

Board Review - February 4, 2010

The Whitefish Bay School Board held its regular monthly Business Meeting on Wednesday evening, February 3, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in room 47 at Whitefish Bay High School. Board members Jim Phillips, Pamela Woodard, Marie R. Greco, Cheryl Maranto, Joe Martinelli and Kathy Rogers were in attendance. Board Member Gerry Steele was excused.

Middle School staff members Caitlin Etten, Matthew Skinner and Nicholas Collins and Principal, Lisa Gies, provided the Board with an overview of last year's 7th grade class camp experience at Camp Whitcomb. The trip offered a variety of experiences for students to learn more about themselves, their classmates and being part of a team. The report also included an overview of the Human Ecology unit premiered last year at the Middle School. The Human Ecology unit allows students to experience an integrated learning opportunity that includes research, service learning and partnerships with the community. Last year's projects focused on a number of topics ranging from recycling to energy generation and conservation.

Matt Wolfert from Bray Architects provided the Board with an update on planning and activities related to the construction and remodeling projects authorized by the November 3 referendum. He noted that the construction sites have been surveyed and soil borings will take place in the next few weeks. A number of meetings have been held with staff to finalize planning and support communication regarding upcoming projects. He also noted that a meeting is scheduled with Focus on Energy to explore potential grant opportunities. Several construction and remodeling projects are scheduled to begin in late spring and early summer and may be completed in as little as 8 months. As a result, some of the new facilities may be ready for occupation by early spring 2011.

Board Member Kathy Rogers encouraged staff and the architects to look for ways to include student learning opportunities in construction and remodeling activities.

Board President, Marie R. Greco, provided an update on activities related to the search for a new superintendent. She noted that Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates' search consultants will be in the School District next Wednesday and Thursday, February 10 and 11, to conduct a number of interviews, focus groups and a public forum. She also indicated that the Board hopes to select a new superintendent by spring break.

The monthly personnel report included early retirement requests from six teachers including Carl Deblitz, Bruce Gill, Cynthia Graham, Katherine Kupfer, Jayne Meulendyke, Kathleen Riebau and Peter Zarwell. The Board also approved a retirement request by Pam Lee, Instructional Technology staff member. Jim Rickabaugh noted the years of service and exemplary contributions made by this group of professionals and wished them well.

Board Member Joe Martinelli reported on the recent Wisconsin Association of School Boards Convention. He noted the excellent networking opportunities, array of information available and outstanding keynote speakers. He encouraged other Board Members to consider attending the convention in the future.

Board Member Cheryl Maranto reported on the recent activities of the Southeastern Wisconsin School Alliance. She noted that the organization has recently begun inviting speakers to address current legislative issues. In the future the group hopes to hear from the leading candidates for Governor.

----- Upcoming Meeting Topics...

Open Enrollment Seats	March 10
Approve Curriculum (Art, Music) Proposals.....	March 10
Accept Recommendations for Regular Contract Status.....	March 10