

Community Consolidated School District 15 Board of Education

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Scott B. Thompson, Ed.D.

MISSION STATEMENT

To produce world-class learners
by building a connected learning community.



BOARD BRIEFS: *March 9, 2016, Regular Meeting*

[Meeting Video](#) and [Agenda Attachments](#)

Pledge of Allegiance—Pleasant Hill School: ([Video Clip](#)) David Morris, Pleasant Hill School Principal, introduced members of the school's student council to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Recognition—Spelling Bee Winners: ([Video Clip](#)) Maria McClurkin, Ed.D., Director of Literacy Programs, introduced the spelling bee winners from each school who participated in the District 15 Spelling Bee, which was held January 14 at Walter R. Sundling Junior High.

Student Recognition—Sixth-Grade Winners of the Two-Ball Basketball Championship: ([Video Clip](#)) Kate Arenberg, Fine Arts Coordinator, introduced students who won their divisions of the District 15 Two-Ball Competition held February 9 and 10 at the Palatine Community Center.

Superintendent's Report—Three-Tiered Busing: ([Video Clip](#)) Michael Adamczyk, SFO, Chief Business Official, reported the findings of the District's investigation into the impact of potentially moving from a two-tiered busing schedule to a three-tiered schedule. Shifting to a three-tiered schedule could save the District an estimated \$500,000 a year, as it would require fewer buses, mechanics, drivers, and aides. It could also help the District address service delays that stem from driver shortages, as the District continues to face challenges related to recruiting and retaining enough bus drivers to ensure all of the routes in the District are covered each day.

While a three-tiered schedule would likely result in some students benefitting by receiving more sleep due to later starts to their school day, adding another tier to the schedule could also raise more concerns about students waiting in the dark to catch their buses in the morning, or being dropped off by their buses after dark in the afternoon. Field trips and before- and after-school programs would also be significantly impacted by the change. So would meal times, as students could end up eating lunch as early as 10:30 a.m., and as late as 2 p.m.

Scott Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, noted that conducting this investigation was one of his performance goals for 2015-16. He suggested that further consideration of this potential change be postponed until after the Facilities Plan Committee presents its report to the Board later this spring, as it is working on proposals that could impact transportation and require changes to school schedules and configurations. Dr. Thompson also emphasized that no change to the schedule would be made without consulting parents and community members to ensure they supported the plan.

Resolution—Bond Issuance for Life Safety Projects: ([Video Clip](#)) The Board approved a resolution providing for the issue of up to \$18.4 million of General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2016. These bonds will be used to fund most of the \$27.25 million in life safety projects that the District plans to complete over the 2016 and 2017 summer breaks. These bonds will be issued later this month, and a second series of bonds totaling \$9 million would be issued in February 2017 to fund the rest of the District's plans, which include all of the items in the District's life safety study that must be corrected within one year, as well as some items that must be corrected within five years.

The District is currently scheduled to retire all of its bonded debt in 2023. These bonds will extend the debt levy by an additional four years. The bonds are structured so that they can be paid off as soon as possible, which reduces the total amount of interest the District will have to pay on the bonds, and, therefore, minimizes the cost to the taxpayer.

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On average, the bonds will increase the District's current debt service tax rate in the short term by 2.55 cents per \$100 of EAV. That means the owner of a \$250,000 house will pay approximately \$15 more per year than they are currently paying toward retirement of District debt. This is less than a one percent increase in the District 15 portion of their property tax bill.

Math Grades K-6 and Science Grades 6-8 Materials Adoption: ([Video Clip](#)) As part of its Consent Calendar, the Board approved the adoption of \$1.36 million of new math and science materials. Prior to that action, Dr. Thompson reported that the bid for these materials came in more than \$130,000 under budget. Following a thorough review and pilot of options available through two publishers—Pearson and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt—teachers' top choices for both the math and science materials all came from Pearson. As a result, the Department of Instruction was able to negotiate a discount from Pearson of more than \$700,000 for purchasing them in a bundle.

Citizens Address the Board: No citizens chose to address the Board.

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Walter R. Sundling Junior High School, 1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine.