



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 Feb. 22, 2021

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.

Full-Day Reopening Update

At the Feb. 22 Board of Education meeting, Supt. Matt Barbini recommended the following option to the school board and it was approved in a 5-2 vote:

- Elementary
 - Beginning on April 12, 2021, provide full-day instruction to in-person students K-5 by socially distancing as much as possible. Most classrooms will have students seated less than six feet away from each other;
 - Elementary students already are in “pods” with their teacher for most of the day. Contact tracing and quarantines due to close contact will likely only impact that classroom;
 - Student and teacher assignments will change.
- Middle School
 - Implement hybrid version 2.0 with live-streaming and two full days of in-person instruction for cohort A and B (AA Deep Clean/Remote and BB) beginning on March 8; Middle school students are not in “pods” and move throughout the day. The schedule can be found [here](#) (item 6.2, presentation, on the agenda).
 - Staying in hybrid reduces the likelihood of quarantining large groups of students (a whole team, grade level, or all of HMS).

- Families will continue to have a choice of having their child(ren) attend in-person or virtual in both the elementary and middle school levels.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) (Item 6.2.2. on the agenda)

Highland Live-streaming Overview

An overview was shared during this Board meeting regarding the process to prepare for and support live streaming instruction at Highland Middle School. This will lead to an increase in instructional time for all students (virtual and in-person).

[Here is a link to the School Board Presentation](#) (Item 6.2.1 on the agenda)

Annual Illinois Learning Standards Performance Update

Dr. Youngman provided an overview of student performance on the STAR assessment along with the next steps to address learning loss experienced during the pandemic.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) (Item 8.2 on the agenda)

BinaxNow

The school board approved the administration's recommendation to implement voluntary symptomatic COVID testing for both students and staff at the February 22, 2021 meeting. This is an important approach to D70's layered mitigation strategy. Expect more information about this tomorrow.

[Here is a link to the Approved School Board Policy](#) (Policy 4:180, Item 7.2 on the agenda)

Desk Shield Purchases

The school board approved the emergency purchase of transparent desk shields for student use at both the middle and elementary schools that will most likely be used during lunchtime as a part of the district's layered mitigation strategy. Similar shields are being used in both Arlington Heights 25 and Oak Grove 68--two districts that D70 has conducted site visits at.

[Here is a link to School Board Item 7.5](#)

Desk Purchases

The school board approved the emergency purchase of desks for student use at the elementary level to replace tables to socially distance students as much as possible when elementary school is reopened in full on April 12.

[Here is a link to School Board Item 7.6](#)

2020-21 Calendar Revisions

As District 70 shifts to increase more in-person learning time, the following calendar adjustments were made to provide teachers with additional planning time as we focus on changes that will be beneficial for students and teachers:

- Monday, March 1st, will be the final Remote Learning Planning Day for teachers while **students are off of school and no eSchool Center**;
- March 17 will be a Teacher Institute Day, moved from April 5th, with teachers working while **students are off of school and no eSchool Center**;
- April 5 will be a regular attendance day and no longer an Institute Day;

[Here is a link to the Updated 2020-21 Calendar](#)

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RESIGNATION

Jessica Van Roeyen, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective March 5, 2021

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- Nathaniel Brautigam, Paraeducator at Highland, effective February 16, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year
- Matthew Friello, eSchool Center Supervisor at Copeland, effective February 1, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year
- Skyler Koch, Paraeducator at Copeland School, effective February 16, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year
- Michelle Sieks, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective February 16, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year
- Madeline DeRose, Paraeducator at Butterfield, effective February 22, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year
- Traci Flader, Summer School Principal, effective immediately

EXTENDED LEAVE

Whitney Adelman, 4th Grade Teacher at Adler, currently on FMLA, requesting an additional 3 weeks, March 12, 2021, through April 12, 2021

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:

4:80 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES:** Accounting and Audits

- 4:90 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**: Activity Funds
- 6:340 **INSTRUCTION**: Student Testing and Assessment Program
- 7:325 **STUDENTS**: Student Fund-Raising Activities
- 4:180 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**: Pandemic Preparedness; Management and Recovery

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

First Reading

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

- 5:120 **GENERAL PERSONNEL**: Ethics
- 5:240 **PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**: Suspension
- 7:80 **STUDENTS**: Release Time For Religious Instruction/Observance

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