

Williamsville C.U.S.D. #15
April/May 2008 Newsletter

School Board Meetings

The Board of Education will meet on April 21 and May 19. These meetings will begin at 7:00 PM, and will be held at the district office.

From the Superintendent's Desk

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time throughout the months of February and March to come to my school finance informational meetings and/or have visited our website to view my financial podcasts and newsletters. It is imperative that the community is informed and understands the evolution of our financial situation. The steps we are taking to regain our financial footing have been developed to limit the educational impact on our students.

Therefore, as many of you are already aware, the temporary year-to-year solution comes in three forms – budget line item cuts, personnel reductions, and increased user fees. Obviously, no one wants to have any of these occur, but it is unavoidable and necessary to meet the minimum expectations of balancing a yearly budget.

Please remember that a yearly district budget and the overall district fund balances are two different things. For example, our district has been experiencing overall declining fund balances because we have been running deficit yearly budgets. Hence, our first step for next year seems pretty simple - stop spending more money than we are taking in. Since our revenue stream from property tax and General State Aid is less than what our committed expenditures and increasing costs are, the district has to take action into its own hands by making tough internal decisions.

This would be just like at home if your paycheck was not covering your monthly expenses or you depended on cash advances to make it through a pay cycle - instead of buying brand name goods you buy generic, cut coupons, sell off an extra vehicle, cancel your cable, cut the frills, etc. On the revenue side, you would ask the boss for a raise or find a second job. In addition, if you owned rental property, you would be forced to raise the rent.

This analogy applies directly to our situation. It is important to understand because regardless of what I say or what people believe, when looking at the Williamsville School District - three facts remain:

- 1) We are viewed as a premier school district, where people value education;
- 2) It is increasingly more expensive to maintain the quality programs we offer;
- 3) In order to meet the first two facts listed above, the school district is borrowing NEXT year's tax money to pay THIS year's bills.

Although it is never easy to ask the users of the school to pay more in fees, it is the only immediate revenue stream that the district can control. As approved by the Board at our March Board Meeting, ***the increased fees will be in effect at the start of the 2008-2009 registration cycle.***

User Fee	2007-08	2008-09
Registration & Textbook Rental	\$75	\$150
Athletic Fee	\$50	\$100 *
Extra-Curricular Fee	\$0	\$20 **
Elementary Activity Pass	\$20	\$30
Junior High Activity Pass / Yearbook	\$40	\$50
High School Activity Pass	\$35	\$40
Adult Activity Pass	\$50	\$75
Athletic Admission Increase \$1 & Seniors	\$3 / \$2 / \$0	\$4 / \$3 / \$1
Facility Use by Outside Groups	\$50	\$75
LLCC & LTEC Courses	\$100	\$150
Student Parking Sticker	\$0	\$25
JH / HS Band – Chorus Fee	\$24	\$30
JH / HS Courses with Labs	\$24	\$30
JH / HS Graduation Fee	\$25	\$50

* Multiple participation reductions still apply

** Groups requiring paid sponsors

As always, I would encourage families who cannot afford the fee increases to please apply for free and reduced lunches. If a family qualifies, all fees are waived. These forms will be available during registration. Also, it is important to remember that all required student fees over \$250 can be claimed as a tax deduction.

I continue to encourage all community members to view my two financial podcasts on our website at www.wcusd15.org. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at 566-2014.

Lunch Expenses: Be sure to apply for Free or Reduced Lunches!

Did you know that the Williamsville School District is now part of the State and National School Lunch Program? What this means to you is that the high quality of lunch does not change, but the **families within the school district who qualify for free or reduced lunch will receive the financial benefit of saving money on their children's (Type A) lunches.** In addition, the school district will be able to receive reimbursements for every free and reduced lunch, as well as any paid lunch. This is important information to know because this program will be able to save the school district money while benefiting families in our community who qualify for free and

reduced lunches! Currently, we offer free lunches to those who financially qualify, but we now are able to offer reduced prices for others who didn't previously qualify for free lunches. All you have to do is apply! We are on a simple campaign to notify parents of students who might qualify for these benefits and encourage them to submit an application. Forms are available in the district office and at each of the school's main offices. In addition, to make the application process as easy as possible, we have made the forms available on our district website. Please visit our website at www.wcusd15.org and download an application to see if you qualify. Once approved, your child's account will reflect their status within our computer system and this information is confidential.

