BOARD BRIEFS – OAK GROVE SCHOOL

FEB/MAR APR 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS DISCUSSED

Summary of the February, March & April meetings
Click HERE to view the meeting agendas
Official minutes will be available on the May Board agenda

Foreign Language

Foreign Language discussions continue. The Board approved the K-5 Spanish program with the addition of an option to continue in Spanish or to change to Mandarin in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Junior High parents and students have been asked to provide their interest for their child's language for 2012-13. In grades 7th & 8th one class period will be devoted to Foreign Language daily as is the current practice. In 6th grade, Foreign Language will also be taught daily in lieu of Global Studies or French.

2012-13 Staffing for 6th, 7th and 8th

The Board had a discussion with the administration on the options for staffing the 6th, 7th and 8th grades for 2012-13. The administration recommended, and the Board agreed, to six classroom teachers in each grade. Six teachers will maintain a teacher in grades 6th, 7th and 8th dedicated to teaching the core subject areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Literature and Foreign Language. The major advantages of six teachers per grade are:
1) Class size will be approximately 18-19 which will allow for more interaction and personal attention for students, and
2) Most of the teachers at a grade level will have the same planning time. This time is used for academic and instructional planning. It is also used to design plans for individual students and to hold conferences with students that can be attended by more than one teacher.

2011 Academic Excellence Award

The Board recognized the Illinois 2011 Academic Excellence Award. This is the second year Oak Grove has received this award. It is given to schools that have scored over 90% in every grade level in Math and Reading for three consecutive years.

Bullying Report

The Board discussed the progress that is occurring in Bully Prevention. Noted was the presentation by Jim Williams to the students and parents. The Board has requested that the principals provide them with written reports each month regarding discipline issues that have been handled during the proceeding month. The principals also responded to questions from the Board.

Superintendent Search

The Board has chosen BWP as the firm to conduct the Superintendent Search. Please go to our website for more information and current updates regarding the search.

Strategic Plan Update Postponed

Considering the focus on the Superintendent search process, the Board has decided to delay the renewal of the Strategic Plan that had been planned for the Spring.

CCC Recommendations

A new K-5 Math pilot, *Origo Stepping Stones* and a Social Emotional Learning curriculum program, *Second Steps,* were recommended by the Curriculum Coordinating Council. There was also discussion of staff interest in interactive white boards for instruction. These items will be further discussed and possibly voted on at the May Board meeting.

BOARD ACTION

Summer Work

The Board approved summer work for renovation of the Junior High cafeteria, 7th grade science room, roof and other maintenance projects. Click here to access the blog and view the status of these projects.

CEC Membership

The Board approved a membership in the Council for Educational Change which is an organization to assist with changes in the teacher evaluation system and the new law required by Senate Bill 7. The membership was requested by the teachers in the collective bargaining agreement.

School Fees Not Increased

The Board voted not to increase the K-8 school fees or Kindergarten Plus fees for 2012-13. There was a slight increase for milk and PE uniforms.

Math Coaches

The Board approved 1.5 Math coaches for the 2012-13 school year to assist K-8 teachers with Math strategies, new teaching materials and the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

School Day Hours for 2012-13

The Task Force Committee met to discuss the school day hours for 2012-13. The Board approved the addition of ten minutes to the K-3 student day. New school hours for K-3 students in 2012-13 will be 8:20 am - 2:40 pm. 4-8 grade hours will remain the same: 8:20 am - 3:20 pm.

MEETINGS

MAY 14 – 9:00 AM
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 17 – 8:30 AM
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 22 – 7:00 PM
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

May 18
School Improvement Day/11:30 am Early Dismissal

May 28
Memorial Day/No School

June 1
Last Day of School 11:30 am Early Dismissal