



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 November 25, 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.

Illinois Assessment Readiness and STAR

District 70 measures student academic performance for the purposes of continuous growth and improvement at the individual student, grade level, school, and district levels in a variety of ways. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and STAR testing are two such assessments used in D70 for these purposes.

IAR is an assessment that all students in grades 3 through 8 are required by the state of Illinois to take each year. The STAR assessment is taken by students in grades K-8 in the fall, winter, and spring on an annual basis.

Dr. Erik Youngman, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, shared district-wide IAR and STAR results at the school board meeting. D70 students continue to perform above their peers on the IAR when compared to schools across the state of Illinois. D70 students also perform strongly on the STAR assessments when compared to peers nationally.

Although there is much to celebrate with these results, opportunities for continuous growth and improvement were also identified as a part of Dr. Youngman's presentation. To learn more, please visit the link below.

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

District Schools Receive "Exemplary" ESSA Designation

Dr. Youngman reported that the Illinois School Report Cards for District 70 has been

released. This information is available online at this [link](#). Each school in the state of Illinois receives one of the four following designations based on how student's perform on The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR): "Exemplary," "Commendable," "Underperforming," and "Lowest Performing."

Dr. Youngman reported that two schools, Butterfield and Copeland Manor received an "Exemplary" designation – the highest rating possible. An "Exemplary" designation means that the school's performance is in the top 10% of schools statewide, and it has no underperforming subgroups.

Meanwhile, Adler Park, Highland Middle School, and Rockland received the next highest rating of "Commendable." A "Commendable" designation means that while those schools did not perform in the top 10 percent of schools statewide, there are no underperforming subgroups.

While we are pleased with these designations, opportunities for continuous growth and improvement exist. Dr. Youngman spoke to these opportunities during the school board meeting and they are summarized in his presentation.

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

Summer School Recommendation

One of Dr. Barbini's goals this year is to evaluate D70's summer school program and recommend opportunities for continuous growth and improvement.

At the November 25, 2019 meeting, Dr. Barbini provided updates and a revised recommendation to the school board as a follow up to conversations about summer school at the October 28, 2019 meeting. A link to Dr. Barbini's presentation can be found below.

The school board approved Dr. Barbini's recommendation to increase tuition to partially address a budget shortfall of approximately \$13,000 for the D70 summer school program. The tuition increase will only impact families who reside outside of the D70 attendance boundaries. On average, 120 non-resident students attend D70's summer school program which is close to 1,000 students strong.

No increases in tuition are currently being recommended for families who reside in the D70 attendance boundaries.

The tuition will increase from \$345 to \$570, per child, for families who reside outside of D70 to participate in the district's five week summer school program. When considering that families who reside in D70 currently pay \$285, per child, to participate in the district's

summer school program, the approved tuition increase effectively doubles what families residing outside of D70 attendance boundaries will pay for tuition moving forward.

Costs associated with an administrative restructuring to more effectively run summer school are included in the tuition increase.

The district will also be pursuing other measures (e.g., developing class-size minimums and guidelines for the allocation of paraeducators) that will maintain the quality of the district's summer school program while also producing cost savings that will also address the budget shortfall.

The goal is to continue to offer a vibrant summer school program that is good for students, families, and staff in a manner that is budget neutral.

[LINK TO PRESENTATION](#)

The 2020-2021 Calendar has been approved!

At the November 25, 2019 meeting, the school board approved the District 70 school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. A link to 2020-2021 calendar can be found below. Dr. Barbini would like to thank the calendar committee for assisting with this important effort including: Tom Bean, Cheryl Crenshaw, Theresa Gasik, Susan Julian, Anne Lutz, and Linda Mitchell.

[LINK TO CALENDAR](#)

Technology & Website:

After four months of research, Public Relations Facilitator Robin Smith Kollman and Technology Director Dmitry Andrievsky presented information to the school board at the November 25, 2019 meeting about implementing a new website for D70. This would replace the current website that has been in operation since 2006.

The need to replace the current D70 website is 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.

In their research, Mrs. Kollman and Mr. Andrievsky were looking for a solution that 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.

Several website vendors were thoroughly reviewed and Finalsite is the solution that is being recommended.

Finalsite is used by Stevenson High School District 125, Lake Zurich School District 95 and Northbrook Elementary District 27. The first year would cost \$22,000, and then cost \$12,000 per year thereafter. The first year is higher due to a \$10,000 cost to design the website for District 70.

The administration will be recommending that the district enters into a five year contract with Finalsite.

Administration will return in December seeking School Board approval to purchase the Finalsite website. Should the School Board approve the recommendation, the new website will launch in late July of 2020.

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

[The Website Redesign School Board presentation is posted on the D70 website.](#)

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

- Jessica Van Roeyen, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective November 4, 2019.
- Board members also accepted the resignation of Rosalio Guzman, Day Custodian at Highland, effective November 8, 2019.

