



# Board Briefs

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

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Board Briefs from School Board Meeting Jan. 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.*

## **Freedom of Information Act**

Illinois Families for Public Schools (founded in 2016 as Raise Your Hand Action) is a grassroots, non-profit 501c4 advocacy group based in Chicago. The group has launched a campaign to introduce and pass legislation in the Illinois General Assembly to require public elementary schools to provide a minimum amount of daily playtime called The Right To Play Every Day.

District 70's response to the request to turn over any "district policies governing recess" was that such policies do not exist.

However, it is important to note here, that recess is offered every school day in each of our five schools.

## **Textbook Rental and Technology Fees for 2020-2021**

School board members voted unanimously to maintain the current textbook and technology fees for the 2020-21 school years.

Fees for kindergarten through fifth grade will remain at \$125 a year and fees for sixth through eighth grade will stay at \$225 a year.

## Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

### Resignation:

- Brenda Fogg, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective December 19, 2019.

### New Employment:

- Victor Flores, Day Custodian/Night Supervisor at Highland, effective January 8, 2020;
- Donna Hegwood, Paraeducator at Butterfield, effective January 6, 2020;
- Barbara Koch, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective January 13, 2020;
- Andrea Walsh, (re-hired) Paraeducator at Butterfield, effective January 7, 2020;
- Sara Monson, Lunchroom and Playground Supervisor at Rockland, effective January 7, 2020;
- Megan Raysby, Lunchroom and Playground Supervisor at Adler, effective January 7, 2020.

### FMLA:

- Dana Ori, Early Childhood Teacher at Butterfield, affirming letter dated December 13, 2019, effective on or about March 13, 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:

2:20 **SCHOOL BOARD**: Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification

2:70 **SCHOOL BOARD**: Vacancies on the School Board – Filling Vacancies

2:100 **SCHOOL BOARD**: Board Member Conflict of Interest

## 2:110 **SCHOOL BOARD**: Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers

Link to Policies Approved Date of School Board meeting

### First Reading

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

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

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

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

A link to the policies that were presented for first reading is located here:

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=45825034>

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Strategic Planning Review & Update Session**

In May of 2016, the D70 Strategic Planning Committee assembled to collaboratively develop our district's strategic plan. Our strategic plan is a living, breathing, vibrant document that has and will continue to focus our energies to continuously improve opportunities for our students, families, staff and the larger community of Libertyville. The committee's efforts on this and the product itself is worthy of replication.



The D70 Strategic Planning Committee, comprised of parents, teachers, principals, community partners, central office administrators, and school board members (50 people strong) reassembled on the morning of January 25, 2020 at Butterfield Elementary School to conduct an annual review and update of the district's plan. Dr. Bob Madonia, who facilitated our last two strategic plans, guided the conversation.



During the annual review and update meeting, the D70 Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the considerable progress that has been made and identified opportunities for continuous growth and improvement to continue keeping our district's plan current and reflective of the needs of our excellent organization. It was a morning of celebrations, good conversation, and planning for the future!



### **Board Self-Evaluation**

On January 22, the District 70 School Board held a special meeting to engage in a self-evaluation facilitated by a representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). A core value held by the D70 school board is that of continuous growth and improvement. Engaging in such an exercise is important on many levels and demonstrates that the D70 school board “walks the talk” when it comes to seeking ways to continuously learn, grow, and improve as a governing body. The students, families, staff, administration, and the larger community in Libertyville is fortunate to have such a school board. Thank you, D70 school board members, for your service. Your individual and collective efforts matter!



### HMS GEO BEE

Highland Middle School held its National Geographic Bee on Jan. 13. 32 students from HMS competed in this event that was masterfully organized and facilitated by Dr. Erin Wyatt. Families, staff, building, and district administration watched on as our hornets demonstrated an impressive command of world geography while demonstrating good sportsmanship throughout.

School Champion Abid K. will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination called the Geobee Test. The top 100 scorers in the state of Illinois on the Geobee will qualify for the state competition. The state winner will be eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$50,000 college scholarship.

Best of luck to you Abid!



(From left to right, HMS Geo Bee Master of Ceremonies Dr. Erin Wyatt, seventh-grader Henry B. as runner-up, eighth-grader Abid K. as the champion, seventh-grader Max D. in third place, and Principal Dr. Jon Hallmark.)

### **Adler Students Collect Coins for Australian Children**

The brush fires in Australia have caused unspeakable devastation and loss to people, property, wildlife, and habitat. The student council at Adler decided to take relief efforts into their own hands and led a fundraising campaign that netted \$725.31 in coins to donate to Save the Children Australia Bushfire Emergency Fund. Thank you students leaders at Adler along with Learning Center Director Erin Carr and Learning Center Clerk Trish Tribble for this generous and humanitarian effort!

### **HMS Sock Drive**

The Highland Middle School sixth grade Student Council collected 413 pairs of socks that will be donated to the US Military troops this month. That is an amazing feat (get it?!) done in a very short time span. Students in Studio One with teachers Julie Fievet and Jill Conley

led the charge and brought in the most socks for our brave servicemembers!

### **Special Gifts Theatre to Perform at Copeland Manor Feb. 22 & 23**

Special Gifts Theatre provides students with special needs with an amazing opportunity to perform with the support of a peer. This year, Special Gifts Theatre will be putting on a production of Madagascar on February 22 and 23 at Copeland Manor School.

19 D70 students will be participating in this production. General admission is free for District 70 families. [More information about the show can be found here:](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fmIwQ9C9lo3iUqy80vm8WGN5NbZfX5_J/view)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fmIwQ9C9lo3iUqy80vm8WGN5NbZfX5\\_J/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fmIwQ9C9lo3iUqy80vm8WGN5NbZfX5_J/view)

A special thank you to D70 staff members who are making this wonderful opportunity possible for students, families, and our community: Victoria Vacarro; Beth Alvarez; Dina Lepczynski; Valerie Van Roeyen as teachers, Allison Gattone; and Janey Paglini.

### **Christopher Kennedy appointed to the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court**

Christopher Kennedy, Libertyville resident and former D70 school board member, was recently appointed to serve as an associate judge in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County.





“Mr. Kennedy’s strong knowledge of the law, intellect, and professional demeanor will make him an excellent addition to the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. We look forward to Chris joining us as an Associate Judge in the near future,” said Chief Judge Winter.

Christopher will take his oath of office and officially begin this new chapter of his professional career on January 31, 2020.

Our thanks and best wishes to the Honorable Judge Kennedy.



(D70 Board of Education included Mr. Christopher M. Kennedy, top row, second from left, in

2018.)

**Butterfield Career Day**

Butterfield School is excited to host Career Day 2020 from 8-11 a.m. on Feb. 21, 2020. There will be approximately 20 presenters, some returning from last year and others new to the event. From veterinary medicine to aviation, and from restaurant ownership to politics, there will be careers to capture the interest of all students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade!

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