

# News Release

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## **Board Approves 4-H Chapter for Big Hollow; Parent Survey, Recycling Program Are Forthcoming**

INGLESIDE, IL – May 21, 2009 – Big Hollow School District students will have a new extracurricular opportunity as of September 1, 2009, when a 4-H chapter launches here.

At its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 18, the Big Hollow School Board voted unanimously to approve a 4-H club for the District. Students from all grade levels will be eligible to join, with youngsters ages 5-8 participating as “Cloverbuds” before becoming full-fledged 4-H members.

University of Illinois Extension representative Vickie Brown explained to the Board and audience that traditionally, 4-H was more agricultural, but over the years has expanded its offerings to embrace a wide spectrum of interests and activities. Children who participate in 4-H gain life, leadership and citizenship skills. Each participant chooses an area of interest—for example, the visual arts—and works to complete a sequence of projects in that area. A primary emphasis for 4-H currently is SET—Science, Engineering and Technology. The name “4-H” comes from the organization’s pledge, which reads: I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking, my **Heart** to greater loyalty, my **Hands** to larger service, and my **Health** to better living. . . for my club, my community, my country and my world.

Big Hollow parent Kristina Bielak, who brought the proposal for a 4-H chapter to the Board, has agreed to sponsor the organization. She is looking for assistance from interested District parents and may be reached through the District office.

Other announcements at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting:

- Big Hollow parents will receive a survey before the end of the year asking for their input on a variety of issues. Survey results will be one factor guiding School Board discussions during the summer months.
- A new reading curriculum for grades K-5 has been chosen. Negotiations with Scott-Foresman to finalize the purchase are underway.

- A recycling program will roll out at Big Hollow for the 2009-10 school year. Third-grade teacher Carrie Miller is spearheading this initiative and many logistical considerations are currently under investigation. Coming soon to the Elementary and Middle School parking lots: recycling bins designated for paper and paper products that the community may use, too!
- Many parking lot “islands” remain up for adoption through the Adopt-An-Island program. Contact the District office or visit the Website, [www.bighollow.us](http://www.bighollow.us), for more information and an application to help beautify the Fish Lake campus while allowing the District to put more dollars into the classroom.
- The PTO’s “Haircut-a-thon” to benefit Locks of Love took place at Hair Cuttery of Fox Lake on May 17 and was a big success. The event recorded 21 haircuts, including 14 Big Hollow students. Locks of Love uses donated hair to make wigs for children with cancer. The PTO installs their new officers on July 1, 2009.

The Big Hollow School Board’s next meeting takes place at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 15 at the Middle School. As always, the community is invited to attend.