

WBOE Community Communications and Relations Committee
Spotlight on Education Submission – September 2008

We welcome our students and staff back to school and the start of the 2008-09 school year. The classrooms are again filled with energy and the playing fields, school clubs and organizations are actively recruiting and engaging our students. *Spotlight on Education* will again start publishing monthly as a forum to address questions from the community, and to highlight particular initiatives and accomplishments of Woodstock's students. We encourage parents and citizens to send your questions and ideas to asktheboard@woodstockschoools.net. We will try to address as many topics as possible.

The Woodstock Board of Education met in August to set its agenda for the year. With a guiding priority of advancing student achievement, the Board suggested action steps for each of its five goals:

1. Promote measurable academic improvement while challenging each student to reach their full potential.
2. Develop well rounded and creative citizens by promoting and assessing their physical, social and mental well- being
3. Promote the alignment of curriculum K-12
4. Improve student achievement through continuing improvement of quality instruction
5. Encourage community ownership of the Woodstock Public Schools.

Board members considered many possible actions towards advancement of these goals, discussed challenges, and identified where responsibility will lie for next steps. Our perspective benefited from citizen input. As board members, we recognize that, in order to achieve continuous improvement in student success in our district, our actions and responsibilities have to move beyond the still valid but entrenched problems of inadequate funding, energy and wage inflation, and the challenges of the No Child Left Behind federal requirements. At our September meeting we plan to prioritize and finalize our targeted actions for the year. A draft summary of proposed actions can be found on the school's website and is incorporated in our minutes of August 29, 2008 (www.woodstockschoools.net/board.htm).

Our schools are made stronger by the active involvement of our parents and citizens. Regular monthly meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the WMS, and citizens' comments are welcome. Our superintendent, Dr. Baran, is readily available and can be reached at 928-7453. We look forward to a busy and productive year.