

District 202's Meeting on February 14, 2007

This report was written by Connie Goddard, School Board Observer.

The District 202 School Board, with all members present, met Feb. 14. Also present were Superintendent Witherspoon, Principal Madden, the public relations director, the research director, the finance director, and various teachers who were recognized. Only two or three citizens attended.

Following is a summary of several reports which were presented:

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT: Last year, 1800 of 3100 students attended summer school. ETHS is trying to encourage advance registration for better planning; also recruiting more regular ETHS teachers (issue is that they would rather it were four than five days/week).

- For next year, want to change attitude from remediation to advancement; plan also to offer more tutoring and test-prep – with assistance of Kaplan-trained teachers

ANNUAL SCHOOL STATISTICAL REPORT: This major piece of work requires study, but Research Director Judith Levinson gave an overview. One chart displayed a barely perceptible rise in one set of test results against state and national results. Encouraging but not gratifying. Disparities among groups continue.

- One particularly interesting finding: one group of students made more progress on the ACT than on a work readiness test (requested by business community) called WorkKeys. As a result, the school is thinking of adding test prep to some of the applied technology classes
- This is an example of how district uses its substantial data collection department to drive decisions.

BUDGET REPORT: Budget Director Bill Stafford discussed values-based budgeting (and gave a brief and informative 50 year history of budgeting). the values idea is used by educational institutions and is a descendent of program budgeting introduced by Robert McNamara 40 years ago.

- Bottom line is: what decision will have the least-negative effect on students.
- Member of the public – and candidate for reelection to board – pointed out that two thirds of the budget is determined by contract negotiations .
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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: ETHS has 15 National Merit Scholarship finalists; chess team came in 4th in recent state competition.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- One noted a possible partnership with Oakton CC and possibility of an apprenticeship program in construction trades
- Several noted excellent attendance at Community Safety event held 2/3/07 at ETHS

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