Last Weeks of School

Monday, May 26: no school – Memorial Day; **Tuesday, May 27:** regular day; **Wednesday, May 28:** regular day; **Thursday, May 29:** regular day; **Friday, May 30:** early dismissal – Sherman 1:45PM, Williamsville 2:15PM; **Monday, June 2:** no school –teachers' institute; **Tuesday, June 3:** report card day

New Principal at Sherman Elementary School

The Williamsville School District is pleased to announce that Mrs. Janis Lindsey will be the principal at Sherman Elementary School beginning August 1, 2008. Mrs. Lindsey came to Illinois from Missouri in 1988. She attended Sangamon State University, receiving her undergraduate degree in May 1991. She was a substitute teacher for District 186 for two years. In 1993, she began working for the Williamsville School District teaching third grade. During her tenure, she has taught upper elementary grades, provided remedial services and gifted services. She is currently the school's assistant principal. Mrs. Lindsey received her Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Illinois Springfield in 2001. Mrs. Lindsey and her family, husband Kevin and children, Tess and Josh, live in rural Sherman.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Prairie State Achievement Exams

The Prairie State Achievement Exams will be held on April 23 and 24, for all juniors. All juniors will take the American College Test (ACT) on April 23. All juniors will report to the cafeteria on April 21, at 1:15PM, to fill out preliminary paperwork for the testing program. Please do not schedule vacations or doctor appointments on these three days.

Advanced Placement Exams

Advanced Placement Exams will be held on May 7, 8 and 9, from 8:00AM -12:00PM, each day. The A.P. calculus exam will be held on May 7, the A.P. literature exam will be held on May 8, and the A.P. U.S. history exam will be held on May 9.

Senior Awards Night

Senior Awards Night will be held on May 13, at 7:00PM, in the high school cafeteria. PSAE Achievement Awards and Illinois State Scholar Awards will be presented. Scholarship recipients will be announced. The Williamsville State Bank Student of the Year will be announced. All seniors and their families are encouraged to attend.

National Honor Society

Congratulations to the students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on March 6. These students demonstrate outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The 2008 inductees are: Chase Alexander, Katherine Barrett, Cassandra Clark, Samantha Dees, Danielle Dow, Chelsea Dreher, Hannah Durchholz, Matthew Goetsch, Jenna Hansen, Krista Hardy, Katelyn Lazar, Jake McNamara, Colton Meyers, Zach Mierzejewski, Chelsea Nichols, Katherine Ripka, Kathleen Rump, Ashley Smith, Taylor Smith, Joseph Staats, Austin Stake, Gary Stover, and Hannah Zara.

Youth & Government

Williamsville High School students participated in the Illinois YMCA Youth and Government 59th Assembly on March 14-16. This year was a great success, with 46 student delegates attending in various roles. Tori Alexander served as editor of the *Observer*, overseeing a newspaper staff that included several WHS students. Many WHS students also served as legislators, and worked hard to get their legislation passed through committee and in both houses of the Assembly. Some of their bills are awaiting the signature of the youth Governor. Mitch Gaffney did a great job as Clerk of the House, and two WHS lobbyists, Chelsea Nichols and Katelyn Lazar, were chosen "Most Effective Lobbyist" in their respective committees. Four student attorneys worked in teams to prepare both written briefs and oral arguments for an appeal, and our pages kept information flowing throughout the capitol for the weekend. Great job to all the students involved! Thanks again to the parents, community members, and all the village boards for supporting our fundraising activities throughout the school year. Special thanks to Barb Sullivan, who began the program at WHS 23 years ago and fostered its success ever since. We will really miss you next year, Mrs. Sullivan! We are looking forward to the 60th Assembly in 2009, and the Youth in Government program is seeking mailing or e-mail addresses of former participants. If anyone would like to know more about the program, please see the website <http://www.ilymcayg.org/about/> or contact Tonia Faloon-Sullivan at faloon@wcusd15.org

Scholastic Bowl

The 2007-2008 scholastic bowl season ended with a 34-10 varsity record and a 19-4 junior varsity record. Honors included winning the Sangamon County championship for the first time in more than 15 years, placing 3rd at the Masonic Regional and placing 2nd for varsity, 3rd for junior varsity at the Riverton Octangular tournament. Individuals who were singled out for all-tournament recognition during the season were varsity teammates Kurt Fowler, Colin Ryan and Jonathan Sisti, as well as, junior varsity (and sometimes varsity) player Joseph Staats. In addition to these honors, both senior Jonathan Sisti and junior Kurt Fowler were two of the six players named to the all-sectional team this season. Many, many thanks go to our team's parents and our supporters in our

communities for their assistance in making our first ever trivia night fundraiser a big success.

