

BOARD-O-GRAM

Educational Focus Meeting of October 29, 2007



Board Honors "88's Best" for October

The Board of Education recognizes students who excel at Addison Trail and Willowbrook High Schools through **88's Best**. They were pleased to honor the following students for their academic accomplishments:



Kathy Wroblewska has demonstrated success in academics and extracurricular activities at **Addison Trail**. Ranking in the top 1% of her senior class, Kathy's strong commitment to challenging herself has led her to take many Advanced Placement courses including five this year.

In addition to excelling in academics, Kathy has participated in many extracurricular organizations. She has been a four-year member of the orchestra, the Key Club where she is currently the vice-president, the International Dance group and the Math Team. Kathy also serves as the president of the National Honor Society.

Kathy is in the process of applying to many universities including University of Chicago, Loyola, Harvard, Princeton, Brown and Yale. She would like to pursue a degree in economics or political science and also plans to attend law school.

Casey Quinlan has excelled in academics and extracurricular activities at **Willowbrook** High School. Currently, Casey is in the top 1% in the senior class, has completed two Advanced Placement courses, and is enrolled in four Advanced Placement courses. She is also the only National Merit Semifinalist at Willowbrook High School.

While at Willowbrook, Casey has also sought activities outside the classroom as a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Student Council. Casey is also very active in the theatre. In addition, she finds time to volunteer at a local hospital.

Casey is applying to several different schools and hopes to be accepted to Northwestern Illinois University. She would like to minor in Spanish, but is still undecided on her major field of study.



BUILDING THE FUTURE IN DISTRICT 88:

- **Dr. Steve Humphrey**, Superintendent of Schools, reported that work continues on finalizing the current concepts into schematic drawings. The Building The Future project is still on schedule for completion in Fall 2010.

EDUCATIONAL FOCUS ITEMS:

- **Mrs. Jean Barbanente**, Director of Learning Services, presented data on the **Positive Behavior and Interventions Support (PBIS) program** at both high schools. Implementation began at the start of the 2007-2008 school year following training and summer meetings with faculty and staff to discuss student expectations. Expectations included goals of safety, respect, responsibility, attendance, dress code and hallway behavior. The PBIS message is reinforced through classroom posters, t-shirts, student announcements and incentive programs.

The results show the number of unexcused absences and discipline referrals have significantly decreased. The number of tardies has decreased at Addison Trail but increased slightly at Willowbrook. This is attributed to stricter guidelines and record keeping by teachers and is expected to decline. The significant positive impact observed is the **result of cooperation and consistency from the students, parents, staff and administration.**

- **Mrs. Beth Yacobi**, Director of Curriculum and Learning, presented information outlining the **ACT College Readiness reports**. District 88 students **experienced growth and gains in all categories**, English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The largest gain in was in the category of Mathematics. District 88 continues to align its curriculum with the ACT curriculum-based tests of educational development by providing intervention in math and literacy. District 88 strives to **prepare all students to be college ready**.

THE CONSENT AGENDA, which included the following items, was approved by the Board:

The **list of bills, treasurer’s report and budget status report** from September 2007; **disposition of equipment; fundraiser contracts** with anticipated revenue of \$1,000 or more; **personnel items as presented** at the October 22, 2007 meeting; **revised and amended Board Policies 4:140, 4:150, 4:160 and 4:170** and the Intergovernmental Cooperation agreement **establishing the *Directions Alternative Learning Opportunity program***.

SEPARATE ACTION ITEMS, which included the following, were approved by the Board:

- **Recommendation of an additional fundraiser contract** with anticipated revenue of \$1,000 or more.
- **Meeting minutes** from the September 17, 2007, Regular Business meeting, September 24, 2007, Educational Focus meeting, Closed Session minutes of the September 24, 2007 Board meeting and October 4, 2007 Technology Committee meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

- **Mr. Michael Welch**, Assistant Superintendent for Operations presented information to the Board regarding the **2007 Tax Levy**. Mr. Welch showed how tax rates compare to other school districts and **stated the levy reflects the district’s positive financial position due to the Board’s sound fiscal practices**. Mr. Welch recommended the Board pass a resolution for the Tax Levy at the November 12, 2007 Board Meeting, establishing December 17, 2007 as the public hearing for the tax levy.

IN PERSONNEL ACTION: the following items were approved by the Board:

- Classified Staff Appointment for **Diane Vegter**, WB Industry & Technology/Art Department Secretary; **Anna Kass**, WB Math Teacher Aide and **Brandon Keller**, WB Literacy Teacher Aide.
- Building and Grounds Appointment for **Christopher Mallin**, AT 2nd Shift Maintenance.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION:

Addison Trail Principal Dr. Scott Helton highlighted recent events and recognition:

- A.T.’s Best Breakfast honored 17 students for excellence.
- Approximately 75 parents attended a Latino Parent meeting and discussed how to keep students out of gangs and get the most academically from students.
- The ATHS Attitude Core Team is planning the focus of the November 20 Institute Day and the rest of the year.
- Upcoming events include: Parent University, Cedric Jennings’ visit and the Tradition of Excellence alumni award presentation and reception.

Willowbrook Principal Mr. Dan Krause highlighted recent events and recognition:

- Nearly 30 parents attended the Hispanic Parent Night hosted by the Guidance department and discussed grades and the use of PowerSchool.
- Character Counts Week was recognized by wearing designated colors to represent the different pillars of character.
- Mark Benischek received the Technology Education Association of Illinois’ “New Teacher of the Year” award.
- Upcoming events include: Key Club Food Drive, Choir Invitational Day and 1st Quarter Outstanding Student Breakfast.

Mark Your Calendars:

November 12, 2007	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education, Regular Business Meeting	District Boardroom
November 19, 2007	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education, Educational Focus Meeting	District Boardroom