IN A NUTSHELL

HARVEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 152

Notes from Monday, April 20, 2009 Board Meeting **Vol. 14.8**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Rogers and members Robinson, Hawkins, Johnson, Price and Whittington in attendance. Administrators in attendance included Humphrey, Nichols, Braggs-Brown, McNulty-Moore, Skubal, Dill, Kreske, Rabe, Bradley, Conway, and Bridges. Following the adoption of the minutes from February 17th and March 16th, there were two presentations. Lolita Caston gave a presentation for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life Program, and Riley School's presentation then ensued. It began with a song from Stephanie Tucker's/Linda Sales' class and Janet Loughrey's/Bruno Farfan's class. Next, Kimeon Cruikshank-Offett gave a wonderful presentation highlighting the variety of lessons that can be used with the Smart Board in the classroom. She made a video of the students interacting with technology and their excitement for learning. Principal Bradley, Tamla Day, and Maria Segura gave a presentation on Riley School's new Parents as Teachers Birth-3 Program. They highlighted the main components of the program, which include home visiting, playgroups, field trips, and group meetings. The program currently serves 50 families and will be moving next fall to 15147 Myrtle next to Whittier School.). The Board members and audience gave outgoing member Joseph Whittington, Jr. a standing ovation for his four years of service. He was presented a plant as a token of appreciation for his service.

Thorne Humphrey gave the business operations report. The accounts receivable list for March ($3,632,390.15) was recommended and approved. The accounts payable list, which totaled $ 461,006.36 for March was also recommended and approved by the Board of Education. Informational items included a summary of the township treasurer's office, activity funds, letter from IDOT, and a monthly report from the buildings and grounds department.

Under administration, items were presented for Personnel. Appointments: James Donald, courier/custodian for the entire District, Calvin Horne, part-time custodian at Field School; Leaves of Absence for Nelitha Anderson-Batts, and Robert Sanders; and Reduction in Force with cause for a bilingual secretary. Other action items recommended and approved by the Board of Education included the Special Board meeting scheduled for April 29, 2009, and the declassification of executive session minutes from July, 2008 through March, 2009.

Informational items included an enrollment report for March (2,767), student perfect attendance for the classes of Angela Starks and Vivian Miller (Angelou), Jassmin Gonzalez and Erin Kowalski (Bryant), Julie Mackowiak and Valencia Moore (Holmes), Kathrine Bednar and Billeta Osagiede (Lowell), Maxie Brooks and Lynn Turner (Sandburg), Jacqueline Rodgers and Sarah Capiak (Whittier), and Tarneshia Foster and Grisell Lugardo (Riley). Other informational items included the Harvey Blue Angels Drill Team that captured 1st Place in the Drill Team category competition on Saturday, March 21, 2009 in Memphis, Tennessee, Brooks Middle School Jazz Band performance on May 7, 2009 at Ingalls Hospital, the Mission Impossible Classroom Management and Discipline Program conducted by Lacy Gray and Lolita Caston held on Saturday, March 21, 2009, Special Award for Dr. Lela A. Bridges for outstanding contributions as an advocate for the people of Harvey, presented on May 16, 2009 by the God First Church/Ministries, election results from April 7, 2009, Parent-Teacher Conference summaries from March 26-27, 2009, Extended Year Program (June 16-July 16, 2009), free Spring Parenting Workshops, Gifted Program update and calendar, and the Math Bowl participants and finalists.

The next item on the agenda was Board Committee reports. Ms. Hawkins read the Literacy Team report from April 2, 2009. The following items were discussed: Smart Board Technologies update, Math Publishers decision, Math Assessment, RTI (Response to Intervention), Intervention Programs, AIMSWEB, End of Year Institute Day (June 8th), Early Release (May 6th), and Federal Stimulus Package. Dr. Bridges stated that the Personnel Committee of the Whole met on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the following: notice of remedy for two teachers; reduction in force for speech and language assistants; first year paraprofessionals; and a complaint from an employee being harassed.

Ms. Johnson read the Finance Facility report from Tuesday, April 14, 2009. The following items were discussed: ECHO classroom space rental, facility use for the Harvey Blue Angels Flag & Drill Team, and the La Esperanda Soccer Team, purchase of a new district vehicle, sale of the used Chevy Cargo Van, retirement request from a central office employee, and Economic Crisis Projection by Rob Grossi from Bloom Township.

