

A Summary of the Board of Education Meeting Thursday, July 10, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved the restricted consent agenda including the reappointment of Mr. Jon Offley to the Ethics Panel for a term of five years, staff personnel, bids and contracts, and minutes of closed meetings of the Board of Education.
- Approved the general consent agenda including donations and minutes of regular Board of Education meetings, and accepted a status report on school construction projects and expenditures.
- Approved three administrative promotions.
- Approved the selection of X2 Aspen from X2 Development Corporation of Hingham, MA for the new Student Information Management System for a three-year total cost of \$1,584,500. (see: Board approves new SIMS system)
- Approved the 2008-2009 Policy Adoption Schedule.
- Approved the Design Development Concept Document for the Mt. Hebron High School renovation.
- Approved the Design Development Construction Document for the Elkridge Elementary School addition/revision.

Three administrative promotions approved

The Board approved three administrative promotions including Kathleen (Woody) Swinson to Budget Officer, Executive Director of SAPE Terri Alban to Chief Operating Officer, and Lisa Davis to Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs.

Board approves new SIMS system

Following a report by Jose Stevenson, Director of Information Technology, the Board approved the selection of X2 Aspen from X2 Development Corporation as the new Student Information Management System for the school system. The X2 Information Management System was recommended by the HCPSS SIMS Evaluation Committee as the system that can best fulfill the specific objectives and requirements of the HCPSS. The recommendation is based on the results of a systematic evaluation process that was completed over the past 18 months.

On August 4, 2007, the HCPSS issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids from qualified firms to obtain a Student Information Management System (SIMS) and related services. Currently HCPSS uses Pearson Education's Student Management System (SMS) and MacSchool software for enrollment, attendance, and scheduling. A suite of locally developed applications for grading and reporting at the high school level are also used in the system. The new SIMS will replace these tools.

According to Stevenson, implementation of the new SIMS will begin at the elementary school level. Working with a group of elementary schools, the new SIMS will be tested intensely to validate functional requirements as well as training and documentation requirements. Once this initial phase is successfully

completed, more schools will be added to test connectivity (network bandwidth, access speed, etc.) requirements. The goal is to have all elementary schools in the new system as quickly as possible in the 2008-2009 school year. A middle school and a high school will also be included during this initial phase. Barring any major implementation problems that may extend the timeline, middle and high schools will be brought into the new system by the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

At the same time, a Steering Committee will be established to assist with the development of a communication and governance plan. Additionally, a project manager will be hired this school year to help coordinate the implementation of the X2 Aspen Student Information Management System.

Testing, assessment data easily accessible through INROADS

The Internet Repository of Accountability Data Systems, or INROADS, is designed as an assessment data mart, which supports school administrators, teachers, and Central Office staff members with their requests for easily accessible testing and assessment data that can be sorted and viewed in simple formats. The project began in March 2007 under the direction of Andrew Raith, Coordinator of System Performance Reporting, and with the support of Bing Zhang, Data Reporting Specialist.

INROADS includes reports that present system, school, and individual student data for state testing programs, local assessment programs, and Goal 2 indicators (suspension and attendance). It also features a series of graphical representations of Goal 1 and Goal 2 data known as dashboards. The latest addition to INROADS includes School Improvement Plan templates to simplify the data reporting components of these plans for school-based administrators.

There are currently two data collection tools housed within INROADS _ the On/Above/Below (OAB) designations in reading and mathematics for elementary and middle school students and the Electronic Database of Interventions (EDI) to capture the interventions being provided to students performing below grade level in reading and mathematics. All elementary and middle schools use the OAB tool, while EDI was piloted with four elementary and two middle schools during the 2007-2008 school year.

INROADS has evolved throughout the year in response to feedback from the users for additional reports or enhancements to existing features. Professional Development opportunities have been provided for some users, but more training will occur in the next school year. INROADS will continue to evolve to support schools and programs in reaching their goals by using a continuous improvement process.

In other action...

On behalf of the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent Sandra Erickson

welcomed 24 middle school students and four teachers from the Iksan School System in South Korea, who are participating the Summer Cultural Exchange Program. She also reported on student enrollment in the school system's summer school program this year.

Board member Patricia Gordon announced that the Board would hold another "What Counts?" Session on November 11, 2008.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Thursday, August 14, 2008.