2008 Prom

At the Stroke of Midnight is the theme for this year's prom hosted by the Williamsville High School Class of 2009. The event will be on Saturday, May 3, at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. The dance begins at 8:00PM, and ends at 11:00PM. The public is invited to attend promenade for this year's prom at Williamsville High School at 4:30PM. Coronation will take place at the conclusion of promenade. Doors will open at 3:30PM.

2008 Graduation

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2008 will be held on Sunday, May 18, at 2:00PM. The ceremony will be held at Sangamon Auditorium at the UIS campus. Family and friends are welcome to attend. A professional photographer will be at the ceremony to take pictures of the graduates.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Sangamon County Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the following students who represented WJHS in their grade level competitions at the Sangamon County Spelling Bee on February 20, in Pawnee: 6th grade – Dalton Andring, Mackenzie Sanner, and Mary Walden (alternate); 7th grade – Curtis Clark, Calvin Walter, and Regan Stump (alternate); 8th grade – Drew Kluemke, Hailey McNamara, and Ellen Swinford (alternate). They represented WJHS well, and we are proud of them all! Drew Kluemke was a finalist in the 8th grade competition and advanced to the Regional Competition on Saturday, March 8, where he finished in second place! Congratulations on a fine showing, Drew!

Spring Pictures

The school is offering another picture day. These pictures are taken in a more casual setting with a different back drop. At the junior high, only those students who return a picture packet on April 7 will have their picture taken. The picture packets are in the office and they must be given to the photographer on the day of pictures.

8th Grade Graduation

The graduation ceremony for 8th grade students will be held on Friday, May 23, at 7:30PM, at the junior high school. Each student in the 8th grade class will be given seven tickets to distribute to family and friends.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Market Day

Scheduled Market Day pick-ups for the remainder of the year are April 1, April 29 and May 27.

Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart

The P.E. Department would like to thank everyone who participated in raising money for the American Heart Association. These two events combined for a grand total of \$27,233.83. Sherman Elementary is ranked 8th nationally in total funds raised for the American Heart Association, putting us in the upper half of the top 1% in the country. Great job, everyone! The American Heart Association appreciates your support of their cause.

Elementary Spring Concert Dates

April 14 – Third grade music program

April 17 – Fourth grade music program

Both programs will begin at 7:00PM, and will be held in the Fine Arts Auditorium at the junior high school.

SPORTS NEWS

JH Softball Tryouts

There will be tryouts for girls' softball July 28, 29, and 30 at the softball diamond located behind the football field. Girls entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are eligible to try out. Tryouts for 6th and 7th graders will begin at 3:00PM, and end at 4:30PM. Tryouts for 8th graders will begin at 4:30PM, and end at 6:00PM. Tryouts will be closed, so please drop your child off at the field and pick her up at the assigned time. We do this to keep all players focused on their coaches. Remember, players who do not have a current physical within the last year will not be able to participate in tryouts.

JH Baseball Tryouts

Baseball tryouts for boys entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are scheduled for August 4, 5, and 6, from 4:00-6:00PM, each day. Tryouts will be held at the baseball diamond located behind the football field. Remember, players who do not have a current physical within the last year will not be able to participate in tryouts.

