

# IN A NUTSHELL

## HARVEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 152

**Notes from Monday, September 21, 2009 Board Meeting**

**Vol. 15.2**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Rogers and members Robinson, Johnson, Johnson, Kellogg-Weaver and Price. Administrators in attendance included Humphrey, Braggs Brown, Nichols, McNulty-Moore, Kreske, Conway, Thomas, Brown, Rabe, Stewart, and Bridges. Following the adoption of the regular and special minutes from August 17<sup>th</sup>, two presentations ensued. Steve Purucker from the Rotary Club of Tinley Park-Frankfort announced that the district would receive dictionaries for all third graders again this year. This partnership is in its third year and is being considered for a partnership award of the year from the Career Development System (CDS). The Whittier School Board Presentation began with a brief PowerPoint presentation of the activities that had occurred up to this point (FY2009-2010 school year). The background music, Man in the Mirror, by Michael Jackson, serves as Whittier School's Song of the Year, which inspires and encourages all of us to reflect on being the best person each of us can be. We first must take a look at ourselves and make a CHANGE!

Next, Whittier School's Dance Aerobics Instructor, Mr. Sidney McNeil, demonstrated with a group of about thirty (30) students how the dance routines not only provide additional physical activity for the students, but also provides a healthy routine twice a month. Dr. Bridges and Arletha Bolton joined them as they demonstrated a short dance routine. Dance Aerobics is very popular at Whittier as over fifty (50) students participate in each session.

Thorne Humphrey gave the business operations report. The accounts receivable list for August (\$2,090,187.52) was recommended and approved. Accounts payable list which totaled \$622,802.19 for September was also recommended and approved by the Board of Education. Other action actions included adoption of the 2009-2010 balanced budget and milk bid awarded to Krystal Dairy. Informational items included a summary of the township treasurer's office, school activity reports and a monthly report from the buildings and grounds department.

Under administration, items were presented for Personnel. Resignations were recommended and approved for April Cohen, Elvia Garcia and Harry Raetz. Appointments recommended and approved: Kara Davis, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Whittier), Christopher Edwards, part-time custodian (Riley/Central office), Equa Epps, cross categorical (Brooks), Mary Harris, food service (Angelou), Kimberly Kidd, elementary math and literacy coach (district wide), Vonteier Stewart, computer lab assistant (Brooks) and Ikesha Clark, Health Assistant. Retirement was approved for Ruby Anderson and Pauline Miniex-Reed at the end to the 2009-2010 school year. Other action items recommended and approved included participants for NABSE: Marlon Conway, Dominique Gilmore, Carlene Herron, Sharon Johnson, Eric Kellogg, Cheriff Kemp, Kimberly Kidd, LaVern Ruffin, and Roxie Thomas. Dana Nichols, Kathy Odom, and Lynn Williams were approved by the board to attend the training for E-Rate. Field trip requests were recommended and approved for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades students to visit the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN in January and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to visit the Black Heritage Tour in Detroit, Michigan in April. Permission to submit Applications for Recognition of Schools was also recommended and approved.

Informational items included 6<sup>th</sup> day enrollment report (2,443), evaluation of institute summaries for August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, certificate of recognition for 2008-2009, and an announcement of a grant award, approved for \$475,000 for Brooks Middle School. If success and improved test scores result from this grant, more dollars will follow. The grant was written and submitted by Dana Nichols.

The next item on the agenda was Board Committee reports. Chairperson Johnson gave the Finance Committee report. The Committee met on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Several items were discussed including milk bids, request from BSTCO, sale of district vehicle, budget and grants approval for the 2009-2010 school year. Action items recommended and approved included payment schedule for transportation and sale of the district vehicle.

The Literacy Team met on September 10, 2009. Discussion items included Institute Day for October 9<sup>th</sup>. Topics to include professional development to be held at each school. The last Institute Day scheduled for March will be held at the Holiday Inn in Tinley Park for the Superintendent's Conference. L. A. Bridges encouraged the Literacy team to present at the conference. The organizational chart was presented with questions asked from the team. Other items included Reading First grant dollars for four schools, AIMSweb and DIBELS training was held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, and Carol White (PEP Grant) was funded for another year. No action items were presented from the committee.

Arletha Bolton gave her report from Community Education and some of the activities included the Educational Summit and Expo for Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at Thornridge High School in Dolton, Illinois, and the Back-to-School Parade and Fair scheduled for Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

## Superintendent's Message

Staff members who have perfect attendance for the school year are rewarded monetarily at the end of the school year. This incentive excludes funeral, professional and personal leave. For information about this program, see your building administrator.

I want to thank all of our members who participated in the Educational Conference on September 19<sup>th</sup> and Expo and Back-to-School Parade and Fair on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Following the parade and fair, a number of our band students, parents, board members, and staff made the journey to Soldier Field in Chicago for the football game between Alcorn University, Loran, Mississippi, and Alabama State from Montgomery, Alabama. This is another example of a community going the extra mile for the youth. Thank you for giving the extra time investing in the future of our youth.

From time to time you will receive information regarding different suggestions for protecting you and others from a possible flu epidemic. Our capable health services staff will direct us in this process. According to recent reports, 26 states have reported high numbers of cases. One school district in Texas closed schools for a few days due to the high number of cases that were reported. Understanding that we can only protect ourselves so much, following the guidelines and reading thoroughly the materials that you receive as well as good hygiene practices can help to minimize our exposure.

Don't forget the deadline is approaching for grant application to the Foundation. For more information and application, please see your building administrator. Remember, last year over \$15,000 was awarded to staff who applied for the grants.

### Dates to Remember:

**Friday - October 9 - INSTITUTE DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**Monday - October 12 - Holiday - Columbus Day**

**Wednesday-Friday - October 14-16 - District Ability Testing (All 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders); and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> (New Students Only)**

**Friday - October 23 - Early Dismissal - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter/1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

**AM Pre-K Attend 7:50 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.; PM Pre-K Attend 10:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.**

**Kdg. - 8th Attend 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Thursday - October 29 - Pre-K - Fall Festival - 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

**Thursday - October 29 - Parent-Teacher Conference 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday - October 30 - Parent-Teacher Conference 8:15 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**Wednesday - November 11 - Veterans Day - Schools and Offices Closed**

**Tuesday - November 24 - Pre-K - Thanksgiving Festival - 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday-Friday - November 25-27 - Holiday-Thanksgiving Day/Vacation Day - No School**