



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 March 16, 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.

2019-2020 Calendar and Institute Day to Become a Day of Student Attendance

The state of Illinois requires each public school district to incorporate five (5) emergency days into their respective school calendars.

Given school closures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, District 70 has gone beyond the required five (5) emergency days by one (1) day at this point--for a total of six (6) days. Although things can certainly change during this challenging time, we will need to make this day up.

Provided that no additional closures are required, the Institute Day on April 13 will be repurposed into a day of student attendance. The rationale behind this decision is that the current state school closures (March 17-30) have been disruptive to the learning of our greatest natural resource--our students.

Given the timing of when Institute Day falls, and when we hope D70 schools to be open on April 6, we want to minimize any further disruptions. Please change your plans accordingly.

The chart below shows each emergency day used and how that will impact when the last day of school will be. Please note: this is subject to change in the event that additional school closures are mandated.

Emergency Day Used	Reason(s)	The last day of school
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		provided no additional closures are required (early release).
September 13, 2019	Flooded roadways, flooded classrooms at HMS, and power outage at Butterfield Elementary	June 4
March 16, 2020	D70 decides to mitigate COVID-19 by closing schools prior to Gov. Pritzker's order to close all schools from March 17-30.	June 5
March 31, 2020	D70 decides to mitigate COVID-19 by closing schools beyond Gov. Pritzker's order to close all schools from March 17-30.	June 8
April 1, 2020	D70 decides to mitigate COVID-19 by closing schools beyond Gov. Pritzker's order to close all schools from March 17-30.	June 9
April 2	D70 decides to mitigate COVID-19 by closing schools beyond Gov. Pritzker's order to close all schools from March 17-30.	June 10
April 3	D70 decides to mitigate COVID-19 by closing schools beyond Gov. Pritzker's order to close all schools from March 17-30.	June 10 (April 13 Teacher Institute Day is now a student attendance day.)

The [D70 Website](#) will be updated in the near future to reflect this and show how the emergency days have been utilized and our plans to end school on June 10 provided that no additional closures occur.

IMPACTS AND RESPONSES TO COVID-19

Dr. Barbini presented information to the school board on the various impacts and responses to COVID-19 during the informational portion of the meeting (Agenda item 8.2)

His presentation can be found below:

[Impacts and Responses to COVID-19 to the Board of Education.](#)

APPROVAL OF K-5 SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS

The K-5 Social Studies Committee participated in a process of aligning instruction, learning, and assessments with the Illinois Social Studies Standards. The committee researched options and multiple programs in 2019 and 2020 and field-tested materials from Pearson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and the Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI). The K-5 Social Studies Committee recommends the purchase of six years of access to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Social Studies for kindergarten and first grade and Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) for second through fifth grade.

The Board of Education's approval was requested for the purchase of student and teacher materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Social Studies for kindergarten and first grade and Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) for second through fifth grade for the next six years as presented at the February 2020 Board of Education meeting.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RESIGNATION

- **Peter Finkel**, General Music and Band Teacher at Rockland, effective end of the 2019-2020 school year;
- **Christina Kiotis**, Special Education Teacher at Highland, effective end of the 2019-2020 school year;

CHANGE IN STATUS

- **Amy Soellner**, from 3rd Grade Teacher at Butterfield to Math Interventionist at Butterfield and Adler, effective 2020-2021 school year;

- **Kelly Blahnik**, from Special Education Teacher at Rockland to Math Interventionist at Copeland and Rockland, effective 2020-2021 school year;

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Gail Cupal**, Lunchroom supervisor at Adler, effective March 9, 2020.

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 first reading of recommended policy language, the school board approved changes to the following policies:

5:90 – **GENERAL PERSONNEL**: Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

7:150 – **STUDENTS**: Agency and Police Interviews

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

5:50 – **GENERAL PERSONNEL**: Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

7:270 – **STUDENTS**: Administering Medicines to Students

[Link to Policies Approved Date of School Board meeting](#)

[First Reading](#)

Revisions to the following policies were presented for a first reading and consideration:

4:180 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**: Pandemic Preparedness

7:280 **STUDENTS**: Communicable and Chronic Infectious Diseases

A link to the policies that were presented for the first reading is located [here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. Dr. Matt Barbini did not provide his customary report to the school board on Monday evening to expedite board conversation and action on essential items involving finance, policy, and personnel.