



# Board Briefs

**Mission: To ensure that District 70 students experience learning that prepares them to live and work in the 21st Century.**

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Board Briefs from School Board Meeting March 15, 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.*

## **Supt's Full Reopening Report Update**

Supt. Dr. Matt Barbini presented the Board of Education with District 70 plans to open all schools for full-day, five days a week in-person and virtual learning on April 12, 2021. This will be a preview of how schools are expected to look in the fall for the 2021-22 school year.

Mitigation efforts will be layered and include daily self-certification; universal and correct use of masks; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the Lake County Health Department; optional and voluntary symptomatic testing (BinaxNOW) for COVID for both students and staff; and desk shield for use during lunch when masks are off. At this time, voluntary asymptomatic testing for students and staff is still being reviewed and researched.

District 70 families registered for full-day in-person and full-day virtual learning as of March 15, 2021:

- 220 total Adler Park students: 200 (or 91 percent) registered in-person and 18 (or 8 percent) students registered in virtual learning;
- 446 total Butterfield students: 404 (or 91 percent) registered in-person and 34 (or 8 percent) students registered in virtual learning;
- 363 total Copeland Manor students: 336 (or 93 percent) registered in-person and

23 (or 6 percent) students registered in virtual learning;

- 275 total Rockland students: 226 (or 82 percent) registered in-person and 46 (or 17 percent) students in virtual.
- 841 total Highland Middle students: 656 (or 78 percent) registered in-person and 152 (or 18 percent) students in virtual.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) Look for Agenda Item 7.2

### **COVID Spending**

Mr. John Herrin, District 70's director of finance and operations, offered an update on COVID spending and revenue for the school board.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) Look for Agenda Item 5.5

To view a recording of the March 15 Board of Education meeting, click [here](#).

### **Personnel Update**

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

#### **RESIGNATION**

- **Babel Barm**, Health Clerk at Copeland, effective March 12, 2021;

#### **CHANGE IN STATUS**

- **Michelle Sieks**, from Paraeducator at Copeland to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Remote Teacher, effective April 5, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year;
- **Matthew Friello**, from eSchool Supervisor at Copeland to Paraeducator at Copeland, effective April 5, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school

year;

- **Carrie Modra**, from Assistant Principal at Butterfield to Special Education Coordinator, effective July 1, 2021;

#### **NEW EMPLOYMENT**

- **Alena Fomina**, eSchool Supervisor at Rockland, effective March 5, 2021, for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year;

#### **FMLA**

- **Emily Weber**, Gifted and Talented Teacher at Adler, affirming letter received February 12, 2021, effective on or about April 30, 2021, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, with additional weeks in the fall of 2021;

#### **RETURNING FROM LEAVE**

- **Andrea Walsh**, Paraeducator at Butterfield, effective with the 2021-2022 school year;
- **Rane Anderson**, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective with the 2021-2022 school year;

#### **RELEASED FROM SERVICE**

- **Maureen Klus**, Paraeducator at Copeland, currently on Extended Leave, 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:

5:120 **GENERAL PERSONNEL**: Ethics

5:240 **PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**: Suspension

7:80 **STUDENTS**: Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

Approved policies can be viewed [HERE](#).

### First Reading

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

6:20 **INSTRUCTION**: School Year Calendar and Day

6:70 **INSTRUCTION**: Teaching About Religions

6:255 **INSTRUCTION**: Assemblies and Ceremonies

6:260 **INSTRUCTION**: Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials,  
and Programs

6:290 **INSTRUCTION**: Homework

Policies that were presented for a first reading can be viewed [HERE](#).

### **Superintendent's Report**

Nine Highland Middle School students were honored at the school board meeting for their creative business where they make face masks for staff and students, and sell them in a Hornet Store they set up.

Students in the Highland Instructional Program have created their own Hornet Store this school year, selling face masks they designed and created at school, as well as other student-made school spirit wear.

The business idea, financially backed by HMS administrators, is meant to “create natural opportunities for students to engage with others in the Highland community and to learn new life skills in the process,” said HIP teacher Max Zbilut. Zbilut, along with speech-language pathologist Lindsey Fry, and HIP teacher Jessica Key and occupational therapist Monica Goldberg, all helped guide the students on running the store.

The students involved in the program, eighth-graders Jess, John, and Audrey, along with seventh-graders Maddie, Addison, Max, and Charlie, and sixth-graders Violet and Katelynn

began the process by learning how to use a mini heat press to transfer Hornet logos to face masks. The masks were made for each student in the HIP program and additional ones were sold to staff members and interested HMS students. Some of the students also created a promotional video and order forms.

Now, the group has progressed to making and selling Highland shirts. Students are excited to make their own spirit wear.

Through this program teachers targeted:

- creating opportunities for interaction with gen. ed. students and staff;
- using verbal and written communication skills;
- fine motor skills;
- planning and organization;
- money and basic budgeting skills;
- social/pragmatic language skills;
- and following directions.

The students lead the school board in the Pledge of Allegiance as well as appeared in the meeting at the very beginning. Each student will receive a gift of a combination pen and flashlight with the District 70 logo on it for their amazing work.

