

March School Board Meeting

At the March School Board Meeting many items from past meetings were revisited and a number of new items were discussed. School District Attorney Mr. Robert Kohn was present at this month's meeting to discuss options for the sale of the Route 12 property with Board members. The property was recently reappraised at \$4.2 million. The School Board made a decision to sell the property through an open outcry auction. The minimum purchase price will be \$2.8 million. This is where the bidding will begin however it is not the lowest offer that will be accepted. The Board is still able to have a reserve set which will allow them to reject any and all bids that do not meet a certain amount. The reserve amount has not yet been decided.

Registration fees were also discussed at the meeting. The School Board voted and decided to keep registration fees for the 2011-2012 school year at \$150 for the first, \$100 for second child and \$50 each for three or more. Superintendent Ron Pazanin gave an update on the school notification system; there are currently two companies being considered. Within the next few weeks there will be trials for each company. The new system is expected to be in place by the beginning next school year.

Consolidation of districts was also discussed. There is potential grant money available for districts that chose to consolidate. School Board President Vicki Gallichio will meet with Board Presidents at Gavin, Fox Lake, and Grant schools to discuss the possibility of consolidation. As of now, these discussions will be strictly exploratory. Finally, the Board discussed their options for the search for a new superintendent. With the possibility of consolidation, hiring a superintendent with a three year contract may not be the best option. Two other options are hiring two interims for the year, or hiring someone with a one year contract. The interim option is favorable because the individuals can gain additional experience and become familiar with the district. This option is also cost effective because they are not paid benefits. However, hiring interims would result in less continuity. While no definitive decisions were made, the Board does plan to gather additional information on options as well as potential search firms and take steps forward soon.