



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 Oct. 28, 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.

No E-Learning This Year and Implications for the 2019-2020 Calendar

Dr. Erik Youngman, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, reported that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has changed the parameters for E-Learning.

He noted that D70's adoption of e-learning during the 18-19 school year was an innovative approach to count emergency days as the days of actual student attendance. The model D70 employed in 18-19 had students choose from a variety of activities that accounted for approximately forty (40) minutes.

But this year, Dr. Youngman noted, ISBE has installed a 5-hour requirement for school districts to adhere to in order to consider e-learning as an actual day of student attendance. This has presented a challenge for staff to create enough learning activities to meet the increased time requirement, including tasks that can be accomplished by 5- and 6-year-olds. Dr. Youngman also noted there is no guidance from ISBE regarding students requiring special education services.



As such, there will be no E-Learning this school year. E-Learning will be reviewed with the

central office, building principals, LEA, and FAD 70 for future development.

Calendar implications: State law requires a school district to build in five emergency closing days into their calendars. Any days that school is canceled due to inclement



weather and/or other reason(s) are made up at the end of the school year. Given that E-learning is not an option this year, all emergency school closing days will need to be made up at the end of the school year.

Originally, the school year was to end June 3, 2020, but schools were closed Sept. 13, 2019, because of a building-wide power outage at Butterfield Elementary School, flooding in roadways that would have caused significant delays for the district's transportation company to get students to school and flooding at Highland Middle School.

Provided that no other emergency day(s) are needed, the last day of school is June 4, 2020. Should D70 use any of the remaining 4 emergency days due to inclement weather, etc., the end of the school year will be extended up to the end of the day on June 10, 2020, which would be an early release day.

Please plan accordingly!

[The presentation to the board is posted on the website.](#)

Mini-Grants Awarded

Dr. Matt Barbini, superintendent, reported to the School Board that District 70's business partners, Partners for Excellence in Education, awarded 27 mini-grants this year in the amount of \$8,645.75 for innovative and creative programs to enhance the educational experience for our students. Highland Middle School Assistant Principal Elizabeth Davis and Butterfield Assistant Principal Steve Feldman announced the teachers who were awarded mini-grants. In doing so, they also provided a brief summary of each mini-grant that was awarded. This is an amazing partnership that helps to advance D70's mission by providing teachers and students with unique learning opportunities. Thank you to the business partners and staff who submitted mini-grant applications this year!

[The mini-grants awarded are posted on the website.](#)

Summer School Revamped 2.0

Changes for Summer School were proposed to the School Board by Supt. Barbini, including moving the session (to allow the district to make up school days when school may be canceled because of Snow Days) to run from June 15 through July 16, 2020, and relocating the ESY and kindergartners through second graders to Copeland Manor School while work is done on the interior and exterior of Rockland School over the summer. Highland Middle School will still host Summer School for students in third through eighth grade.

Under the proposal, Summer School rates for residents would go to \$360 for four classes from \$285 charged last summer, and for non-residents, rates would go to \$450 for four classes compared to \$345 charged last summer.

Supt. Barbini reported that tuition increases were needed to offset a \$30,000 deficit and restructure administrative support to more effectively lead and serve our exceptional program.



The Board and Administration are continuing to review the proposed tuition increases and will revisit and act on this matter during the School Board Meeting on November 25, 2019.

[The Summer School presentation is posted on the website.](#)

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

- John Herrin, director of finance and operations, effective July 1, 2020;
- Sarah Zovistoski, paraeducator at Rockland, effective Oct. 1, 2019;
- Judy Bergman, paraeducator at Butterfield, effective Oct. 14, 2019;

- Brenda Fogg, paraeducator at Copeland, effective Oct. 28, 2019;
- Rachel Simonsen, to Interventionist at Copeland Manor from paraeducator at Copeland Manor, to be effective Oct. 21, 2019.
- Board members also accepted the resignation of Andrea Walsh, paraeducator at Butterfield, effective Oct. 17, 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).

Following the required second reading of recommended policy language, the school board approved new PRESS policy language 4:190 (Targeted School Violence Prevention Program) that requires school districts to develop behavioral threat assessment teams and protocols regarding the same. Dr. Chris Otto has been facilitating a committee of principals and staff to review and revise existing approaches in this area and align to national standards. The remaining policies were largely revised to align with the new policy language in 4:190. Communication and training regarding behavioral threat assessment and related protocols will be forthcoming.

[Policies 4:190 \(new\), and 5:230, 7:180 and 7:250 \(revisions\) .pdf](#)

Board Reviews Resolutions to Prepare for the Delegate Assembly Meeting in November.