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:

- 6:65 Instruction: Student Social and Emotional Development. The original 2013 policy remains intact and new language is added, detailing the incorporation of SEL objectives into the District's curriculum and other educational programs.
- 7:185 Students: Teen Dating Violence Prohibited. This 2014 policy which focuses on identification and reporting of teen dating violence, sees minor revisions and adds training "as recommended by the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students or a Complaint Manager.
- 7:190 Students: Student Behavior. This 2016 policy, which details prohibited student conduct, is largely intact, with the inclusion of the administration and/or possession of medical cannabis by "*authorized*" students.
- 7:200 Students: Suspension Procedures. This 2016 policy outlines the procedures for student suspension and is updated only to remove the following, dated language: "*This policy becomes effective and replaces the policy on Suspension Procedures on the first student attendance day of the 2016-2017 school year.*"
- 7:210 Students: Expulsion Procedures. This 2016 policy outlines the procedures for student expulsion and is updated only to remove the following, dated language: "*This policy becomes effective and replaces the policy on Suspension Procedures on the first student attendance day of the 2016-2017 school year.*"
- 7:340 Students: Student Records. This 2011 policy describes the legal definition of

those items that qualify, or are excluded as student records. This revision excludes video created for law enforcement purposes, as well as any written or oral communication from law enforcement officials concerning the arrest or custody of students under the age of 17. New language is also added regarding “*Student Biometric Information Collection*.” District 70 does not collect any student biometric information, and thus adopts this language merely as a PRESS update.

[Policies Approved Nov. 25, 2019](#)

First Reading

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

- 4:15 Operational Services: Identity Protection (last revised 2017)
- 5:170 General Personnel: Copyright for Publication or Sale of Instructional Materials and Computer Programs Developed by Employees (last revised 1998)
- 5:200 Professional Personnel: Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- 5:300 Educational Support Personnel: Schedules and Employment Year
- 5:320 Educational Support Personnel: Evaluation
- 6:10 Instruction: Educational Philosophy and Objectives

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

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=45530894>

Superintendent’s Report

Outdoor Education

Approximately 260 sixth-graders from Highland Middle School in Libertyville participated in a time honored tradition is D70 earlier this month known as Outdoor Education (Outdoor Ed).

Outdoor Ed is an amazing three-day environmental program that 6th grade students at HMS participate in at the Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon, IL.

Aside from building relationships with peers and staff that may otherwise have not existed, students study and learn about geology, fossils, survival, early pioneering, birds, the food chain, and orienteering.

In many ways, this is a rite of passage for our sixth graders at HMS and is a wonderful opportunity on so many levels.

Thank you to Angie McCarthy, HMS teacher, for leading this opportunity!





Copeland Manor School Collects Almost 500 Pounds of Candy

Andy Tate is one of our parents at Copeland and is also a military veteran. Andy actively supports our veterans through a program known as STRIVE through his employer, Takeda Pharmaceuticals.

Over the past couple of years, Andy has led a Halloween donation drive where unused candy is collected and shipped out to our dedicated service members at home and abroad.

With the help of the Copeland community, 495 pounds of candy was collected this year to donate to our troops! This is a great community building exercise that both honors and helps with the morale of our active service members. With all this candy we should probably start looking into sending toothbrushes as well!

Andy and his family will soon be relocating due to a transfer at Takeda. Andy, you and your family will be missed.



5Essentials

The 5Essentials is survey designed to seek input from students, parents, and staff to drive continuous improvement in our schools. Each public school district in the state of Illinois is required to participate in the 5Essentials. The survey provides information that is reviewed at the school and district levels in the following areas that are critical for success:

- **Effective Leaders:** The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.
- **Collaborative Teachers:** Teachers collaborate to promote professional growth..
- **Involved Families:** The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.
- **Supportive Environment:** The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students and support students to realize their goals. Classmates also support one another.
- **Ambitious Instruction:** Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.

The 2019-20 5 Essentials survey window will open on December 10, 2019, and end on February 14, 2020.

This marks the start of D70's communication about the 5Essentials! Additional targeted communications to staff and families will follow and preparations will begin to ensure that students at the required grade levels (4th-8th) take the survey.



Welcome Mr. John Herrin

John Herrin attended his first District 70 School Board meeting on November 25, 2019. Approved by the school board at the October 28, 2019 meeting, Mr. Herrin takes on the role of District 70 Director of Finance and Operations on July 1, 2020. He replaces Dr. Kurt Valentin who retires after serving D70 with distinction for 20 years on June 30, 2020. Mr. Herrin currently is the chief business official at Grayslake School District 46 and is a six-year school finance veteran. We welcome John to the D70 family!

School Board Member Appreciation Day

November 15, 2019 was School Board Member Appreciation Day. Serving on a school board is a considerable honor and a responsibility. This critically important role is an incredibly impactful one on the lives of students, families, and staff. It is also a voluntary and unpaid role whereby each school board member must balance responsibilities with their families and work with community service.



D70 and the larger community of Libertyville is very fortunate to have current and past school board members who are child-centered, effectively govern, and are stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you, current D70 school board members, for your dedicated service to our students, families, staff, and larger community of Libertyville!

- Tom Vickers (School Board President)
- Wendy Schilling (School Board Vice President)
- Chris Coughlin
- Marc Grote
- Maura Kennedy
- Amie Krummick
- Linda Lucke