

# News Release

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## **School Board Reviews, Suggests Changes to Pay-to-Play Policy for Extracurricular Athletics**

INGLESIDE, IL – August 25, 2008 – The Big Hollow School Board has revisited the pay-to-play policy for extracurricular athletics put in place during the 2007-08 school year. With last February's successful referendum garnering the District an influx of cash to hire additional teachers and reinstate cut programs like art, music and computers, the opportunity presented to decrease the 2008-09 activity fees compared to the previous year. At its August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board discussed a proposal to lower activity fees to \$50 per sport per student, with a \$250 cap per family per year. The Board will vote on the measure at its September meeting.

Other highlights of the August 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting included:

- School Board President Vickie Gallichio's introduction of the "Adopt-an-Island Program" as an approach to address upkeep of parking lot "islands" on the Big Hollow campus. Gallichio suggested allowing Big Hollow families, or other school groups such as a specific class or extracurricular organization, to adopt an island to maintain, i.e., perform weed removal, cultivate approved plantings, etc. The campus comprises 13 islands.
- A recap of all post-referendum initiatives, including the hiring of 29 new teachers and a new assistant principal, former 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade teacher Deb Coolidge.
- An announcement that Big Hollow School District will not bus students of St. Bede Catholic School in Ingleside. Busing St. Bede students would require Big Hollow to add a bus at a discounted cost of \$38,720 per year plus fuel. "St. Bede is not willing to pay for a private bus run even with our discounted rates, and Big Hollow can't assume that cost either," noted Board spokesperson Jan Carsella. "St. Bede is not within our District boundaries so any assistance on our part would have been voluntary."

The Big Hollow School Board next meets at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 15 in the Middle School's multipurpose room. As always, the community is invited to attend and provide feedback.