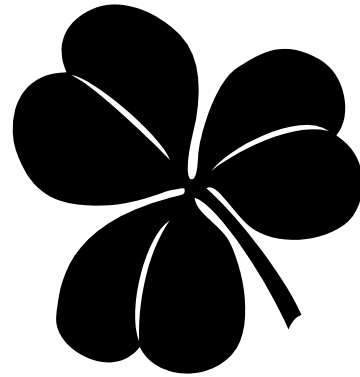


## March Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Vice-President Larry Debb called the 2004 Bond Issuance Hearing to order at 7:20 p.m. Following role call he announced the opening of a public hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on the proposal to sell \$800,000 Limited Tax School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds. Mr. Debb referenced the notice of February 20, 2004 regarding issuance of bonds for Life Safety purposes. He also referenced legal notice, which appeared in the February 26, 2004 issue of Glencoe News. Mr. Chilcote, Business Manager, reviewed the list of Life Safety projects for each school. There was no further discussion by the Board and no comments from the public. The Board adjourned the Bond Issuance Hearing.



Vice-President Debb then called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. The regular and closed session minutes for February 9, 2004 were approved. There were no comments from the public.

There were several presentations by District #35 students. West School art and music teachers, Cheryl Sachs and Sarah Porretta, collaborated on a musical and art project inspired by Picasso and Matisse. A presentation of songs and original artwork by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, "Songs in the Key of Art", highlighted this joint project. A Central School special strings ensemble performed in honor of "Music in Our Schools" month. Luann Benoit, orchestra teacher, introduced the quartet: Celestine Kao, Alex Weaver, Jessie Wall, and Gwen Diamond.

The final presentation by students featured the "Future Cities" team. This group recently competed at the state level. Barbara Janes, science teacher, introduced the following Central School students: Rob Rein, Ben Parker, Celestine Kao, Vanessa Bernick, and Sam Welch. Joe Shook was unable to attend.

Mr. Tom Dempsey, Director of Pupil Services, reviewed the District special education programs and student participation. He identified the evolution of I.D.E.A. since its inception in 1975. Mr. Dempsey also identified the incidence of disabilities in District #35 and percentage of students receiving special education services. Approximately 14% of District #35 students receive some form of resource services. It was noted this was in keeping with other school districts in the area and township.

Mr. Dempsey also reviewed special education revenue received from federal and state funds. The fixed amount received for staffing was identified as \$8,000 per certified staff and \$2,000 per teacher associate. It was also identified that \$200-\$300 was received for each identified child receiving special education services.

The Medicaid matching funds have been reduced to zero. Discussion was held regarding the unfunded mandate status of special education. Trends in special education, challenges faced by the school district and staff development activities were also reviewed. The Behavior Intervention Guidelines for students with Disabilities was presented and committee members identified.

Mr. Ron Chilcote, Business Manager, indicated the End Fund Balance for the month of February was \$8,159,669.58.

Mr. Chilcote asked for the Finance Committee to convene prior to the May Board of Education regular monthly meeting. This meeting would be for the purpose of sharing information regarding non-association support staff salaries for the 2004-2005 school year.

Every other school year the district furnishes an interest-free loan of up to \$5,000 (\$500 minimum) to qualified district employees for the purchase of computer equipment. The district then deducts the cost of the loan from salaries in equal installments over a 24-month period. This option will be provided to staff at the end of the current school year. An information meeting for staff has been scheduled for March 25, 2004.

Two Board meeting dates were changed: the April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2004 and the June Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2004. There was no change in time or location.

The Board approved payment of the March 2004 Bills, Personnel Report, and Personnel Plan for 2004-2005.

Mr. Chilcote provided the Board with a comparison of student fees charged by surrounding school districts. He recommended maintaining the current fee level for the 2004-2005 school year. He then identified examples of student fee uses. The additional \$10 at South School has been applied to the personnel costs associated with a transportation clerk. This has generated approximately \$4,500 of the \$24,000 cost. The total budget for supplies was reported as \$1,052,223. Of that amount \$455,185 was directly related to educational/classroom supplies. Examples of these supplies included: textbooks, curriculum adoption supplies, Library Learning Center supplies, art supplies, special education supplies, etc. After reductions for scholarship, approximately \$130,000 has been collected annually to assist in defraying the cost of supplies. Mr. Chilcote also recommended continued inclusion of the PTA calendar and directory on the student fee registration form. Additionally he recommended the January 1 late fee of \$25 and monthly increase of \$5 on the first day of subsequent months be maintained. After discussing reduction or maintaining of fee levels, the Board approved Mr. Chilcote's recommendations. The Referendum Committee members, Mr. Myefski, Mrs. Schulte, and Dr. Price will review options for student fees when discussing operating referendum options.

Ms. Madeleine Felix, Central School teacher, addressed the Board during the second opportunity for public comments. She referenced the experienced and talented teacher who had accompanied students to the evening's Board meeting. Ms. Felix also identified negotiations currently taking place and asked the Board to please consider the financial incentives provided to keep talented educators in District #35.

During the Committee Report portion of the meeting Dr. Crawford reminded Board members of the Retirement Tea scheduled for May 25 at 3:45 p.m. She requested those Board members planning to be in attendance notify her or Dr. Howe.

The Board adjourned to closed session for the purpose of discussing matters related to negotiations. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 21 at 7:30 p.m.