



# 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 Feb. 24, 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.*

## **Freedom of Information Act**

There were two FOIAs received by District 70 in late January and in February.

1. The Illinois Retired Teachers Association made its annual request for the names and work emails of certified staff members retiring at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Staff members retiring this year include Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations Dr. Kurt Valentin, Rockland kindergarten teacher Mrs. Dale List, Butterfield Speech-Language Pathologist Holly Simon and Adler Park music teacher Jack Turner.
2. NBC Universal (Channel 5 in Chicago) requested electronic copies of contracts and/or agreement with companies providing District 70 with “content filtering and software monitoring” on 1:1 school district issued devices for students, and District 70 policies and guidelines for the school district issued devices for students. District 70 provided the contracts/agreements it has for content filtering and software monitoring on school district issued Chromebooks to Highland Middle School students. District 70 also provided a link to [policies](#) and [guidelines](#) (also in the [Parent-Student Handbook](#)).

## **Social Studies Curriculum Update**

The current social studies curriculum in use K-5 in D70 is from Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI). These materials are outdated (10 + years old) and need to be replaced. Toward that end, the K-5 Social Studies Committee reviewed and discussed the new Illinois Social Science Standards in 2018 and then evaluated different social studies materials options that included creating our own and evaluating available resources. Decisions were

made in 2019 to field test materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pearson, and TCI. Based on the field test, the K-5 Social Studies Committee recommends that kindergarten and first grade purchase Into Social Studies from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and that second through fifth grade purchase the updated version of TCI. Pricing for these materials is being obtained and the administration will be recommending their purchase for the 2020-21 school year at the March 16, 2020 school board meeting.

Prior to acting on this recommendation in March, [Dr. Youngman presented this as an informational item at the February 24, 2020 school board meeting.](#)

### **Student Performance in Reading and Math from Winter STAR Testing**

Seeking ways to continuously improve student learning outcomes requires an ongoing commitment to review assessment data and develop plans at both the school and district levels to address areas of identified need. It is with this in mind that the School Board now requires administration to present updates throughout the school year on how D70 students are performing on local assessments. At the February 24, 2020 school board meeting, Dr. Youngman presented information on how D70 students are performing in reading and math on the nationally normed STAR assessment that is administered to all students in D70 three times annually (fall, winter, and spring). Dr. Youngman's presentation can be located [here](#).

Given that an increasing number of students in D70 require additional support in math, Dr. Youngman also discussed the need to recruit and select 2.0 FTE math interventionists for the 2020-2021 school year as a part of his presentation.

### **Classroom Technology Pilot**

Technology is a powerful tool for teaching and learning that is incorporated in D70's Applications of Learning and resonates with our mission, which is to ensure that our students experience learning that prepares them to live and work in the 21st Century.

We are fortunate that students have access to technology in their classrooms in the form of iPads in grades K-1, Chromebooks in grades 2-5, and a 1:1 student to Chromebook initiative in grades 6-8. We are also fortunate that our classrooms are equipped with smartboards and projectors.

The vast majority of our smartboards and projectors were purchased in 2011, are not working properly, and require replacement.

Mr. Dmitry Andrievsky, D70's Director of Technology, has worked with the district's technology committee (which is comprised of teacher representatives from each school, technology learning coordinators, and Dr. Erik Youngman, D70's Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment) to review and provide recommendations for next steps to address this matter.

Mr. Andrievsky, along with technology learning coordinators Jill Przybylski., Chris Vipond, and Caren Kimbarosvsky presented recommendations from the D70 Technology Committee to the school board on Monday evening. They recommended that D70 pilots and evaluates the use of LCD televisions with Apple TV's, and an iPad for teacher and student interactivity this spring and next fall to determine if this is a viable approach to replacing our existing smartboards and projectors. After the pilot is evaluated, recommendations in this area would be presented to the school board in October/November of 2020, and deployment would not take place until the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Staff interested in participating in this pilot will have to apply for consideration. More information on this process will be shared with staff in the coming weeks.

The presentation from Mr. Andrievsky and Jill Przybylski., Chris Vipond, and Caren Kimbarosvsky can be found [here](#).

## Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

### Change in Status:

- Kathy Panov, from Certified School Nurse to Lead Nurse, retroactive to August 18, 2019;
- Valerie Van Roeyen, from Speech and Language Pathologist at Copeland and Butterfield, to Butterfield only, effective 2020-2021 school year;

### FMLA:

- Jennifer Parkhurst, Math Coach, affirming letter received January 15, 2020, effective on or about March 30, 2020, for twelve (12) weeks;
- Ashley Turner, Second Grade Teacher at Adler, affirming letter received February 5, 2020, effective on or about April 20, 2020, for twelve (12) weeks;
- Ashley Zeinz, First Grade Teacher at Adler, affirming letter received January 23, 2020, effective on August 24, 2020, for twelve (12) weeks.

## Resignation:

- Jennifer Cooper, Lunchroom Supervisor at Adler, effective February 20, 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 second reading of recommended policy language, the school board approved changes to the following policy:

8:30 **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**: Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

[Link to Policies Approved February 24, 2020](#)

## First Reading

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

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

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

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

## Second Reading

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

5:50 **GENERAL PERSONNEL**: Drug-and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco

Prohibition

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

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

**Superintendent’s Report**

**Parents Reach 20 Percent Rate for 5Essentials Survey**

Thank you to the District 70 community for completing the state’s 5Essentials Survey!

We met the threshold of parent participation necessary for feedback to be analyzed and included with outcomes from the 5Essentials survey. This provides each school and D70 with actionable information that is used for school and district improvement purposes.

It is a state mandate to have students, staff and parents take the survey annually, with areas of growth and improvement being used by principals to map out school improvement plans. Once 20 percent of parents at a school complete the survey, the state issues a separate parent report to the school district so they can review parent input and add the important information to strategic planning for District 70’s future. This year all schools reached the 20 percent mark for parents and easily met the requirements for students and staff to take the survey over a two month period. Students in fourth-eighth grade take the survey, while all staff are encouraged to participate. (See parents response rate below.)

mgis.nvhs.com

Individual school status				
Adler Park School	245	5	74	• 32%
Butterfield School	482	25	117	• 29%
Copeland Manor Elem School	369	11	87	• 27%
Highland Middle School-Libertyville	863	20	198	• 25%
Rockland Elem School	288	14	69	• 29%

• Indicates that the response rate has reached the reporting threshold of 20% for this survey. **Please note:** In order to receive a Parent Report, a school must both meet the reporting threshold of 20% and have a minimum of 8 parents who submit survey responses.

**Honoring Music Teacher Jack Turner**

When veteran Adler Park music teacher Mr. Jack Turner retires at the end of this school year, he will have spent 32 devoted years in District 70. Mr. Turner’s positive impact on students, families, and staff during his career in D70 has been extraordinary.



To honor his work with and commitment to students during his career, the D70 music department commissioned an original musical piece for Mr. Turner. Named after one of his hobbies, the commissioned piece is called “Cycling,” and will be performed by Mr. Turner’s students at the Spring Band Concert on May 20.

Created by former Libertyville-area resident Ryan Diefenderfer, the commissioned piece prominently features the trumpet--Mr. Turner’s “go to” instrument. What an amazing way to celebrate one’s career and impact on the lives of others. Thank you, Mr. Turner, for your dedicated service to our students and the rest of the D70 family.





### **Rockland/Butterfield Career Days**

Have you ever asked or been asked the question “what do you want to do when you grow up?” This can be a challenging question for students and adults alike. That is why it is important to ask this question early and often and provide students with exposure to various careers.

In helping our students prepare for tomorrow, Rockland and Butterfield Elementary Schools recently held Career Days.

Representatives from over 20 different professions talked about their careers during two separate Careers Days at Rockland and Butterfield Schools in January and February. These were wonderfully engaging events for our students and guest speakers--many of whom are parents and/or live in or around Libertyville.

An airline pilot, a zookeeper, a baker, several restaurant owners, a pharmacist, medical doctors, a surgeon, an actress, a comic book illustrator, first responders (police and fire), the mayor of Libertyville (Mr. Weppler), an illustrator, front office staff members for the Chicago Cubs, and a former Chicago Bear were just some of the guest speakers that came out for Career Days at Rockland and Butterfield Schools. These events are truly worthy of replication and align to the D70 Mission: To ensure that District 70 students experience learning that prepares them to live and work in the 21st Century.



