



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 Aug. 24, 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.

New Teachers

District 70 welcomes the following new teachers to the 2020-21 school year:

- Becca Block, English Learner teacher at Adler Park and Highland Middle schools;
- Jaclyn Johnson, English Learner teacher at Butterfield and Rockland schools;
- Bonnie Jones, special education teacher at HMS;
- Julie Perez, general music and band teacher at Adler Park School;
- Lauren Raphael, social worker, at Butterfield School;
- Rianna Roos, special education teacher at Rockland School;
- Maddy Smith, speech-language pathologist at Copeland Manor and Butterfield schools;
- Stacy Speer, RtI and life skills teacher at HMS;
- Jennifer Vente, general music and band at Rockland School;
- Andrianna Vuckovic, math teacher at HMS;
- and Kelsey Waggoner, special education teacher at Copeland Manor School.

Tenure Staff

The administration and Board of Education of Libertyville School District 70 would like to take this opportunity to formally recognize the following staff members for the attainment of tenure status under the provisions of the Illinois School Code, Article 105 ILCS 5/24-11:

- Kelly Blahnik
- Jennifer Croner
- Lauren Koenig
- Sarah McPherren
- Kristy Trausch
- Ashley Turner

Their collective achievements are considerable and their value to the district is appreciated. We hereby honor them for their dedication to District 70 and their commitment to the field of education.

Fiscal Year Education Fund

Mr. John Herrin, District 70's director of finance and operations, presented information on the Education Fund that was recently updated to reflect the approved Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant funds that the district received from the federal government.

This was done to prepare the school board for the final budget adoption at the Sept. 21 board meeting. Mr. Herrin also provided a brief overview of the budget approval process at the school board meeting. A required part of the budget adoption process is to post the draft budget for review in advance of the meeting. The DRAFT FY 21 budget is available for review on the District 70 website and can be found [here](#).

eSchool Overview

eSchool was designed to mirror what students would experience during a day of in-person learning while District 70 continues to monitor the public health crisis that we are experiencing and plan for a safe re-opening.

Central office administrators presented an overview of District 70's eSchool program at the school board meeting. This presentation can be found [here](#).

Families are also encouraged to review the [eSchool handbook](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) for more information about eSchool.

Student Fees

The beginning of a school board conversation regarding fees will be revisiting in the Sept. 21 Board of Education meeting. The topic will include an administration presentation about revenue and expenditures, comparing figures from this fall to last fall.

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- **Lisa Wolf**, from EL Teacher at Butterfield and Rockland to 1st Grade Teacher at Butterfield, 2020-2021 school year.

NEW EMPLOYMENT:

- **Stacy Speer**, RtI and Life Skills Teacher at Highland, 2020-2021 school year
- **Jaclyn Johnson**, English Learner Teacher at Butterfield and Rockland, 2020-2021 school year
- **Lauren Raphael**, Social Worker at Butterfield, 2020-2021 school year
- **Alex Garrison**, Paraeducator at Highland, 2020-2021 school year
- **Salma Sanchez**, Paraeducator at Highland, 2020-2021 school year.

EXTENDED LEAVE:

- **Maureen Klus**, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

RESIGNATION:

- **Natalie Ripley**, Paraeducator at Butterfield, effective immediately

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:

No policies were presented for approval this month

First Reading

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

- 4:180 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES:** Pandemic Preparedness
- 6:235 **INSTRUCTION:** Access to Electronic Networks and Internet Safety
- 7:345 **STUDENTS:** Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

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

Superintendent's Report

I had a difficult time thinking about exactly what to write in my opening address to kick-off the 2020-2021 school year. This is largely due to the circumstances we are opening the school year in--a global pandemic and beginning the first trimester in eSchool.

We did not ask for any of this but must make the best of the situation. I am asking that we

continue to come together in the service of our students, neighbors, teachers, and each other this fall.

The incredibly well-received meet and greets at each District 70 school last week were prime examples of this. The smiles on the faces of our students, their families, and staff were a reminder of the joy and hope that the beginning of any school year brings. These events reinforced the importance of schools for our children, families, and staff and were a great way to begin the school year. I would like to thank our principals, staff, and parent associations for planning these events and our students and their families for participating in them. We will continue finding ways to do things like this.





Today marks the first day of eSchool. eSchool was designed to mirror what students would experience during a day of in-person learning. This means that there will be much more live instruction, accountability, and consistency for our students moving forward. Our dedicated teachers and administrators have worked hard to prepare for a successful launch eSchool. I am proud of our eSchool program and it will serve our students well while we continue to monitor the public health crisis that we are experiencing and plan for a safe re-opening.

I want nothing more than to reopen schools for in-person learning. Doing so must be done in a measured and safe way. Toward that end, a reopening task force composed of parents, board members, teachers, nurses, and administrators has begun to meet to continue to explore and recommend ways that we can safely reopen our schools for in-person learning. The task force will explore and make recommendations in the following

areas:

- Reopening metrics;
- Reopening approaches for the elementary schools;
- Reopening approaches for the middle school;
- Reopening health protocols;

The task force will provide an update at the September school board meeting and present final recommendations at the October meeting.

I sincerely hope that you and your family continue to stay well and have a great start to the school year.