



Are you Connect-Ed to your child's school?

The August 26th welcome back to school phone call that parents received from Superintendent Dr. David Behlow served two purposes. First, it reminded parents and students that the following day was the first day of school. Secondly, it served as a test for the district's new parent communication system.

District 308 recently contracted with the Connect-Ed company for the new automated system. The system allows the district to communicate with parents by phone and email.

For the past two years the district contracted with another vendor for a similar service. However, unlike the previous system, Connect-Ed will be used for both emergency and informational messages and parents will no longer need to manage their own user accounts. The new system is directly connected to the district's student information system; and the system updates changes nightly. That way, if a student's phone number is updated by school staff on Tuesday and there is a snow day on Wednesday, the

system will call the updated number.

When a message is sent, the system logs the information and reports if and how that message was received by each intended recipient. The report will tell the school/district if the call was received by a person or answering machine; if the line was busy or if there was a bad number. This will allow school personnel to follow up on any incorrect numbers to ensure students' information is updated.

However, it is extremely important that parents inform their child's school of any changes to their contact information. That way, parents will be sure to receive any emergency messages.

Beyond emergencies, the system can also be used to call specific groups with informational messages—such as the message from Dr. Behlow. Administrators at each school have the ability to develop their own target groups and send messages that best address the needs of their students and parents.

Student Code of Conduct expands its reach

The Code of Conduct that governed last year's high school athletics teams has been expanded to ensure high school students in co-curricular activities are also held to the same standards of behavior.

High school students possessing tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs can face serious consequences, even if the behavior is witnessed off district property or while school is not in session. Students arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance or hosting a party at which those substances are present may receive a one-year suspension from extra-curricular activities.

Holding students/athletes accountable for their behavior provides them with the opportunity to say no to drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure. The new policy also provides students/athletes an opportunity to reduce their penalty if they take responsibility for their actions and complete a district-approved counseling program.

By the Numbers...

The First Day of School:

- 15,603 District 308 students as of the first day of school
- 2 new school openings (Traugher Junior High and Southbury Elementary)
- 5 new school principals
- 190 new employees beginning the 2008-09 school year
- 290 total bus routes
- \$132,867,955 proposed operating budget for 2008-09 school year

Going green means Board meetings can now be heard online

In an effort to be more open to the public, Oswego Community Unit School District's Board of Education will no longer produce paper copies of the Board of Education meeting agendas.

The agendas and all back up materials will be available online by clicking on the BoardDocs button on the home page of the district's Web site (www.oswego308.org).

The new electronic system, called BoardDocs, offers many features that allow the district to become more open and transparent with the public and provide for greater accountability. In addition, going paperless will not only reduce paper waste, but reduce the district's carbon footprint (packets will no longer be driven throughout the community for delivery) while saving money and time.

Each Board member will use a laptop at the meeting to view the agenda and easily access all back-up materials. Board votes will also be taken electronically and the

results will be displayed on a projection screen. The public will be able to view the agenda and presentation materials on the screen as well.

The BoardDocs system also has a helpful search feature. By using the search feature, an individual will be able to easily research a topic from past meetings at which the BoardDocs system was used. The system will search the past meetings and list any meetings at which that keyword was recorded. Then individuals can click on the meeting and agenda item they would like to review and hear a voice recording of that portion of the meeting.

District 308 is extremely pleased to be able to add this type of transparency to its Board meetings while simultaneously helping the environment. BoardDocs was used for the first time at the August 11 Board meeting.

During its August meetings, the Board of Education:

- Approved the annual Intergovernmental agreements with Oswego Police and Fire Departments for their services
- Approved the Superintendent's/District's 2008-09 Action Plan
- Approved the 2008-09 food service contract with Aramark at an increase of 4%
- Approved the Students Rights and Responsibilities and High School Athletic and Extra-Curricular Codes of Conduct
- Approved Pamela Jensen as principal of Bednarcik Junior High School
- Formally opposed the purchase of the EJ&E Railway
- Revised Policies 2:200 and 2:220 allowing for electronic Board meetings and vote taking at those meetings

Click the BoardDocs link on www.oswego308.org to access additional Board of Education meeting information.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

- Sept. 8 Curriculum Committee
9:00 a.m. / Administration Center
- Finance Committee
5:45 p.m. / Administration Center
- Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S.
- Growth, Facilities & Enrollment
7:00 p.m. / Administration Center
- Sept. 9 Policy Committee
6:00 a.m. / Administration Center
- Personnel Committee
6:30 a.m. / Administration Center
- Sept. 15 Growth Committee
6:00 a.m. / Administration Center
- Sept. 22 Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S.

