



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 Dec. 14, 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.*

Levy

Every year part of the normal financial process of any school district is the adoption of a property tax levy. John Herrin, director of finance and operations, presented information regarding the 2020 District 70 levy at the Nov. 23 board meeting. During the November meeting, the board requested the levy discussion be carried over to the Dec. 14 meeting.

During the Dec. 14 meeting, Mr. Herrin answered board questions about the levy, which was then unanimously approved. Mr. Herrin will now bring it to Lake County to formally file the required documents.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) (Item 7.4. 2020 Levy Presentation)

Audit

The District auditor, Mr. John Aceto from Evoy, Kamsculte, Jacobs & Company, presented the final audit and all documents to the board.

COVID-19 Expenditure Report

Responding to previous board Finance Committee requests, a simple report of

expenditures pertaining to COVID was given to the board by Mr. Herrin. He reviewed the documents with the board, discussed the revenue District 70 has received to offset those expenditures, and explained how the report will be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

[Here is a link to the School Board Presentation](#) (Item 8.2, COVID Expenditure Report)

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Claudia Pineda**, Custodian at Highland, effective December 7, 2020;
- **Czarina Rodriguez**, Math Teacher at Highland, effective December 14, 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

Following the required second reading of the 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:

7:40 **STUDENTS**: Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students

7:70 **STUDENTS:** Attendance and Truancy

6:110 **INSTRUCTION:** Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School (New)

8.30 **COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

A link to the policies that were presented for first reading is located [here](#) (Informational Item 8.1 Backup)

Superintendent's Report

Given that D70 schools are open for in-person instruction, we all need to continue to do our individual and collective part by being vigilant about:

- 3 W's:
 - Watching our social distancing;
 - Wearing a mask;
 - Washing our hands
- Being closely in tune with our health and the health of our loved ones who live in our household.
 - Completing the Daily Self-certification (staff and students).
- Staying home when ill.

During these challenging times, we need to model flexibility and grace. One way that D70 is doing this is through honoring families' right to choose between in-person and fully virtual learning. Since November 19, 2020, approximately 1% of our elementary families and 2% of our middle school families have changed their minds and have moved from in-person to a fully virtual experience for their child(ren).

Breakdown by Elementary School (via PowerSchool) as of December 11, 2020

	Total Enrollment	In-person Hybrid	In-person %	Virtual Enrollment	Virtual %
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		Enrollment			
Elementary (includes EC)	1296	1035	80%	259	20%
Middle School	845	568	67%	277	33%
Totals	2141	1603	75%	536	25%

As of November 19, 2020:

- **Elementary School enrollment was at 81% in-person and 19% Virtual**
- **HMS enrollment was at 69% in-person and 31% Virtual**

Review of Calendar

- Winter break is approaching and will be from December 21, 2020 - January 4, 2021;
- We will be taking a preventative pause and **all** students in D70 will engage in remote learning from January 5 - January 15, 2021.
 - During the preventative pause, the hybrid schedule will be followed. The rationale behind following the hybrid schedule is to minimize further transitions and maintain consistency for our students and staff.
 - During the preventative pause, eSchool Centers and the Champions Early Learning Program at Butterfield Elementary School will continue to be open.
- There will be no school on January 18 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) and January 19 will be a non-attendance day for students (Teacher Institute Day);
- We will return to in-person hybrid instruction at the elementary level on January 20 and on January 21 at HMS (Wednesdays are full remote days for HMS students).

