



Board Briefs

Springfield Public Schools Board Meeting

July 28, 2008

Board Votes to Provide Funding to Wildish Theater

School district to become partner with Willamalane and SRDC in managing theater

The Springfield School Board voted at its July 28 board meeting to contribute \$200,000 to the Richard E. Wildish Community Theater. As a result of the contributions from the partners, a new nonprofit corporation will be formed with representation from the school district, Willamalane, and the SRDC.

The funds from the City of Springfield, Springfield Public Schools, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and Springfield Renaissance Development Corporation (SRDC) resulted in the retiring of \$600,000 that was owed on the building. SPS funds were taken from those set aside in this year's capital improvement fund for future property acquisition.

Board Chair Garry Weber said he was excited about having the theater available for District activities. Past uses of the theater have included A³ instructional activities, Gateways graduation ceremony, A³ performances, the first annual podcast competition (which featured podcasts submitted by a number of schools).

Weber said, "It's a great deal for the school district to have a one-third management of a \$3 million asset for a \$200,000 contribution." He added that the Wildish Theater is good for downtown and good for schools.



With the proximity of A³ and Gateways High School, the school district has a clear interest in both using the theater and creating a vibrant downtown core.

The Wildish Community Theater seats 284 people and provides an affordable and flexible venue for dance, drama, concerts, recitals, rehearsals, travelogues, debates, festivals, and small musicals. It serves both community and educational groups.

Next Regular Board Meeting:
September 8, 2008, at 7 p.m.

Visit the [SPS website](#) for more details about any of the above information. Minutes are made available after Board approval at the next meeting.

