enrollment stands at 1,589.

Board of Education meeting date changed

The District 202 Board of Education approved a change in its meeting schedule at its Sept. 15 meeting. The November meeting originally scheduled for Nov. 25 has been changed to Nov. 17, which is the board's regular meeting time of the third Monday of the month.

Update on our Professional Learning Community Journey

Our parents have supported our commitment to developing a community of learners. At the Sept. 15 District 202 Board of Education meeting, Director of Curriculum Dr. Christine Messina shared our progress in implementing Professional Learning Communities. "The most promising strategy for sustained, substantial school improvement is developing the ability of school personnel to function as Professional Learning Communities," wrote Rick Dufour, former superintendent in Lincolnshire, Ill., who pioneered the PLC concept.

What happens during our Professional Learning Community release time? Our teachers are identifying content and skills; using our Data Management System and analyzing data to determine instructional interventions; discussing structures of implementing interventions; discussing what type of staff training is needed in order to implement the instructional intervention; discussing alignment of curriculum content and skills across grade levels; and discussing how to include students into their process of evaluating their own learning.

What happens during In-service/Institute Days? Teachers learn about and are trained to implement: the purpose of Learning Communities; training in the use of the Data Warehouse System; understanding of a balanced assessment system; training in using a variety of curricular programs to support the implementation of differentiated instruction; and training in the use of technology such as SMARTBOARDS, document cameras and multiple software programs to support student engagement and learning.

We thank our parents. This would not be possible without your support.