Goings on in each of our Schools

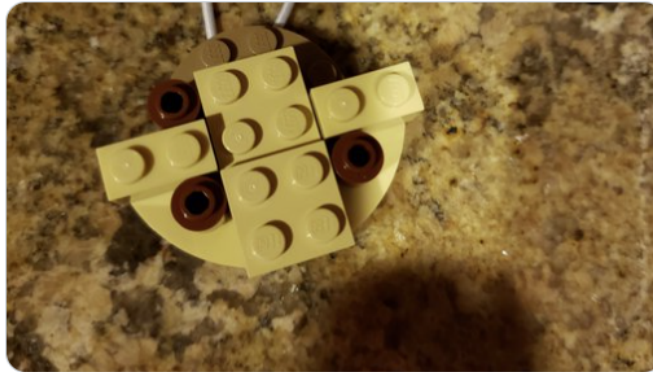
- **Alder Park School:**

- Gifted education teacher Emily Weber initiated a #BuildToGive project created by Lego. Students get to create any kind of seasonal ornament they would like and then they have to Tweet it out with #BuildToGive. With every tweet, Lego gives a Lego set to a child in need.



Mrs. Weber D70 @MrsWeberGTE · Dec 2

Adler Park students are participating in Legos' #BuildtoGive challenge! Roark in Mrs. Parkhurst's class built a chocolate chip cookie ornament! Nice job Roark! #d70gators



Mrs. Weber D70 @MrsWeberGTE · Dec 6

Charlie in Mrs. Gasick's and Mrs. Marcum's class created this awesome dino ornament for the #BuildtoGive challenge! Way to go Charlie! #d70gators



● Butterfield School:

- The Student Council is conducting a Butterfield Cheer Challenge in December where students are asked to do random acts of kindness each day. Photos of

students caught in the act (of kindness) can be sent in and are displayed on morning broadcast.

- This includes students in second grade who write down their acts of kindness on paper lightbulbs that are then proudly displayed in their classrooms.



● Copeland Manor School:

- Learning Center Director Carrie Johnson and Learning Center Clerk Nicole Fry have been busy spreading the joy of literacy to Copeland Cougars with 2,300 books being circulated to students during the last three weeks!

● Rockland School:

- Rockland families who need a little extra cheer this holiday season can participate in the mitten tree. These families have been able to anonymously request gifts and the amazing Rockland staff and RFA are making these

holiday wishes come true. Thank you to school psychologist Michelle Vertenan for coordinating this amazing community event.

- **Highland Middle School:**

- The Highland Class Act Committee hosted an "[Among Us](#)" event where over 200 students participated virtually. The game takes place in a space-themed setting, in which players each take on one of two roles, most being Crewmates, and a predetermined number being Impostors. The goal of the Crewmates is to identify the Impostors, eliminate them, and complete tasks around the map; the Impostors' goal is to covertly sabotage and eliminate the Crewmates before they complete all of their tasks.
- Students registered individually and then were placed onto teams to help build new friendships and community. A special thanks to Kendall Miller, dean of students, Chris Seidel, art teacher, and Angela Roser, music teacher, for organizing this. Another "Among Us" event will be planned at HMS in 2021!

A Sincere Thank You

The holiday season is upon us. This has always been a time of nostalgia, reflection, and giving thanks for me. With that said, I would like to share thanks to the following groups:

- Children represent the greatest natural resource in a community. To the D70 students, I know this experience has not been easy for you, but thank you for showing us what it means to be flexible, persistent, and courageous (as well as finding joy) during this challenging time. We are here for you.
- Our families care deeply about their children and want what is best for them. This has not been an easy time to be a parent. Thank you for your continued advocacy and support during this challenging time.
- Our teachers care deeply about children and are working incredibly hard to provide them with academic and social and emotional support during this challenging time.

This has not been an easy time to be an educator. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of our children and your courage to provide in-person support to our students.

- Our support staff (nurses, administrative assistants, custodians, and program assistants) who do much of the behind the scenes work to support the magic in our classrooms have also risen to the occasion. They are unsung heroes in the truest sense of the word and are also deserving of our thanks.
- Our administrators care deeply about children and the grown-ups who serve them. There has been no playbook for this year and I want to thank you for your leadership, grace, and flexibility during this time.
- Our school board cares deeply about our children, families, staff, and the larger community. Your job has not been easy as you have helped guide the community through this challenging time. Thank you for your individual and collective service to our community. We are fortunate to have you.