

District 123

Board Updates



Monday, August 23, 2010

Students highlight "Summer Sleuths" program

Seventh grade science teacher, Dana Edie, and several students who participated in the Summer Sleuths program presented their experience to the board of education at the August 23rd meeting. The program, sponsored by Illinois Benedictine University, afforded students the opportunity to work with leading scientific organizations to solve real-world problems through science inquiry. District 123 students were able to participate in the program thanks to the generous support of Dr. Gesteyer.

Board of education recognizes recently tenured teachers

The board of education recognized and congratulated recently tenured teachers on their service and dedication to District 123. Congratulations to the following teachers on gaining tenure: Abeer Ahmad, Beth Carmody, Rachel Doyle, Annette Jean, Katie Khym, Peggy Martire, Megan Monroy, Allison Naddy, Margaret Nugent, Kathy Ogean, Judy Rayson, Kate Ryan, Danielle Thorpe, and Joanne Wingereid.

Financial advisory committee to reconvene this fall

As part of the continued implementation of the district's strategic plan, District 123 will reconvene the district's financial advisory committee this fall. The advisory committee, led by assistant superintendent for business and operations, Lauri Calabrese, will be comprised largely of parents and community members. The purpose of the committee is to hold open discussions to establish strategies and long-range recommendations to the board of education relative to district finances. More information about the forthcoming meetings will be distributed to the community in the near future.

Board addresses kindergarten class size

As part of a discussion related to large class sizes in kindergarten, superintendent Art Fessler asked the board to approve the recall of contingency staffing allocated in the 2010-11 tentative budget. After discussion concerning the importance of primary education, current economic conditions, and appropriate class size for kindergarten, the board of education voted to reinstate four kindergarten full time equivalencies (FTE). The FTE reinstatement is not part of the board's reported \$1.2 million reductions approved last spring. The addition of the four kindergarten teachers will significantly reduce class sizes that rose as high as 31 in some classes. The board also discussed and approved the addition of a fourth section at Sward in the event that class sizes increase to 24.