

Eye On The Board

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Board Highlights September 23, 2008

Reported by Mariann Klinger

Student policy revised to allow easy opting out

Trustees passed without comment the board's policy on the release of student information.

As it stands, district schools will release student information to military recruiters, employers and college representatives. Information that may be released includes a student's name, address, phone number, weight and height of athletes, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and most recent previous school attended.

No information will be released without parent's consent.

Parents must notify the district in writing if they do not want specific information released or if they decline to release the information to certain groups.

Student information, however, is not to be released to news media or private profit-making entities.

The results of the Armed Services Vocational Battery will not be released to recruiting military services.

The policy on the release of student information to the military, colleges and businesses created a stir among trustees and parents at earlier meetings. Excessive military recruiter contact and a 15-day opting out period for parents became the sticking points at past meetings.

The policy changes eliminated the 15-day opting out limit. A new form will allow parents to choose to withhold the release of their student's information at anytime, according to Associate Superintendent **Tim Vanoli**.

With the passage of NCLB, military recruiter access to students was mandated. Parents and some trustees objected to military recruiters seemingly over attention to low-income students.

Some parents and students said recruiters often called in the early morning hours and repeatedly came to homes in an effort to encourage students to sign up.

Managers may switch to personal cell phones

Because of IRS requirements, the district is considering providing managers with cell phone stipends of \$40 monthly, eliminating district cell phones and possibly the walkie-talkies now in use.

The IRS determined that any personal use of district cell phones represents a benefit to the district's 48 managers, as such it must be reported on income tax forms.

If the district converts to personal cell phones, managers must publish their cellular phone number for school business use.

Currently, the district contracts with Nextel for cell phone service and the walkie-talkies. By switching to personal cell phones only, the walkie-talkie service goes too.

Making the change increases district expenditures by \$3347. But if the change is made, the district would lose the walkie-talkies. “We’re reluctant to give up the walkie-talkie capability,” said **James Earhart**, chief business officer. The walkie-talkies were put in place as part of the district’s disaster preparedness plan. “We’re not sure what we will do, but this seems the direction we’re going,” said Earhart.

Policies

(First reading)

- BP 5113.2 – Work Permits
- BP 6178 – Career Technical Education
- BP 6179 – Supplemental Instruction
- BP 1020 – Youth Services
- BP 4032 – Publication or Creation of Materials
- BP 4035 – Non-School Employment
- BP 4061 – Leaves
- BP 4112.24 – Teacher Qualifications Under
No Child Left Behind

(Adopted)

- BP 3311 – Bids
- BP 3514 – Environmental Safety
- BP 3517 – Facilities Inspection
- BP 3550 – Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
- BP 3551 – Food Service Operations/
Cafeteria Fund
- BP 3553 – Free and Reduced-Price Meals
- BP 3554 – Other Food Sales

Consent Agenda

Trustees awarded the contract for the AHS varsity baseball project to the Don Chapin Company by a vote of 5-0. Trustees **Lila Cann** and **Phillip Tabera** were absent for the meeting.

The Chapin Co. was low bidder on the project. The \$409,000 project calls for renovation of the outfield, new backstop, fencing and concrete pads for stadium seating. The project will also include a concrete block wall around the stadium seating, a batting cage, bullpens and dugouts.

Teachers’ Letter Forum

Teachers are invited to send letters-to-the-editor style comments or questions about newsletter topics or other concerns of general interest to the SVFT membership.

All letter writers must be identified and include a phone number.

Letters may be edited for space considerations. Letters can be sent by email to presidents@svft.net