



# 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 Dec. 16, 2019

*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.*

## **Strategic Plan**

In May of 2016, The D70 Strategic Planning Committee assembled to collaboratively develop our district's strategic plan. This 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 are worthy of replication and deserving

At the end of each year, the progress that has been made on the District 70 Strategic Plan is shared on the district's website in the [Dashboard Tab](#). In addition to continuing this practice, the committee will reassemble after winter break to receive highlights where progress has been made in each goal area as well as to provide their input on recommendations that administration would like to add to the plan to continue keeping it current and reflective of our district's needs.

The Committee will reassemble on January 25, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Butterfield Elementary School. Dr. Bob Madonia, who facilitated our last two strategic plans, will be our guide for this conversation.

Dr. Madonia, Dr. Barbini, and cabinet members provided information to the school board on

how January 25 will be structured along with recommendations that central office and building administration are proposing to continue keeping our plan current and reflective of our District's needs in the presentation below.

[Here is the link for the Strategic Plan presentation.](#)

### **Social Studies (Erik)**

Dr. Erik Youngman provided a brief overview of recent areas of focus for social studies in Libertyville District 70. Updates were shared about National Geographic Resources that are being used at Highland Middle School and resources that elementary schools are reviewing for social studies.

[Here is a link to the School board presentation](#)

### **Website**

The School Board approved a contract with Finalsite to provide a new website for District 70 beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

At the November School Board meeting, Mrs. Robin Kollman, public relations coordinator, and Mr. Dmitry Andrievsky, director of technology, discussed that the current D70 website no longer meets our needs based on the following factors:

- Results from a parent engagement survey conducted in 2018 identified that information is difficult to find on the district's current website and that it is not intuitive or easy to navigate.
- The current website does not give District 70 organizational flexibility because it was built from scratch and is maintained by one employee.
- The current website is housed onsite and susceptible to local power outages.

Finalsite was chosen after careful review because this website solution met the following criteria:

- An intuitive, user-friendly interface built first and foremost on accessibility on mobile devices.
- A modern look and layout that more closely reflects the D70 brand;

- Assists with compliance requirements for website access established by the American Disabilities Act.
- Meets the district's need to tell our story and communicate while also being a solution that integrates well with other existing systems and is not labor-intensive to implement and manage.

The startup cost for Finalsite will be \$11,000, followed by annual costs of \$12,000 each year through to July 1, 2024.

This is also one of Dr. Barbini's goals this year.

### Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

#### **New Employment:**

- Bonnie Jones, Paraeducator at Highland, effective January 6, 2020;
- Norma Mendoza, Night Custodian at TBD, effective December 9, 2019.

#### **FMLA**

- Laura Williams, Special Education Teacher at Rockland, affirming letter received November 22, 2019, effective on or about March 10, 2020, for ten (10) 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:

#### 4:15 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES:** Identity Protection

This policy describes the appropriate use and protection of personal information, primarily Social Security numbers. Also described are required training for staff who handle this information, as well as notification requirements.

#### 5:170 **GENERAL PERSONNEL:** Copyright

This policy covers three topics:

- Any instructional materials or computer programs created by staff during the scope of their employment is the property of the district;
- Staff is expected to follow all rules of copyright. Staff should not have to violate copyright laws to perform the essential functions of their jobs. The District is not responsible for staff or students who violate copyright laws.
- A copyright infringement agent is created and named.

5:200 **PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**: Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal  
This revision is a minor update to previous versions and includes references to the school year, the school day, salaries, assignments and transfers, dismissal, evaluations, and limits on social workers. Many topics are covered under the PNA, and numerous references are made within the policy.

5:300 **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**: Schedules and Employment Year  
Revisions to this policy include re-wording of flexible work schedules, responding to changing circumstances, and breaks

5:320 **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL**: Evaluation  
This policy outlines the components of, and process for the evaluation of non-certified staff.

6:10 **INSTRUCTION**: Educational Philosophy and Objectives  
This policy includes the enumerated items related to the District's educational philosophy and objectives.

Link to Policies Approved Date of School Board meeting:

### First Reading

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

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

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

## **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests**

About every four months since at least 2015, the Florida company SmartProcure makes a commercial FOIA request for a reproducible list of our vendors and purchase orders in order to sell the data to other government agencies and companies.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **ALICE Training**

The foundation that everything we do as educators is built upon safety. This requires a commitment to continuous growth and improvement. It is with this in mind that D70 will be implementing ALICE in the 2020-2021 school year. ALICE provides staff and students with additional strategies to employ should they ever face an armed intruder situation.

Planning efforts are underway to implement ALICE. A big first step was taken toward implementation earlier this month as each building principal, a representative staff member selected by each principal, and central office administrators participated in a two day ALICE training on December 4 and December 5.

An ALICE implementation committee comprised of teachers, building administrators, and central office administrators will begin meeting in January to plan for all aspects of implementation in the fall and beyond!

