

News Release

Board Approves Discounted Registration-Fee Structure for 2009-10 School Year; Hires for Director of Technology Position

INGLESIDE, IL – March 17, 2009 – To mitigate the financial impact of registration fees upon Big Hollow School District families who are feeling the effects of the nationwide recession, the School Board voted unanimously at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 16 to implement a discounted registration-fee structure for the 2009-10 school year. The Board also approved an extension of the registration deadline until July 15.

For 2009-10, the registration-fee structure is as follows:

- Fee for 1st child: \$150 through July 15. \$200 thereafter.
- Fee for 2nd child: \$100 through July 15. \$150 thereafter.
- Fee for each additional child: \$50 through July 15. \$100 thereafter.

Superintendent Ron Pazanin noted that families unable to pay in full by July 15, but who have arranged a payment plan with the District, would not be assessed late charges. Business Manager Mary Taylor indicated that additional payment options are under exploration for implementation this year as well.

Also at its March 16th meeting, the School Board approved the hiring of a new Director of Technology, Todd Wright. Wright brings 25 years of information technology (IT) experience spanning the private and public sectors to his new role. A former School Board member, Wright has ministered to the District's ever-increasing technology needs on a volunteer basis for the last several years.

The District envisions that the Director of Technology will be charged with a number of vital functions, including:

- Ensuring the security and confidentiality of District data, including student and employee records;
- Coordinating the District's technology infrastructure;
- Undertaking necessary systems integration;

- Overseeing the District's official Website and satellite teacher and organizational (e.g., PTO) Websites and addressing Internet safety concerns for Big Hollow students;
- Deploying new technologies, such as bar-coding for the libraries, that will enhance the educational experience;
- Maintaining and managing the life-cycle of hardware and software; and
- Ensuring and supervising adequate IT support staffing.

Other announcements at the March 16th Board meeting:

- MAP testing will take place three times next year, versus two, but in 20- to 25-minute sessions versus 50- to 55-minute sessions. The first round will take place shortly after school begins to establish a baseline to measure each student's progress.
- The hot-lunch program bid process for the 2009-10 school year begins soon. The Board welcomes the input of parents on this topic.
- The Middle School has selected a new reading curriculum. Grade K-5 teachers have narrowed their search to three options and will be attending presentations from those three textbook companies during the upcoming teacher inservice on April 23.
- A meeting to discuss the discipline component of RTI, open to all members of the Big Hollow community, will take place the last week in April. Look for an announcement on date and time shortly.
- Retiring Board member Jan Carsella reflected on how much she has treasured the opportunity to serve for the past eight years and extended her well wishes to the new Board, the composition of which will be determined on Tuesday, April 7 when seven candidates will vie for four open seats.

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