

News Release

School Board Approves Lower Fees for Extracurricular Athletics, Initiates “Adopt-an-Island” Program

INGLESIDE, IL – September 23, 2008 – The Big Hollow School Board voted unanimously at its September 15th regular meeting to reduce fees for extracurricular athletics to \$50 per sport, with a \$250 cap per family per year, effective for the 2008-09 school year. The Board also agreed to annual review of the fee structure.

Meanwhile, the School District’s property at the corner of Routes 12 and 134 remains for sale subsequent to its contingent buyer, Oxford Development Group LLC, opting out of the contract. Nonrefundable “earnest money” paid into escrow by Oxford has been transferred to the District’s operations fund.

The Board also voted in favor of launching the “Adopt-an-Island” program introduced by President Vickie Gallichio at its August meeting. “Adopt-an-Island” allows Big Hollow organizations, clubs, classrooms, staff and families; community organizations; and community members and families to assist in the maintenance of the landscaped areas of the Fish Lake campus by performing weed removal, cultivating approved plantings, and pruning bushes. Many of the areas eligible for “adoption” are parking lot islands, hence the program’s name. A landscape service would charge the District up to \$45,000 per year to perform these services. The Board approved an expenditure up to \$500 for signage to recognize those who participate in the program.

“We hope this program will encourage community participation within the District, while allowing the District to put more dollars in the classroom,” noted Gallichio.

Interested groups or individuals must complete an application to participate in the program. Applications will soon be available in the District office.

Other highlights of the September 15th Board meeting included:

- Superintendent Ron Pazanin’s update on enrollment. As of mid-September, Big Hollow’s enrollment was 1,550.

- Discussion regarding purchase of a District vehicle to be used for multiple functions, including spreading salt during the winter months. The Board subsequently decided to proceed with a special State-sponsored joint purchasing program at a special session on Monday, September 22.

The Big Hollow School Board's next regular meeting is at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 20 in the Middle School's multipurpose room. As always, the community is invited to attend and provide feedback.