



Board Briefs

Mission: To ensure that District 70 students experience learning that prepares them to live and work in the 21st Century.

Board Briefs from School Board Meeting April 27, 2020

Board Briefs are a communication tool designed to highlight important conversations and decisions made on behalf of students, families, staff, and the larger community by the District 70 School Board at each monthly School Board meeting.

First Remote and Live-Streamed School Board Meeting

Given the unprecedented set of circumstances that we are being faced with and the necessity to stay at home and to engage in social distancing, April 27's meeting was conducted remotely via Google Meets and it was livestreamed. For community members and staff who missed the livestream, the meeting was also recorded and can be found [here](#).

The District 70 school board values public participation. Community members and staff were offered two ways to participate in the remote meeting on April 27.

- Public comments could be emailed to publiccomment@d70schools.org. Emails sent to the address were read by School Board President Tom Vickers during the meeting.
- Public comments also could be called in by calling (847) 461-9418. The voice message received was played during the public meeting.

School Board Approves Math Adoption for Highland Middle School

The District 70 Board of Education unanimously approved the purchase of Pearson enVision Mathematics student and teacher materials to be used for the next six years by the Highland Middle School Math Department.

Highland Math teachers participated in a process of aligning instruction, learning, and

assessments with the Illinois Math Standards, researching options and multiple programs in 2019 and 2020, as well as field-testing materials. The Highland Math Department recommended the purchase of six years of access to Pearson enVision Mathematics materials, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, for \$105,246.24. The proposal can be viewed [here](#).

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School Board Approves Business Office Service Agreement

The District 70 Board of Education unanimously approved a business office service agreement extended to retiring Assistant Supt. Dr. Kurt Valentin, director of finance and operations, to help support the transition as Mr. John Herrin moves into the role of Director of Finance and Operations at the start of the 2020-21 school year on July 1.

Under the agreement, Dr. Valentin will provide support and technical assistance to Mr. Herrin for up to 80 hours during the 2020-2021 school year at a per diem rate of \$800. The agreement can be found [here](#).

Remote Learning

Given that in-person instruction has been cancelled by order of Governor Pritzker and remote learning is now required for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, it was important to spend time on the topic of remote learning at the school board meeting.

A team presented information about D70's journey with remote learning which provided information about technology, special education, staff development, and results from both a parent and staff survey that were recently administered. For more information please visit the presentation [here](#).

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RESIGNATION

- **Steve Feldman**, Assistant Principal at Butterfield School, affirming letter received March 17, 2020, effective June 30, 2020;
- **Ryan Anderson**, Dean of Students at Highland Middle School, affirming letter received March 19, 2020, effective June 30, 2020;

- **Lily Lutz**, Language Arts and Literature Teacher at Highland Middle School, affirming letter received April 17, 2020, effective end of the 2019-2020 school year;
- **Maria Munoz**, Custodian at Butterfield School, currently on disability leave, affirming letter received April 17, 2020, effective February 29, 2020;

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Madeline Smith**, Speech and Language Pathologist at Butterfield and Copeland Schools, effective August 17, 2020;
- **Jennifer Vente**, General Music and Band Teacher at Rockland School, effective August 17, 2020;
- **Julie Perez**, General Music and Band Teacher at Adler School, effective August 17, 2020;

FMLA

- **Krista Volk**, Math Teacher at Highland Middle School, affirming letter received April 15, 2020, effective September 8, 2020, for twelve (12) weeks.

Policy

The administration and school board use a policy subscription service provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards as the basis for developing, reviewing, recommending, and approving policy language. This service is used by the majority of school districts in Illinois and is known as the Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS).

Policy Approvals

Following the required second reading of recommended policy language, the school board approved changes to the following policies:

- 4:180 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**: Pandemic Preparedness
- 7:280 **STUDENTS**: Communicable and Chronic Infectious Diseases

[Link](#) to Policies Approved at the April 27, 2020, School Board meeting

First Reading

No policies were presented for a first reading this month.

Superintendent's Report

April 27 was a day of firsts. It was our first remote school board meeting. It also was our first school board meeting that was live-streamed!

The challenges that face us as a community and nation are extraordinary. Yet District 70 has met these challenges with hope, kindness, collaboration, connectedness, and care. In doing so, we have revealed not only who we are as a community, but also what we value. District 70 values our students, their families, and our staff.

Just a few examples to illustrate this includes virtual spirit days, drive through parades, storytime and scavenger hunts via Google Meets, the ability to mobilize and launch remote learning, deployment of 1,144 iPads and Chromebooks to our preschool through fifth grade students, providing the Libertyville Police Department with cleaning supplies and PPE, surveying our parent and staff communities on their experience with remote learning, and so much more.