A special thank you to our D70 family members who are now ALICE certified trainers: Dmitry Andreivsky, Director of Technology; Matt Barbini, Superintendent; Tom Bean, Director of Human Resources; Kerri Bongle Principal Adler Elementary School; Gerry Carollo, Teacher at Adler Elementary School; Cheryl Crenshaw, Teacher at Rockland Elementary School; Elizabeth Davis, Assistant Principal Highland Middle School; Steve Feldman Assistant Principal Butterfield Elementary School; Dan Gilbert Director of Buildings and Grounds; Jon Hallmark Principal Highland Middle School; Candice Kehoe, Principal Butterfield Elementary School; Jeff Knapp Principal Rockland Elementary School; Robin Kollman Public Relations; Chris Otto, Director of Special Education; Lori Poelking, Principal Copeland Manor Elementary School; Jill Conley, Teacher at Highland Middle School; Traci Flader, Teacher at Copeland Elementary School; Pat Krech, Teacher at Butterfield Elementary School; Rob Rajcevich, Teacher at Highland Middle School; and Stephanie Weatherly, L.C.Clerk at Rockland Elementary School.



### **Cook Park Public Library**

Bookmarks from four District 70 students are now on display at Cook Park Public Library as they are winners in the 2019 Design a Bookmark Contest. There were almost 750 entries this year. District 70 winners of the 2019 Design a Bookmark Contest Include:

- Fifth Grade 1st Place winner was Ivy L. of Butterfield School for her bookmark on *The Very, Very Far North: a Story for Gentle Readers and Listeners* by Dan Bar-el;
- Fifth grade 3rd Place winner was Amelia L. of Butterfield School for her bookmark on *Serafina and the Black Cloak* by Robert Beatty;
- Sixth grade 1st Place winner Angela X. from Highland Middle School for her bookmark on *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor;
- Sixth-grade honorable mention winner Lu Li T. of Highland Middle School for her bookmark on *Spy vs. Spy* by Antonio Prohias.

This month, the library will host a special reception for the student winners at the library and also host an artist workshop for students to enjoy! Congratulations Angela, Amelia, Ivy, and Lu Li!

## HMS Basketball Champs

A big shout out to the Highland Middle School eighth grade girls' basketball team on winning the conference championship! The team beat Deerpath in a close, physical game under the watchful eye of Coach Gerry Carollo, Adler Park physical education teacher.

This team has now won back-to-back conference championships, as they won the conference last year as seventh-graders! This is also the team that went for a perfect 22-0 record two-years in a row!

A record that can't be broken, only equaled. An incredible accomplishment by an incredible group of girls.





In fact, all the HMS basketball teams brought home hardware from the Lakeside Conference Tournaments.

Congratulations also to the eighth-grade boys' basketball team (pictured above) for placing second in the conference under coach Jim Gasick, HMS social studies teachers, and the seventh grade boys basketball team (not pictured) that placed third, coached by Derrick Mitchel, an HMS social studies teacher.

Congratulations also to the HMS seventh grade girls basketball team that placed third under coach Mike Rumpf, HMS science teacher.



### **Character & Leadership Award**

Libertyville School District 70 honored Libertyville Township Supervisor Kathleen O'Connor as this year's District 70 Character & Leadership Award recipient during the Dec. 16th School Board meeting.

O'Connor, a beloved Libertyville resident who raised all her children in District 70 schools and grew up in the village, exemplifies the traits of the character-building program used in District 70

schools, including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, according to Holly Simon, Butterfield speech-language pathologist, who nominated Mrs. O'Connor for the award. Simon noted that Mrs. O'Connor is "hard-working, always ready to be there for others in all aspects of her life," even during non-working hours.

District students, families and teachers often collected items for the Libertyville Township Food Pantry, which Mrs. O'Connor supervises and directs. The pantry helps supply food to those in need.



The distinguished Character & Leadership Award is the only award District 70 bestows on a community member or group in appreciation for their "honor of exemplary character, leadership, and service." The award is given with appreciation by the Board of Education, administration, and staff. District 70 also honors an employee with the award at the end of the school year.

The award has been given for the last 10 years to someone who "through their service, character, and leadership exemplifies true dedication to the children, families, and staff of our learning community," said Character Counts Committee member and Rockland kindergarten teacher Dale List said. "The nominee's beliefs, attitudes, and actions consistently exemplify the six pillars of character."

Nominations for the award are made to the committee and the committee then selects how meets the criteria.

“Kathleen is a lifelong resident of Libertyville where her strong sense of community runs through her veins,” Simon noted in her nomination. “Mrs. O’Connor is driven by her heart of gold as she lives her personal and professional life by a code of ethics. Kathleen embraces Trustworthiness as integrity and honesty are her moral foundation. She is Respectful by valuing all people, honoring the dignity, privacy, and freedom of others. Responsibility is Kathleen’s guide as she fulfills her duties as Libertyville’s Township Supervisor with accountability and excellence. Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship are additional characteristics that complete our reasons for nominating Mrs. Kathleen O’Connor for the 2019 Community Member Award of Character.”

Members of the Character County Committee include List, Simon, Theresa Gasiik, Ashley Turner, Gwen Travelstead, Mara Battaglia, Marissa Farley, and Carrie Ross.