

Summary of the October 27 meeting, click [HERE](#) to view the meeting agenda
Official minutes will be available on the November Board agenda

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

The Board of Education meeting on October 17 was attended by a large number of interested community members and staff. Microphones were used so that the over 200 attendees could hear the discussion. Residents addressed the Board and expressed ideas and their expectations on the levy and the teacher contract negotiations.

School Improvement Plans were discussed by Principals Julie Waehner and Dave Karolewicz. The plans focus on assisting the students in setting goals to improve their math and reading scores as measured by structured testing. The plans also promote 21st Century Learning by engaging the teachers in setting technology goals. Click to see the draft SIP plans for [K-4](#) and for [5-8](#). These plans are up for approval next month.

BOARD ACTION

The Board approved the purchase of Skyward Business Software recommended by Business Manager, Dr. Kurt Valentin. Dr. Valentin presented information that suggests Skyward is the most cost effective choice. This software is also used in Libertyville District 70 which will make it easier for training and sharing of employees as part of our Shared Services arrangement between D68 and D70.

The Board approved School District Goals for 2011-2012 that were designed through three workshop sessions with the Board and Administration. Click [here](#) to view the goals. The Board also approved Superintendent Goals for 2011-2012 that include all the District goals and one additional goal. All of these goals are posted on Board Book.

LEVY DISCUSSION

Background: At the beginning of every school year, the Board of Education, working closely with the Administration, develops a budget for the school year that is formally submitted to the State. As part of this process, the Board and Administration must determine the amount of revenue that is required to fund the school for the year. This revenue, which comes from the tax levy, is required to be set by the Board every December. This revenue amount is determined analyzing many factors including a detailed analysis of the District finances over a 5 year period and risk factors that might negatively impact the District financially. This process and some of the tools that are used in evaluating the District's finances was the topic of the September 22 Town Hall meeting.

At the Board meeting on October 17, Dr. Janice Matthews and Dr. Kurt Valentin presented their recommendation to the Board. Their presentation included a 5 year plan analysis and inclusion of the many potential financial risks the District might face in the future. The Administration recommended to the Board that the maximum levy extension be selected.

Scenarios including the recommendation by the Administration will continue to be reviewed and analyzed with the Finance committee and all the necessary information will be provided to all Board members before the final vote is taken on the levy at the November 29 Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 8:45 p.m. into Executive session to discuss the Negotiations with the Oak Grove Education Association.