

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS
SUMMARY OF THE BATAVIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 101
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 10, 2012
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A Special Meeting of the Board of Education entitled the *Listening Post* was held at Louise White School. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Listening Post

Associate Superintendent Romanek facilitated the second Listening Post in which audience members were asked to respond to three questions. This is a chance for Board Members to hear from the community. They will listen but not engage in a dialog. Audience members responded to the following questions:

1. What are the greatest challenges or issues this school district has to address over the next five years in order to provide a quality education for all students?

- Elimination of Building Trades program; could consolidate with area schools. Putting too much towards Honors and A.P.
- All challenges stem from finances; district has to stretch dollars and do more with less.
- Not enough equality between full day and half day kindergarten. Some students need more time.
- Too many days off; need more classroom time
- Get back to a more moderate class size at every grade level.
- Why is the high school and middle school on early warning academic status?
- Too many students in classrooms and no aides; reduce class size – each class has 10 too many students
- Classrooms too crowded, affects holiday parties, curriculum and too much noise
- School calendar – too many days off and 4 day weeks. Possible year around school?
- Block scheduling is not good.
- At Risk and Early Childhood programs, the earlier the intervention the better
- Retirements – many good teachers will be lost, hire mix of new and experienced teachers
- Challenge students “on the bubble” at their level.
- Not consistent in grading homework and make-up assignments at BHS.
- Raise fees for activities but don’t eliminate
- Report cards hard to understand
- Curriculum is available online as well as textbooks, resources, quizzes. Make sure the technology we are paying for is successful
- Consistent use of Power School and Google Docs
- Have to work together to come up with solutions.

2. What evidence do you use to evaluate the quality of education in our schools?

- Dollars per student – are we spending enough on the right things? Other districts spend a lot less with better outcomes. What are they doing that we are not?
- Maintain older buildings like J. B. Nelson.
- Be proactive with services for At-Risk and Early Childhood students.
- How do test scores affect home values, foreclosures, potential new residents?
- Feel the quality of instruction is reduced in kindergarten; so crowded teachers can't get around the room. Half day kindergartners are getting gyped.
- More recognition of student achievement. Hard to do with 30 kids in a classroom.
- Hire aides/parapros to assist in classrooms.
- How and when should we assess students? Should we move to trimesters at elementary level?
- Comprehensive programming for the arts, Building Trades, ELL, etc.
- All kids should have same opportunities in half and full day kindergarten.

3. How do you receive information about Batavia Public School District 101?

- Like Backpack Mail, Power School, Messenger, and emails from principals
- Transparency and ease of access on website. Location of approved minutes may be hard to find as well as the calendar of Board meetings.
- Use parents to test whether website is user friendly.
- Need induction for new families and kindergarten parents in the district
- Need for fewer, more consistent communication tools
- Like the Listening Posts, BIC meetings and high school daily announcements
- What to do with parents who don't have access to Messenger, etc. Unhappy that they did not receive printed copy of student's report card
- Follow-up or forum on Race To Nowhere

The Board of Education adjourned at 8:33 p.m.