FINE ARTS NEWS

2008 New Berlin Art Fair Award Winners

WHS had a great showing at the New Berlin Art Show. Twenty nine students chose to participate in the fair and they sent a total of 78 works, of which 39 received awards. Students enter in many different categories in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography, digital photography, computer art, and sculpture. Twenty-two of the 29 students who participated received awards. First place winners were: Kelsie Coonrod – printmaking & ceramic pottery (raku pottery), Greg Harpring – pencil architecture drawing, Karli McGrath – pastel landscape, Maggie Mergen – weaving, Aaron Wilson – sculpture, Belle Palazzolo – watercolor still life, Jared Hayward – acrylic landscape painting, and Kelsie Smith – watercolor landscape. Second place winners were: Paige Davenport – acrylic landscape painting, Maggie Mergen – ceramic pottery, Lydia Holdman – color pencil drawing & painting, Will Heidorn – color pencil drawing, Tara Proctor – watercolor still life, C.J. Miller – painting, and Aubry Letterly – printmaking. Third place winners were: Paige Davenport – color pencil drawing, Will Heidorn – painting, and Ashley Davis – printmaking. Fourth place winners were: Paige Davenport – pastel landscape, Maggie Mergen – ceramic pottery (raku pottery), Ashton Oltmanns – acrylic landscape painting, and Will Heidorn – acrylic still life painting. Fifth place winners were: Kelsie Coonrod - acrylic landscape painting & photography, Greg Harpring – pastel landscape, and Lydia Holdman – watercolor still life. Students receiving honorable mention were: Kelsie Coonrod – drawing, Ryan Redenius – pastel landscape, Lydia Holdman – painting, Paige Luker – watercolor still life & watercolor landscape, Bryon Tompkins – digital photography, digital art, & photography, Jake Valasek – photography, Jared Hayward – drawing, Aaron Felix – watercolor, and Haley Claycomb – ceramics.

WJHS Musical Theater Class to Present *Annie Jr.*

On Friday, May 9, the junior high musical theater class will present *Annie Jr.* at the District Fine Arts Center. The performance begins at 7:00PM. Admission for adults is \$3, students \$2, and 5 and under are free. Sorry, no activity passes will be accepted.

Congratulations to WJHS Art Students

Once again, the WJHS art students had a wonderful showing at the New Berlin Art Fair. WJHS students took all the awards in acrylic painting – Daniel Heidorn – 1st place, Charlotte Lipp – 2nd place, Leah Levin – 3rd place, Sarah Stover – 4th place, Taylor Hardy – 5th place, Regan Stump – honorable mention, and Anthony Moscardelli – honorable mention. WJHS also took all awards in 3 dimensional pottery – Brooke Keenan – 1st place, Katie Crouse – 2nd place, and Robert Konzelmann – 3rd place. Junior high students received first place in every category entered. Ryan Hortberg received 1st place in jewelry. Kyle Jones received first place in photography. Robert Konzelmann received first place in still life drawing. Laura Kilbury received first place in felt tip drawing. In 3 dimensional ceramic sculpture, Katie Fowler was first, Kylie Walsh 4th, and Anna Butterfield 5th. Please congratulate these students on a job well done. Their hard work and dedication represented our school in outstanding style in the arts.

JH Chorus News

Chorus students need to be aware of their upcoming performances and required attire. These performances are mandatory. Please let Mrs. Cole know as soon as possible if you expect to have a conflict with any of these dates. Spring Fine Arts Night is Tuesday, April 15. The art show begins at 6:00PM, in the cafeteria. The chorus will sing at 6:30PM, in the fine arts gym with the band performing at 7:30PM. Chorus students will meet in Mrs. Cole's room at 6:00PM, for warm-up. Students need to dress nicely (NO JEANS OR TENNIS SHOES, BOYS SHOULD WEAR A TIE IF POSSIBLE). The sixth grade chorus, seventh and eighth grade chorus, and Boppin' Bee Bees will be performing. Organizational Contest for seventh and eighth grade chorus is Friday, April 25, with times to be announced soon. We will be taking a bus to PORTA Junior/Senior High School for this event. Students MUST wear black on bottom (pants, skirt, etc) and white on top. Boys should wear a tie (color does not matter). Shoes should be black as well, if possible. Girls should pull their hair back so it is not in their faces, and jewelry should be kept to a minimum. This is our "uniform" and judges do take points off for not following protocol. The public may attend the performance, which is held in the auditorium. The IESA does, however, charge admission.

"Senior" Prom

Williamsville High School sociology class and jazz band present their tenth 'Senior' Prom for senior citizens at the Sherman United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 31, from 7:00-10:00PM. Doors open at 6:30PM. The jazz band will perform along with Jane Hartman, Don Udey, Steve Thorne, Gene Haas, and Jenny Carter Brennan. We are expecting some special university guest performers who were former WHS jazz band members, since this will be our final 'Senior' Prom. 'Seniors' can expect a night of incredible dance music. The Jane Hartman Trio is also set to perform on the jazz band's breaks. We will be honoring all our veterans, along with some special guests. Call Dave Carter or Dave Pruitt at WHS (566-3361) for information, or call the following Williamsville State Bank & Trust locations to make a reservation: Williamsville – 566-3387; Sherman – 496-2383; Springfield – 698-6355. Reservations are not required for attendance but assist us in planning.