Arletha Bolton gave her report from Community Education and some of the activities included a luncheon at the Family Christian Health Center in Harvey on April 9th, trip to the United States Marine Corps Educators Workshop in San Diego, California on April 13-17, 2009, National Earth Day on April 22nd, Parenting workshops starting on April 29th , and the District 152 Community Education Bowl-a-Thon on May 29, 2009.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Superintendent's Message

The countdown begins with four weeks left in the school year. Many activities are planned from all schools and the schedules have been duplicated and given to members of the Cabinet and Board of Education. We would like to welcome new board members, Mrs. Betty Jo Johnson and Mrs. Joyce Kellogg-Weaver. The officers are: President Tyrone Rogers, President, Vice President, Gloria Johnson, Vice President, and Secretary, Linda Hawkins, Secretary. Members George Robinson and Keith Price were not up for election. At the May meeting, they will receive their school assignments and committee assignments. We say goodbye to member Joseph Whittington, Jr., who served for four years as a member of the Board. We thank him for his service and dedication to the students and school community.

I want to thank our health service staff for all of their effort with the H1N1 flu virus. Nurse Beverly Woods sent vital information to all schools and kept us informed as to what we needed to do to minimize the risk. We are very fortunate to have such a capable staff to assist us whenever there is a medical alert. We had a few episodes of pointing fingers to certain groups due to the suspected origin of the virus. It is times like this that we have to be especially sensitive using good decision making and process skills to arrive at the best solution. For the record, Cinco De Mayo programs were not cancelled, they were postponed. This decision was based on the quickly approaching event and an effort to not have large groups coming together.

Please support our colleagues, Erin Kowalski and Jennifer Locke from Bryant School. They are participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Together, they need to raise $3,200. For more information, you can contact them at Bryant School or visit the website at www.avonwalk.org and type in either name under "Make a Donation." I want to thank Erin and Jennifer for continuing their efforts in finding a cure for breast cancer.

SPECIAL INVITATION

Harvey Public Schools District 152 and the Community Education Department extends an invitation to you to the District 152 Community Bowl-a-Thon. All teachers, staff, alumni and families are invited to celebrate the end of the school year. Please mark your calendars:

Friday, May 29, 2009
6:30pm
Brunswick Zone XL
3043 W. 183rd St
Homewood, IL 60430
708-799-4749

You and your team of 5 will enjoy a night of fun and familiar faces.

The cost is only $25 per person which includes:
***Two (2) hours of bowling**
***Food and soft drinks per lane**
***Bowling shoes**
***Other activities for smaller children ($$)**
***An AWESOME time!**

To purchase tickets by May 15th, please call Arletha Bolton at District 152 at 708-333-0300 EXT. 13.

Proceeds go to benefit the District 152 Community Education program, schools, students and families with emergency needs throughout the year.

Dates to Remember:

Friday - May 15 - Band Tour of Schools, 10:00 a.m. Bryant, 1:00 p.m. Sandburg
Monday - May 18 - Band Tour of Schools, 10:00 a.m. Lowell, 1:00 p.m. Whittier
Tuesday - May 19 - Band Tour of Schools, 10:00 a.m. Holmes, 1:00 p.m. Angelou
Wednesday - May 20- Band Tour of Schools – 9:30 a.m. Riley
Wednesday - May 20 - Spring Band Concert - 7:00 p.m. at Brooks
Thursday - May 21 - Last Day for Field Trips
Friday - May 29 - Pre-K - Stepping Up to Kindergarten Ceremony @ 9:30 a.m.
Friday - May 29 - Early Dismissal - End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester
Friday, May 29 - No School for AM Pre-K
PM Pre-K Attend 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Kdg. - 8th Attend 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Monday - May 25 - Holiday - Memorial Day - No School
Wednesday - June 3 - Last Day of School for Pre-K Students
Monday - June 1 - Middle School Promotion
Friday - June 5 - Early Dismissal - Last Day of School for Students
Monday - June 8 - Institute Day and End of Year Recognition and Celebration @ Brooks
Friday - June 12 - Foundation Golf Outing @ 11:00 a.m.