February 11, 2005

The February 9th Board of Education meeting began with two (2) elementary student presentations. The first was done by Jonathan Sperring who asked that the Board consider putting a slushy machine in the Elementary School cafeteria. The Board referred this to Yvonne Forget, Director of Food Service, for consideration. The second presentation was done by Oona Quinn. Oona asked that the Board consider having Elementary School students wear uniforms. The Board asked that she work with Ms. Ressler to survey the Elementary School students on this issue and report back her findings.

Under the consent agenda, the following coaching assignments were approved:

Jeffery VanHoover – Varsity Boys Track
Carl Comstock – JV Boys Track
Mary Freischlag – Varsity Girls Track
Kathryn Taylor – JV Girls Track
Jessica Alexander – Junior High Boys Track
Diane Osborn – Junior High Girls Track
Brian Steurys – Varsity Baseball
Harry Halldon – JV Baseball
William Mitchell – Junior High Baseball
David DeGroote – Varsity Softball
Scott Kingsbury – JV Softball
Jeffrey White – Junior High Softball
Kevin Delehanty – Tennis
Mark Cottrell – Golf

Also under this section of the agenda, the Board approved the Extraclassroom Activity Fund audit. The Board expressed pleasure that all of the recommendations from the previous year had been addressed.

Under Reports to the Board, High School student representative Emily Bixby reported on the Winter Pep Rally and the Spirit Week activities that preceded the rally. The seniors are now in first place collecting spirit points for the year.

Under Old Business, the Board approved the second reading of several policies and the elimination of one policy. It adopted agreements for the strategic planning session this summer and asked if the work session could be scheduled for the last week of July. The Board also reviewed an outline of materials to be included in a packet to be given to prospective Board members. The entire packet will be considered for approval at the next board meeting.

During the budget work session, the Superintendent shared information on the undistributed section of the budget. This section will increase by $339,000 or 11.5% from last year. Some items included in this section are teacher retirement costs, workman’s compensation insurance and medical insurance premiums, all of which have increased well above the cost of living. Retirement system contributions have increased
over 40% from last year. These rates are set by the state and therefore are not able to be cut from the budget.

The Superintendent also reviewed an alternative for purchasing district buses. The new plan recognizes the fact that the state will repay the aid for buses over five (5) years rather than in the next fiscal year. Because of this, the district will need to borrow money for a short term. All of the money borrowed will be repaid with the state aid received and money from a reserve fund. This means that no cost will be passed through the budget and on to the taxpayers.

After reviewing upcoming meetings, the Board recessed into executive session.