

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
May 12, 2004

Health Insurance

I have been working very hard with the EAI to minimize the impact of increases in cost related to health insurance. The renewal of our current plan came back with a 12+% increase in rates. The average of renewals industry-wide is 15%. Even though we were "below average" (which is GOOD thing in this case), I still wanted to talk to the union about invoking a higher deductible. The current labor contract allows the Superintendent to raise the current \$100 deductible to as much as \$500. Before doing so, I reviewed the pricing structure of several options. I found that if we raised the deductible to \$300 AND increased the prescription drug co pay from \$10/\$20/\$35 to \$20/\$30/\$50, the rates would be a smidge lower than raising the deductible alone to \$500. After consulting the EAI, it was my decision to go with the \$300 deductible and the higher co pays. We also will be offering an HMO for the first time in a while. Plus, we are adding a high-deductible plan with a health reimbursement account (HRA) similar to the village's new plan. Until employees select which plan they want to participate in, we will not know how much will be saved. However, we do know that by changing the deductible and co pays the single rate increased by only 6%. 90% of our employees take single coverage. For every employee who takes the HMO or the high deductible, the rate increase will be even less. This should save us at least \$16,000-\$20,000 over project benefit costs.

Dedicating the Benson Gymnasium

The staff at Benson wish to honor Keith Nakashian by naming their gymnasium in his honor and by beautifying the Character Counts! Garden at Benson. Parents and community members have expressed an interest in supporting this effort. I did not want the staff to proceed with consensus from the Board for the renaming to go forward.

Spring Events

Many school events have occurred this spring. Fine arts are alive and well in Itasca! Consult you district calendar for future upcoming events.

Graduation

Graduation will be held on June 1, 2004 at Lake Park East at 7:00 PM. We hope all Board of Education members can attend.