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) serves as an important resource to school boards throughout the state of Illinois. IASB is also an influential lobbying entity. IASB develops an annual resolution committee report based on advocacy from its member districts. The Resolutions Process is one of the most important undertaken by IASB. It culminates at the annual Delegate Assembly each November where the decisions reached by member boards of education determine the direction of the Association's advocacy

efforts on behalf of its members. IASB would then lobby for those resolutions that were passed at the Delegate Assembly with the legislature. It is important to note that the legislature is ultimately responsible for reviewing, developing, and passing new laws or revisions to existing laws.

At Monday's meeting, the D70 School Board reviewed each of the new resolutions identified by IASB and provided Vice President Wendy Schilling with direction on how to vote on behalf of the district at the delegate assembly in November.

Of particular interest is a resolution on student safety that is being considered that would allow school districts to make local decisions to arm staff to address an armed intruder or active shooter situation. The District 70 Board is not in support of this resolution and directed Vice President Wendy Schilling to cast her vote, on behalf of the district, accordingly.

Two parents spoke at the school board meeting on Monday asking the school board to consider not approving this resolution as well.

Superintendent's Report

Attendance Awards

Attending school on a regular basis is arguably one of the most important indicators of school success. To that point, four of five Libertyville School District 70 schools were honored in late September by the Lake County Regional Office of Education for achieving high levels of student attendance during an "Attendance Week" competition.



- In the "Large Elementary Schools" category with more than 650 students was Highland Middle School in fourth place out of participating schools in the county with an average of 97.36 percent of students attending a week.

- In the “Small Elementary Schools” category with fewer than 450 students, Copeland Manor School ranked in second place with 98.99 percent of students in attendance followed by Adler Park School in fourth place with 98.56 percent and Rockland School in sixth place with 98.40 percent.

This is a shared accomplishment between students, families, staff, and administration! Students, staff, and administrators from Adler, Copeland, HMS, and Rockland attended a special breakfast award ceremony on September 27.

French Students Visit HMS

Every two years, Kerstin Cholewin, French teacher at HMS, partners with colleagues at LHS and France to host exchange students. 2019-2020 is one of those years!

Five students and their teacher from Angers, France, experienced Libertyville, Lake County, and Chicago this fall. Along with experiencing food and culture in the United States, Kerstin made it possible to have all students taking French at HMS to meet and build relationships with the exchange students earlier in the month.

Students interviewed each other, engaged in tongue-twister exercises in both languages, and played a friendly game of Apples to Apples to practice conversational skills in French.

I observed, first-hand, the benefits of this opportunity whereby students came to realize, through conversations in both English and French, just how much in common they have. Relationships were formed and horizons were certainly expanded on Tuesday.



This transformative experience for students and adults from both sides of the “pond” would

not have been possible without Kerstin's leadership. Kerstin opens her home to the exchange program and houses one of the teachers from Angers, France. She has built such a strong relationship with one of the teachers, that he will likely have his daughter live with Kerstin and her family over the summer.

I am glad Kerstin is a D70 family member!

(Kerstin is pictured second from the left along with our new friends from Angers, France.)



Partners for Excellence in Education

The Partners for Excellence in Education has served District 70 students and staff for 24 years. In that time, our business partners have awarded more than \$100,000 in mini-grants to enrich the educational experience for our students.

Earlier this month, 14 business partners reviewed 37 mini-grant requests for the 25th year of the program. Twenty-seven mini-grants have been awarded for \$8,645.75 this year.

The work that has been done in D70 with the Partners for Educational Excellence is truly worthy of replication. It a partnership in the truest sense of the word that fosters innovation, helps enrich the educational experience for our students, advances the district's mission, and is good for the larger community!

HMS Girls Volleyball

Congratulations to the Highland Middle School eighth grade girls volleyball team for winning the Lakeside Conference Tournament Championship under the leadership of Coach Cindy Beshel. This is the



second time this team won the Championship, winning last year as well as seventh-graders.



Two Hornets went to State!

The weather was sublime one Saturday in October in Normal, Illinois as sixth-graders Margo McGormley and Emma Williamson represented Highland Middle School at the State Cross Country meet. Margo and Emma both achieved their personal bests at the state meet. Congratulations Margo and Emma, you make us proud!

K9 Reading Buddies and Max Feldman

Butterfield School welcomes a new program this school year that will use therapy dogs to help students read. Barbara Feldman, mother of Assistant Principal Steve Feldman, is visiting the school every Wednesday with her therapy dog, Max, on behalf of K9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore.

