



...from the January 23, 2018 Board of Education Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – CONSENT

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports
- Continuation of Student Records Document Scanning Service with Konica Minolta Business Systems
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates - [Section 2: Board of Education](#) (First Reading)
- PRESS Policy Manual Updates - [Section 4: Operational Services](#) (First Reading)
- PRESS Policy Manual Updates - [Section 5: Personnel](#) (First Reading)
- PRESS Policy Manual Updates - [Section 6: Instruction](#) (First Reading)
- PRESS Policy Manual Updates - [Section 7: Students](#) (First Reading)

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – ACTION

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items, one at a time:

- Middle School Program Changes
- [2018-19 School Calendar](#)
- [2019-20 School Calendar](#)

The Board voted 6-0 to accept these donations, with Margaret Harrell abstaining on both of the following:

- Donation from the District 205 Foundation of Designated Donation for York High School – Friends of York Baseball has donated \$19,450 for two sets of bleachers
- Donation for Sandburg Middle School – the Keith and Elene Mahnken family (including daughter Maria) donated \$5,848 toward a new sound system in the Sandburg auditorium

Chris Blum thanked the Friends of York Baseball for their generosity. John McDonough thanked the Mahnken family for their thoughtful gift.

Following two years of thorough study and planning, on January 23, 2018, the D205 Board of Education voted 7-0 to ratify the program changes indicated for year two of the middle school reorganization. These changes are consistent with the [Middle School Task Force \(MSTF\) recommendations](#) presented to the Board on March 21, 2017, and take into account recent adjustments, based on additional community feedback.

Year two programming includes the following modifications:

- Incorporate Band, Orchestra and Choir (BOC) into the school day (phase-in).
- Add Project Lead the Way (PLtW) to the middle school curriculum.

- Make World Language a choice and ensure that students who take three years in middle school obtain Level III standing as a freshman and that students who take two years in middle school obtain Level II standing as a freshman.
- Authorize the creation of semester elective course in the Unified Arts for eighth grade students.

The phase-in of Band/Orchestra/Choir is being implemented in response to feedback from parents at the Learning and Teaching Committee held on December 13 and at the PTA Council's Forum on January 16, in order to ease the transition for our middle school students. Working with the department chairs, it was discussed that this should be a two-year roll out.

Dr. Henderson noted that music sectionals will continue at all grade levels during the day, as they currently take place. Any change would be to improve the efficiency and scheduling to minimize educational impact. They will, however, ALL take place during the day as they do now.

"One of the things we need to be mindful of are special education or Tier 3 reading students. Decisions need to be individualized based on each student's needs. That is a team decision, which parents are a part of," she said.

The PTA Council produced a handout entitled [Review of Phase I and Phase II Middle School Recommendations](#), which provides a general overview and a breakdown of the middle school Phase II requirements by grade level.

Parent meetings will be held at each of the three middle schools to provide information and review the course options and choices available to students for the 2018-19 school year. Middle School guidance counselors and administrators will be in attendance.

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018

Location: Your child's middle school

Time: 5:30-6:30 PM for parents of current 6th and 7th graders, 7:00-8:00 PM for parents AND students of incoming 6th graders

Elective selection sheets will be distributed at this meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, a selection sheet will be available on the middle school websites following the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

Four FOIA requests were received:

- One requesting a specific contract and invoices, which was granted.
- One requesting specific residency information, which was partially granted and partially denied.
- One requesting specific purchase orders, which was granted
- One requesting employee information, which was partially granted and partially denied.

District Management Group Superintendents' Summit Recap

Dr. Moyer reported that the theme for this year's District Management Group (DMG) Summit was *Leading Change During Changing Times*. Seventy-six superintendents from 17 states, including eight from Illinois, were in attendance.

The sessions were *Accelerating the Pace of Change with Entrepreneurial Leadership*; *Entrepreneurial Leadership: A Case Study Discussion*, which examined an incubator approach to solving Mexico City's bus transportation issues; *Leveraging Small-Scale Wins to Build Performance with the Breakthrough Approach*; a keynote address, *Harnessing Behavioral Economics to Mobilize and Empower Parents*, featuring Todd Rogers, an Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School; a Skype session, *Breakthrough Approach in Action: School-Level Improvement in Los Angeles Unified School District*; *Meeting the Changing Needs of Students: Improving Social Emotional, and Behavioral Supports*; and *Aligning Systems: Structure, and Policy to Meet the Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs of Students*.

In her scholarly white paper *Principals as Innovators: Identifying Fundamental Skills for Leadership of Change at Public Schools*, Harvard University's Rosabeth Moss Kanter has identified seven essential skills for entrepreneurial innovative leadership: 1) Sensing Needs and Opportunities, 2) Stimulating Breakthrough Ideas, 3) Communicating Inspiring Visions, 4) Enlisting Backers and Supporters, 5) Nurturing the Working Team, 6) Mastering the Difficult Middles, and 7) Celebrating Accomplishment.

The critical concept in the Breakthrough Approach is taking the big ideas, paring them down to specific, short-cycle SMART goals that are narrowly focused and manageable for teams, and celebrating successes. While this is not novel, the conference focused on specific strategies to do this work effectively, which will directly support our PLC work in the D205. In addition, it applied the ideas to an increasing problem nation-wide, which is how to address the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our children.

DMG will facilitate a regional Leadership Development Meeting in Chicago on April 26-27, and the District will host District Leadership Roundtable for Chicago-area administrators on March 1. D205 will send teams to both events.

Mid-Year Financial Report

Chris Whelton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, provided a memo to the Board that gave narrative support to the Monthly Financial Reports for December 2017, noting that the December financials are 50% through the fiscal year. [Access the memo here](#).

"Total December YTD Operating Revenues were more than the prior year by 6.9%. Operating Revenues were budgeted to increase 1.7%. Revenues are ahead of last year due to General State Aid, State Categorical, Federal Grants, and E-Rate. The revenues increase at this point is really just the timing of collections (Illinois catching up on delinquent payments). Potentially, state revenues and property taxes could exceed budget at year-end. In both instances, these are just timing issues where revenues that we thought would come in next year (FY2019) will be collected this year (FY2018)," Mr. Whelton wrote in his memo.

Also included in the memo were revenues and expenditures highlights, as well as information on fund balances. Property tax collections in June might be higher than they have been in the past, due to people pre-paying their property taxes in order to capitalize on tax credits that will expire.

Mr. Whelton noted that the audited financial statements will reflect an even revenue stream, but revenues might be higher than budgeted on a cash basis at the end of this fiscal year. This will result in an appearance that the District is running a large surplus, when, in reality, the deficit will be even larger than initially projected in the following fiscal year.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The City's Joint Review Board meeting on TIF 6 will take place on January 24. Board President Shannon Ebner will represent District 205.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January 27 – Special Board of Education Meeting – 9:00 AM – District 205 Center

February 13 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

February 27 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

NOTE: Video footage of all Board of Education regular meetings is usually posted on [205TV](#) within 48-72 hours. Audio is posted within 24 hours at <http://www.elmhurst205.org/Audio> (please click on appropriate meeting date). Past editions of Board Highlights are posted/archived at www.elmhurst205.org/BOE_highlights.

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