

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION

#031

2008-09

TO: Board of Education Members
FROM: Sally Pryor 
DATE: April 27, 2009
RE: INSPRA Distinguished Service Award to President Sue Runyon

It is my pleasure to announce that Board President Sue Runyon has been named the winner of an Award of Excellence, the highest honor, in the annual Distinguished Service Awards recognition program sponsored by the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA). Mrs. Runyon will be honored at the awards luncheon on Friday, May 1 in Bolingbrook.

Mrs. Runyon was recognized for her extraordinary dedication spanning almost two decades to create strong and enduring links between schools and local residents. From room parent to Board President, she has reached out to lead and motivate other parents and community members to support quality education in our schools. As a former District 64 student, Mrs. Runyon's first-hand knowledge combined with her long involvement with school and District-wide organizations make her an extraordinary example of "grass-roots" investment in public education by local citizens.

The award reflects Mrs. Runyon's efforts to continually expand her knowledge of education issues by stepping up to new, broader challenges. She has used each new responsibility as an opportunity to expand two-way communication and to strengthen the connection of schools with local residents. She was cited for her work as PTO school board observer, District Curriculum Council parent representative, Community Relations Committee leader, and for her activities as a school board member and officer. Mrs. Runyon was noted for her passion for high standards, support for educating the whole child, and nurturing of the "Educational Ends" initiative. Her efforts to reach out to representatives from the very large non-public school communities also were cited along with her efforts as the Board's liaison to the PTO Presidents' group to mentor the next generation of citizen-leaders for public education in District 64.

Education finances also have been a fundamental focus of her ongoing community engagement activities. Mrs. Runyon was intensively involved in two separate, successful referendum campaigns 10 years apart. In both efforts, Mrs. Runyon was instrumental in the neighbor-to-neighbor effort to increase understanding of the educational needs behind the referendum requests. As Board vice-president during the 2007 referendum, she participated in all three of the "64 Forums" community open houses to talk about the future of education and our financial challenges. She continues to make District 64 finances more transparent and understandable to local citizens as a steering committee member of the Community Finance Committee (CFC). As Board President, Mrs. Runyon also reached out to educators across Illinois as a panel member for the District 64 presentation at the 2007 Joint Annual Conference (Triple I) in Chicago on *A Winning Strategy for the New "Limiting Rate" Tax Referendum*.

District 64 is proud to congratulate Mrs. Runyon for receiving the 2009 INSPRA Distinguished Service Award.