



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 June 22, 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.

Teacher iPad Purchase

During the Monday evening meeting, the school board approved the purchase of 200 iPads and accessories for teachers at a cost of \$95,358.

The purchase was made to prepare for the possibility of continued enhanced remote learning during the 2020-21 school year should remote learning be required to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Technology Committee already committed to providing panels and the iPad package over the course of two years to use in the classroom. The Curriculum Department recommended accelerating the purchase of classroom iPads so that they could be used to improve remote learning in the upcoming school year.

The iPad package includes:

- iPad
- Explain Everything yearly subscription
- Logitech crayon
- Protective Case

Currently, teachers each work with a district purchased laptop. However, the laptop does not easily provide teachers with tools to create lessons to provide instruction in a remote learning environment. While providing synchronous or live lessons, teachers also cannot watch the class while presenting on their laptops screen. Using an iPad in addition to the laptop will assist teachers. In addition, teachers can neither proficiently write using a

trackpad or mouse to simulate live lessons nor do they have the necessary tools to create robust instructional videos. The iPads, in conjunction with the accessories and Explain Everything, can easily and seamlessly alleviate these instructional needs.

This purchase will support both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Teachers will be able to teach, present, create videos, and collaborate with students within the Explain Everything app.

Enhanced Remote Learning 2020-21 Option/Fall Task Force Update

Our teachers did a phenomenal job pivoting rapidly from in-person to remote learning this spring. This was not an easy transition for anyone; however, our staff rose to the challenge and comported themselves with professionalism, kindness, and care. Thank you!

District 70 is committed to continuous growth and improvement. It is with this in mind that the e-learning task force continued meeting in the spring to continuously improve upon the experience our students receive with District 70's approach to remote learning should we need to implement this approach at some point next year. Dr. Erik Youngman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Dr. Otto, Director of Student Services, and Dr. Barbini provided highlights of the e-learning task force's work in this important area to prepare for the fall and beyond.

This presentation can be found [here](#).

Technology Long-Range Capital Plan

On Monday evening, Mr. Dmitry Andrievsky, Director of Technology, and Mr. John Herrin, incoming Director of Finance and Operations, presented a long-range capital plan for technology that carries District 70 through the 2026-2027 school year. This is an important exercise and product that will ensure that students and staff have the technology that they

need and that we have a robust infrastructure to support these needs. It also helps for:

- budget planning and forecasting;
- project management;
- understanding how expenditures fit into a larger plan to continue advancing the mission of the district.

This presentation can be found [here](#).

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RESIGNATION

- **Chris Vipond**, Technology Literacy Coach at Copeland and Rockland, effective end of the 2019-2020 school year;
- **Jeff Knapp**, Principal at Rockland School for 9 years, effective June 30, 2020.

CHANGE IN STATUS

- **Bonnie Jones**, from Paraeducator at Highland to Special Education Teacher at Highland, effective 2020-2021 school year;
- **Andreanna Vuckovic**, from Paraeducator at Highland to Math Teacher at Highland, effective 2020-2021 school year.

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Carrie Modra**, Assistant Principal at Butterfield, effective July 1, 2020;
- **Rianna Roos**, Special Education Teacher at Rockland, 2020-2021 school year;
- **Tayler Hamrick**, Technology Literacy Coach at Copeland and Rockland, 2020-2021 school year;

- **Shelby Greenstein**, RtI and Life Skills teacher at Highland, 2020-2021 school year.

FMLA

- Rachel Simonsen, First Grade Teacher at Rockland, affirming request received May 4, 2020, effective on or about September 3, 2020, for eight (8) weeks;
- Robin VanDyke, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Highland, affirming request received June 3, 2020, effective August 24, 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

No policies were presented for approval this month.

First Reading

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

- 7:30 **STUDENTS**: Student Assignment
- 7:90 **STUDENTS**: Release During School Hours
- 8:80 **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**: Gifts to the District

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

[Link to Recording of June 22, 2020, School Board Meeting](#)

[Link to Recording of June 22, 2020 Board of Education Meeting](#)

Superintendent's Report

Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year

Last week Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent sent out a communication that The Illinois State Board of Education will release guidance in the coming days to support a safe transition back to in-person learning this fall. ISBE will emphasize in-person learning for all students to the greatest extent possible, while realizing that may not be feasible in all situations.

I am in regular communication with all of the feeder superintendents and Dr. Prentiss Lea in D128. We discussed various re-opening scenarios in a call last week based on indications from ISBE that are encouraging re-opening for in-person instruction in the fall. We are all committed to this course of action in one form or another.

We are in a holding pattern until this guidance drops from ISBE. Once the reopening guidance does drop from ISBE the D70 task force will review and incorporate it into our reopening plans. I will be recommending that we convene a school board meeting in late July to review what D70's reopening plans will be.

Change to Calendar for the 2020-21 School Year

We have received clarification about how Illinois school districts should treat the November 3, 2020 election now that Gov. Pritzker has signed SB 1863, which expands voting by mail and makes the day a state holiday for schools.

This will require us to amend the 2020-2021 school calendar that was approved last November by adding an additional day to the end of the school year. This would mean that June 4, 2021 would be the last day of school (instead of June 3) and then June 11 would be the

last day should all five of our emergency days be needed (instead of June 10).

This will be brought to the school board for action at the July 27, 2020, school board meeting.

8th Grade Year-End Activities

Although the end of the year was a very different experience for all of us, Highland Middle School Principal Dr. Jon Hallmark found a way to continue making 8th graders feel special as they transitioned from D70 to the high school. This included:

- Signs were placed in the yards of each 8th grader to celebrate graduation on May 18th. This was a joint venture between Dr. Hallmark and the Highland Family Association and was very well received.
- A [pre-recorded graduation event video](#) was emailed to all eighth grade families. Each graduating student was recognized by being named and their graduation photo was displayed. Speeches by students and administration, along with other forms of recognition, took place in this production.
- A day for 8th graders to drop-off and pick up materials was held on June 2nd. Dr. Hallmark, the HMS staff, HFA members, and myself were on site to greet and celebrate our graduates. This event was a special day for graduating students who also participated in a Drive-Through Recognition Celebration with music, and plenty of decorations to celebrate their success and achievement. The event was held with staff wearing masks and keeping socially distant, and continued to be uplifting to students as they celebrated their achievements.

Good luck future Wildcats!