



# BOARD ROOM NEWS

## EXCITING TIMES FOR SBCSC

The Board of School Trustees is proud to report that the **graduation rates** in all 4 high schools have greatly improved. We congratulate our students, teachers and principals for their achievement. It took a concentrated effort over many years to realize these gains. Several years ago, the Board committed to a reorganization plan of primary centers, intermediate centers, and established magnets and smaller learning communities. This commitment enabled the corporation to focus on meeting the needs of individual students. While change is difficult, it can also be rewarding and the Board appreciates the teachers' support and their dedication. You made it happen!!

|            | 2009 | 2008 |
|------------|------|------|
| Adams      | 78.4 | 68.6 |
| Clay       | 82.1 | 74.3 |
| Riley      | 73.9 | 62.3 |
| Washington | 83.1 | 69.0 |

**The 8 Step Process**, which is known to improve achievement regardless of race, sex or poverty levels has been implemented in 10 schools. Every Board member has adopted one of these schools to show our support for principals and staff who have embraced changes that will help students succeed. The principals, staff, and Board members (Stephanie Spivey and Marcia Hummel) attended the week long training and the excitement over this process is becoming contagious!

The Board approved a grant for **Dickinson Intermediate Fine Arts Academy** in the amount of \$10,000 for Arts in Education, and \$112,141 to provide technology in the classrooms to meet instructional needs. You will soon see the artwork from these exceptional programs at the South Bend Regional Airport thanks to Carol Levee, Magnet Coordinator. I'm sure you will be impressed with the students' ability and artwork.

**Kennedy Academy** has been named a **Four Star School** and has been nominated to become a **Blue Ribbon School**. To earn this distinction, a school must be fully accredited, meet AYP as defined by No Child Left Behind and perform in the top 25 percent of all schools in the state. We are very proud of the Kennedy students and staff.


**Riley High School** has received a **\$300,000 grant** for improving student achievement, math and reading through technology. The technology magnet at Riley is outstanding! We hope that the business community takes time to visit and see the talent of our Riley students who will soon be entering the workforce.

The Board has approved application for the **"Race to the Top Grant."** This could not have happened without a team effort from the teachers union. While this is only the start of the process, SBCSC could receive an estimated 5 million dollars. The grant is based on building data systems to measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve practices, turning around struggling schools, adopting international standards, and recruiting and retaining and rewarding effective teachers and principals.

On a daily basis, board members serve on many committees other than the SBCSC board. However, I would like to **acknowledge several board members** who devoted time to "Coats for Kids." Thank you Bill Sniadecki, Dawn Jones, Stephanie Spivey and Roger Parent. Your efforts to go the "extra mile" during the busy holiday season were appreciated.

The SBCSC **funding has been reduced** by 4.5% or approximately six and a half million dollars due to the fact that the state did not receive expected revenues. In the near future, the Board and administration will address budget strategies that will enable us to live within our means and still provide a quality education. Fortunately, the Board was aware of the probable financial impact of property caps and new expenditures were kept to a minimum. While many new and exciting items were discussed such as New Tech, Alternative School, Career Center and facility upgrades, the Board had a fiduciary responsibility not to spend money that might not be available in 2010. It is now a fact that revenues have been reduced and that cuts rather than additions will have to be made.

*Thanks to all—parents, teachers, staff, board—for making it all possible.*

  
Marcia M. Hummel, President  
SBCSC Trustee