

Board Briefs

The Board of Education Brookwood School District 167

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2011

A Word from the Board President

In December the Board of Education approved recommendations to reorganize the school district, make improvements to the buildings and add on to the junior high school for the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

As part of the bonding process, the Board established a hearing regarding the sale of bonds for \$8 million to finance capital development projects. The sale of these bonds **would not** have increased the tax burden to the community. The addition to the junior high school would have included a new competition gymnasium, a new art room, sci-

ence lab and additional classrooms.

The purpose of the hearing was to hear comments and opinions from the community. The Board of Education, in this instance, did not have to go to referendum for this project. During the hearing the Board was presented with a petition with the required number of signatures to prevent the sale of the bonds without voter approval.

The addition to the junior high is on hold at this point in time. See the article below about the Life Safety work. The addition to the junior high will

have to go to referendum for voter approval. The earliest that the question can be put on the ballot is the March 2012 election. The Board will have to make the decision to go to referendum or to consider other options that may be feasible.

Maintenance and planning the improvement of district facilities will be an ongoing discussion. I encourage all residents to be involved in these discussions.

Yours for better schools,



Art Taylor

Life Safety Update

The Ten Year Life Safety Survey was approved by the Board in December. The Survey outlines improvements to all five buildings.

There are three timelines in the survey. Timeline A includes items that must be completed in the next

twelve months; Timeline B includes items that must be completed within the next five years; Timeline C is a recommended list of items to consider to improve the overall safety and environment of a building. Items are categorized in one of four categories: architec-

tural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical.

At the December meeting, the Board approved the recommendation to complete all Timeline A items at all of the schools and the Administration Center in addition to the Timeline B and C items

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Points of Interest:

- Brookwood Middle School will continue to house grades 5-6 indefinitely.
- Voter approval is required for the sale of bonds to finance an addition to Brookwood Junior High School.
- Completion of the Life Safety projects is required under the Illinois School Code.
- The cost of the Life Safety Projects as approved at the December board meeting is approximately \$1.7 million.
- The district has cash reserves to cover the cost of the Life Safety Projects or may issue Life Safety bonds.
- The district will engage in discussion on how to finance the Life Safety Projects at the April 18 board meeting.

The Board of Education

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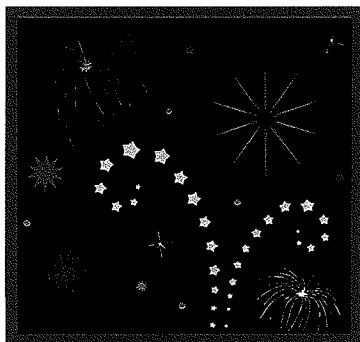
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Mission Statement:
Brookwood School District 167, in partnership with parents and community, will create a caring environment in which all students learn. This partnership shall empower all students to become responsible learners and decision makers as they prepare for the future.

Life Safety Update (continued)

for Hickory Bend School, Longwood School, and Brookwood Junior High School.

The total list of improvements as outlined above will cost the school district approximately \$1.5 million. How will the district pay for this project? There are at least two options that the Board could consider. The Board could decide to use cash reserves to pay for this project.

There is also a second option. The Board of Education may issue Life Safety Bonds. These bonds are specifically designated to pay for

Life Safety Projects with very specific criteria.

It is important to keep in mind that the decision to complete the Life Safety items outlined in the Ten Year Life Safety Report has been decided. The decision on how the school district should pay for the project has not been decided at the time of this newsletter.

A presentation regarding the pros and cons of issuing Life Safety Bonds will be presented at the April 18, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of Education. All community members are

encouraged to attend this meeting to hear this presentation and the subsequent discussion of the Board regarding the issuance of Life Safety bonds. The meeting will take place at the Administrative and Diagnostic Center at 201 E. Glenwood Dyer Road at 7:30 p.m.

The issuance of bonds requires all Boards of Education to follow certain procedures. A public hearing and 30 day waiting period would be required should the Board of Education ultimately decide to approve the issuance of Life Safety Bonds.

Congratulations!

To Jay Blackman for receiving the Illinois Computing Educators (I.C.E.) 2011 Technology Educator of the Year Award.

To all of the students who received awards in the PTA Reflections Program. Over 650 pieces of original art and literary pieces were submitted for this program. Four students will advance to the next level.

To the students and staff at Hickory Bend School and Brookwood Junior High School for receiving the Illinois Spotlight Award for academic

achievement. This is the fifth year in a row that Hickory Bend has received this award.

To the District for receiving an \$85,000 Model Communities Grant which will include monies to purchase fitness equipment and sponsor activities to promote a healthy lifestyle for the community.

To the 8th grade Chess Club for placing 3rd at Regionals and to Emilio Nordengreen for placing 5th at the state level competition.

To the boys' Basketball Team. The 8th grade team finished 4th and 7th grade team finished 2nd in the SSJHSA Conference.

To the junior high Wrestling Team. Eighteen students went to the Regional Tournament at Lincoln Way West. Eighth grader, Daquon McDonald was "seeded" no. 1 with a 15-4 record. James Little, 8th grader, finished 8-7 in his weight class.