



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 May 17, 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.

Recognition:

Several students were recognized for their leadership and character at the school board meeting Monday night.

Adler Park Principal Dr. Kerri Bongle recognized fifth-graders Colin and Reese, and Butterfield Principal Dr. Candice Kehoe recognized Danica and Emily. The students were honored for their diligent work and in and out of school. They also were awarded Illinois Principal Association Student Recognition awards by each principal.



For the first time, District 70 also honored a Lakeside bus driver, Ms. Megan Vogel. Ms.

Vogel drives a Copeland Manor School bus and has received high praise from parents and teachers for her genuine care of students riding her bus. She was given a plaque by Supt. Matt Barbini and Board President Wendy Schilling.



District 70 also honored retiring staff members Adler Park special education teacher Mary Goff and Highland Middle School social studies teacher Ann Riggs.

Mrs. Goff has been a special education teacher with District 70 for 20 years. She looks forward to spending time with her grandchildren and drinking coffee slowly in the morning. A caring student advocate who built confidence in her students and taught them that hard work builds character, Mrs. Goff plans to return to teaching as a volunteer in school districts that need assistance.



Ms. Riggs has taught language arts and literature, and then social studies at Highland Middle School for 27 years, having taught four years before that with a stint at Woodland School in nearby Gurnee. She looks forward to retirement as an endless summer and will spend time with her family, as well as reading and traveling. Ms. Riggs is known for her council to students, often reminding her students to “be part of the solution, keep moving forward, explore and have fun.” (Ms. Riggs was unable to attend the meeting.)

Board of Education Meeting Dates

A list of Board of Education meeting dates can be found [here](#) for the 2021-22 school year. They also will be posted on our website under the calendar on Friday, when the calendar for the next school year is finished. Dates will be added to the 21-22 calendar as new events and meetings are planned.

Staffing Update for 2021-22 School Year

Dr. Tom Bean, Dr. Erik Youngman, and Dr. Chris Otto presented information regarding staffing in general education, special education, EL and Intervention, for the current year, as well as considerations for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Math Curriculum Update

A presentation by Dr. Erik Youngman and Mrs. Jenny Parkhurst provided an overview about recent areas of focus and a materials review by the K-5 Math Committee. A recommendation for approval will be sought during the June 21st School Board meeting for the purchase of Bridges (K-4) and envision Mathematics (5th grade) math materials for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Science Curriculum Update

A presentation by Dr. Youngman and Highland science teachers Angela McCarthy, Mike Rumpf, Tara Oshinski and Jasper Liu, provided an overview about recent areas of focus and a materials review by the Highland Science Department. A recommendation for approval will be sought during the June 21st School Board meeting for the purchase of Savvas Elevate Science materials for Highland for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Website Update

Mrs. Robin Kollman, director of communications, made a brief presentation on the new website that District 70 will roll out this fall. The website, hosted by Finalsity, will feature a progressive and sharp design, crisp photos, videos, calendars families can subscribe to, and easier access to information parents and guardians seek. The website will be ADA compliant and mobile responsive. The website is still under construction, so the presentation was live.

Humanex Overview

In April, the District 70 Board of Education agreed to engage the services of Humanex to evaluate and continuously improve upon the culture of each of D70 schools, and that of the entire school district. We are moving ahead as administrators have begun the process, with board members are following suit. The process will include teachers.

Humanex will measure culture and engagement at each of the schools and across the district through the use of student, parent, and staff surveys that will be launched early next fall. The results of these surveys and the technical assistance from Humanex will help us to:

- Understand the current levels of culture and engagement;
- Identify opportunities for growth;
- Grow and maintain meaningful relationships;
- Energize and motivate employees;
- Improve communication among staff, leadership, and families;
- Set and achieve goals for team and organization growth.

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

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RESIGNATION

- **John Herrin**, Director of Finance and Operations, effective June 30, 2021;
- **Jennifer Crane**, Health Clerk at Butterfield, effective May 14, 2021;

CHANGE IN STATUS

- **Becca Kassabaum**, from 4/5 EIP Classroom Teacher at Butterfield to Math Interventionist at Copeland, effective 2021-2022 school year;
- **Laura Williams**, from Special Education Resource at Rockland to Math Interventionist at Rockland, effective 2021-2022 school year;

EXTENDED LEAVE

- **Whitney Adelman**, 4th Grade Teacher at Adler, for the 2021-2022 school year;

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Mike Adamczyk**, Co-Interim CSBO, 100-day contract, effective July 1, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year;
- **Bill Harkin**, Co-Interim CSBO, 100-day contract, effective July 1, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year;
- **Abigail Kopelman**, School Psychologist/Ed. Specialist, HIP & EIP at Highland and Butterfield, 2021-2022 school year;
- **Hailey Yetman**, Lunchroom Supervisor at Copeland, effective April 12, 2021;
- **Linda Willms**, Paraeducator at Copeland, effective May 17, 2021;
- **Summer School Staff as follows:**
 - Principals:** Carrie Thompson, Traci Flader
 - Tech Coordinator:** Melissa Rosen
 - Nurse:** Rebecca Powell
 - Administrative Assistants:** Patricia Trimble, Julie Jermakowicz, Jennifer Stermitz

Teachers:

Katherine Aquadro
Analiese Deflorio
Elise Díaz
Casey Dugan
Martin Frega
Laurie Friedman
Meghan Gallup
Bonnie Jones
Allison Luka
Janet PArkerson
Laura Pearson
Jorie Pinsof
Kayla Ross
Sasha Sheehey

Nicole Billon
Samantha DeRose
Natalie Dolph
Alexis Edelstein
Jason Friedman
Marley Friedman
Jennifer Hamlin

Stephanie Meo
Riley Paulus
Brianna Penton
Christine Policht
Kelsey Schweiger
Michelle Smith

Aides:

Stacy Adams
Anthony Finch
Dena Ferdinand
Elanor Frega
Kim Henderson
Madison Kilroy
Chris Lueder
Kylie Pacholski
Beth Wright

Judy Brame
Amy Richter
Christine Frega
Mary Ann Gawlik
Samantha Hilldale
Owen Lawlor
Madison Obrien
Samantha Ross
Sarah Zovistoski

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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:

6:130 **INSTRUCTION**: Program for the Gifted

6:150 **INSTRUCTION**: Home and Hospital Instruction

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Barbini reiterated that all District 70 schools will be open for full-time in-person learning for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

Year-end activities are back and restoring normalcy:

- Kindergarten celebrations;
- Fifth grade recognitions and celebrations;
- Eighth grade celebrations and outdoor graduation on LHS football field;
- Student award assemblies;
- Yearbook signings;
- Field days;
- Celebrating new readers;
- HMS' National Junior Honor Society;
- HMS 8th Grade Motion Madness Physics Day with a trip to Six Flags;

