



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 Sept. 21, 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.

Superintendent's Reopening Advisory Committee

During the school board meeting, the Superintendent's Reopening Advisory Committee gave a progress report to begin safely moving students back into schools next month for in-school and remote learning in hybrid models while also continuing to offer eSchool for families who want to continue with only remote learning during a pandemic.

A Superintendent's Reopening Advisory Committee was created to help determine ways to safely reopen schools quicker than the original plan to reopen on Nov. 17. The 37 committee members include parents, nurses, teachers, board members, and administrators. This large group of stakeholders is broken down into four subcommittees that focus on the following areas: reopening metrics, reopening approaches for elementary schools, reopening approaches for the middle school, and reopening health protocols.

Some of the committee recommendations include:

- The recommendation from the Metrics Subcommittee is to align decision-making for reopening schools in District 70 to the metrics associated with the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium and the [Lake County School Decision Dashboard](#). *Currently, these metrics are recommending a hybrid approach*; however, that is subject to change based on infection rates, hospitalizations, and testing turnaround.
- The recommendation from the Elementary School Reopening Subcommittee is creating a hybrid approach with in-person small group instruction for 2 hours and 15 minutes each day (either with the morning group or the afternoon group) and receiving specials (art, music, and physical education) remotely each day, Monday

through Friday. Classrooms will be disinfected daily while both groups are absent. This will enable District 70 to have smaller class-sizes to align with recommendations from IDPH, ISBE, and LCHD for six-feet of social distancing.

- In-person could begin: Oct. 26 for kindergarten and first grade;
 - Nov. 2 for second and third grade;
 - Nov. 9 for fourth and fifth grade.
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- The Middle School Reopening Subcommittee continues to work on recommendations for student and staff schedules that are more complex than at elementary schools. The group is exploring a hybrid model where students will have in-person instruction on designated days each week while other days will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning when students are at home. The potential start date for in-person would be Nov. 17, when schedules naturally change for a new trimester.
 - Families who want to stay in eSchool can continue to do so for elementary or middle schools.

Moving forward, meeting agendas and minutes from each of the four subcommittees will be posted online (under the “**20-21 Fall**” tab located on the district and each school site) and, as requested by families, a special email address [-reopening@d70schools.org](mailto:reopening@d70schools.org)- has been created to allow community members to share their ideas and thoughts with the Superintendent’s Reopening Advisory Committee. While emails will be reviewed, they will not be answered.

We understand that for some families, these recommendations may not look like the how families envisioned. District 70’s preliminary reopening plans may be too quick or be too late. Please know that we continue to put safety and children first. Thanks you in advance for continuing to be patient and supportive as we work through re-imagining the educational experience for our students, families, and staff during this public health crisis.

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

Fiscal/School Year 2021 Budget Adoption

The District is legally required to adopt a budget by September 30 every year. The challenge for the current fiscal/school year is the amount of unknowns. In some areas, the District may experience savings. Examples include utilities in classrooms, substitute teachers, and transportation for the weeks where no buses were running. Conversely, there may also be increased expenditures for items such as technology to support eSchool, masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and cleaning supplies, to name a few.

In the face of these challenges, District 70 opted to meet its legal requirement to adopt a budget, with the full knowledge that the budget will need to be formally amended at a later date. As the District moves forward with reopening plans, the District will be able to better assess costs and present an amended budget to the Board and community that more accurately reflects the goals, missions, and practical realities of the reopening plan. Information on the adopted budget can be found at the link below.

[Adopted Budget](#)

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

NEW EMPLOYMENT:

- **Miguel Matute**, Second Shift Custodian at Highland, effective August 31, 2020;

RESIGNATION:

- **Janine Sorboro**, Paraeducator at Rockland, effective September 4, 2020;
- **Barb Anderson**, Administrative Assistant to Curriculum and Instruction, effective September 25, 2020;
- **Dina Lepczynski**, Administrative Assistant at Copeland School, effective October 2, 2020.

CHANGE IN STATUS:

- **Sarah Zovistosky**, from .8 FTE Paraeducator at Rockland to 1.0 FTE Paraeducator at Rockland, 2020-2021 school year.

EXTENDED LEAVE:

- **Andrea Walsh**, Paraeducator at Butterfield, effective 2020-2021 school year;
- **Rane Anderson**, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective September 4, for the balance

of the 2020-2021 school year.

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:

4:180 **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

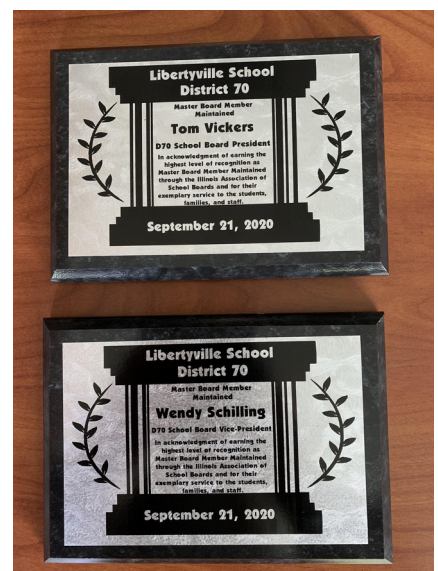
Link to Policies Approved Date of School Board meeting, click [HERE](#)

First Reading

No policies were presented for the first reading this month.

Superintendent's Report

Service on a school board is a noble pursuit. It comes with much responsibility on top of existing family and work commitments. It is critically important and all voluntary. In



difficult times like those we have been experiencing this exponentially adds to the mantle of responsibility that each school board member wears.

District 70 is very fortunate to have such dedicated school board members who care about students, their families, and our staff. Thank you to board members Chris Coughlin , Marc Grote, Maura Kennedy, Dr. Amie Krummick and Linda Lucke for your dedicated service to our community's children.



Special thanks to Board President Tom Vickers and Vice President Wendy Schilling for earning the highest recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards--Master Board Member Maintained. This speaks to both of their dedication and service to the students, their families, and staff in our excellent community.

Thank you Mr. Vickers and Mrs. Schilling.



