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NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

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District 203 Board recognizes Nationally Certified Teachers

Nine Naperville District 203 teachers were recently recognized for earning national board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Honored at the Feb. 22 Board of Education meeting were: Sharon Ferrari, Highlands; Sandra Frost, Kennedy; John Garrison, Scott; Lynn Henz, Elmwood; Todd Keating, Mary Beth Losch and Angela Matteson, River Woods; Jennifer Nekolny, Jefferson; and Susan Tarson, Scott.

Also honored were Ann Hill, Prairie; Cathy Kaduk, Ranch View and River Woods; and Gayle Zaininger, Naperville Central High School, who formerly received national board certification and have since been serving as mentors and teachers in the program. Another cadre of candidates is currently underway.

Teachers work toward certification during a single academic year. The certification process involves participating in continued and intense professional development and learning how to deepen subject matter knowledge and become more skillful in daily classroom instruction and student assessment. The ultimate goal is to improve student learning. NBPTS certification is meant to complement, not replace, state licensing requirements. This process causes the participant to become reflective about their own practice.

Certification is based on these five core propositions: being committed to students and the learning process; knowing the subjects taught and how to teach those subjects to students; being responsible for managing and monitoring student learning; thinking systematically about one's practice and learning from the experience; and serving as a member of one's learning community.

Teachers are able to earn board certification in any of 24 certificate areas. Candidates for board certification devote 200 to 400 hours of work toward achieving the certification. This includes producing four portfolio entries that include samples of student work, as well as submitting videotapes of the candidate teaching students and completing six 30-minute assessment center exercises. To be eligible for board certification, a teacher must hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught for at least three years, and have held a valid state teaching license in his or her state for three years.