

of a School Quality Review conducted at Homecroft Elementary, chronology of the Review from implementation, and a copy of the training materials provided to all participants of the Review.

Tom Watkins, Director, Research Evaluation & Assessment, presented Essential Effort 3-B, "How We Enable Schools," by focusing on several different perspectives - teacher accountability, and student accountability. Ms. Kong-Thao requested test materials that she can review, and then meet with staff working in that area for further discussion to gain a better understanding of the test process. (Copies of this information will be made available to committee members in their update packets). Ms. Street-Stewart requested at future Parent Information Fairs providing computers that allow parents access to information regarding test scores, etc. at different schools. Dr. Harvey remarked that would be possible and parents could view the different school report cards to compare their achievement with similar schools. Ms. Street-Stewart commented the Board's subcommittees would be setting-up future meetings to discuss these types of issues.

Linda Garrett, Assistant Director, Title I & Funded Programs, presented "How We Support Schools" through the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Ms. Garrett commented the district provides support to all schools, but would limit her discussion to those schools identified as "needs improvement" under NCLB. She commented NCLB Standards apply to all schools but consequences apply only to Title I schools. Ms. Garrett discussed the support services given by the district, and the Minnesota Department of Education to schools needing improvement (funded programs). She explained the five –year timeline and consequences for schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Ms. Garrett discussed the recently released Federal guidelines creating flexibility for students with disabilities, Special Education (S.E.), English Language Learners (ELL), participation rate, and flexibility for teachers to demonstrate that they are highly qualified. In particular, rural teachers, science teachers, and current multi-subject teachers.

Betty Holz-Bergmann, Assistant Director, Human Resources (HR), presented a report on what the department is doing to support the district schools under the No Child Left Behind Act. She talked about the department's focus on ensuring that the district employs highly-qualified teachers, and paraprofessionals who must meet the definition of "highly qualified" by January 2006.

Copies of these (Action Plan Strategy #3 (Accountability) reports were previously distributed to Committee members in their update packets. Copies of the Human Resources Report were distributed during the COB meeting.

Discussion followed. Committee members asked questions on specific areas of the reports which administrative staff answered or will provide further information.

2. Welcoming New Immigrants Statement

Ms. Street-Stewart read the Welcoming New Immigrants Statement draft prepared by Committee members.

Discussion followed. Suggestions were made by individual committee members to revise word(s) or statements in the draft that were accepted.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Ms. Carter that the Committee of the Board recommend the Board of Education approve the following statement:

The Saint Paul Board of Education extends a warm welcome to all students and families, including immigrants, and refugees who have and continue to choose Saint Paul as their home. With over a hundred schools and programs providing opportunities for children and adults, Saint Paul Schools offer a premier education for all. Regardless of the choices families make, learners will have opportunities for high achievement, meaningful connections, and a respectful learning environment. Saint Paul Public Schools looks forward to doing everything we can to support all our new students as we welcome them to Saint Paul.

Motion Passed.

3. Work Session

Topics to be discussed:

- Distribution of graduation ceremonies

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. by Ms. Street-Stewart, Committee Chair.

Respectfully submitted by
Diana J. Sanders
Recorder
Saint Paul Board of Education