District 70 also values continuous growth and improvement. on April 27, the e-learning task force met to review survey data collected from both our parent and staff communities for the purposes of identifying ways to improve the remote learning experience for our students, families, and staff. This group of dedicated and talented teachers and administrators launched our remote learning plan and will help us to continuously improve upon it.

During the School Board meeting on April 27, a team made a presentation on our remote learning journey thus far. I am so proud of the efforts to date from our teachers and administrators during the pre and post-launch phases of remote learning and am looking forward to this presentation. Thank you for your past, present, and future efforts on behalf of our students.

Additionally, I would also like to thank our:

- Students for their courage and resilience;
- Parents for their unwavering love of their children and support of District 70;
- Maintenance and custodial personnel for maintaining our schools and keeping them clean;
- Technology department for Help Desk and Break Fix support;
- First responders and medical personnel for keeping us safe and helping us during this challenging time;
- Other essential personnel;
- School Board for their commitment to students and support during this challenging time.

We will get through this and we will do so by acting on our values and continuing to work together!

Enjoy some of the pictures that we have collected during our remote learning journey thus far.

Spirit Days!

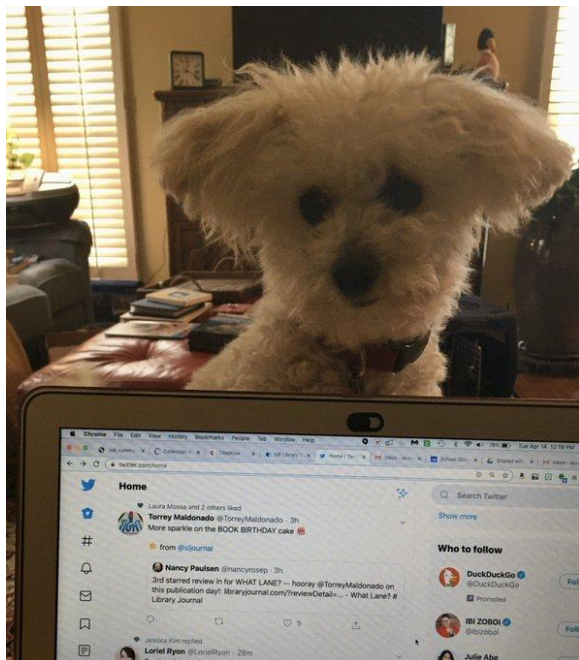






What remote learning looks like:

When Adler Park Learning Center Director Erin Carr posts that working from home is a little distracting.



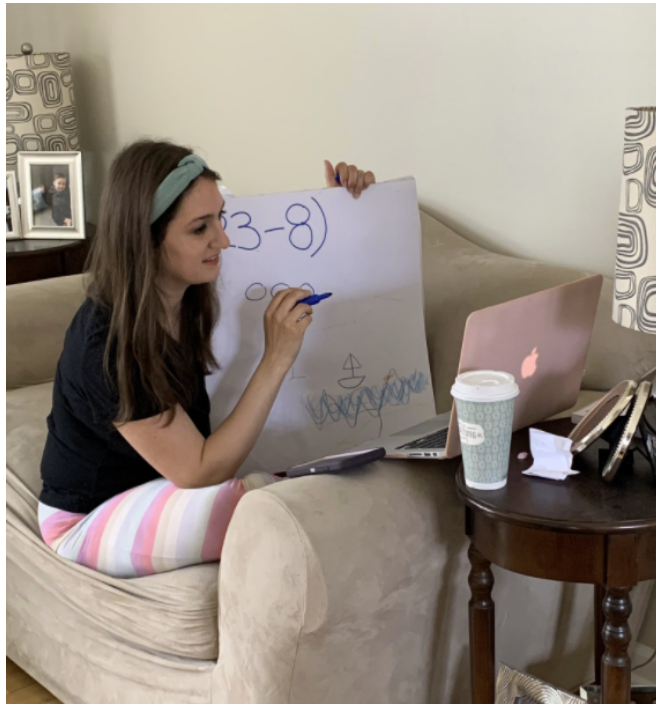
What remote learning looks like for Lily Lutz, HMS sixth grade language literature teacher



When Copeland Manor School fourth grade teacher Shasha Sheehy joins the classroom google meet (she's in the lower right-hand corner)



Rockland School third grade teacher Danya Sundh helps her class with math over remote learning early one morning.



Butterfield kindergarten teacher, Karen Forkner, seen in the grid just above the green R, greets her students during the morning and teaches about math and the number five.

