



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 June 21, 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.

Student Recognition

Rockland fifth-grader Hailey Mulsoff was inspired to help her community bond during an isolating COVID-19 pandemic by offering movie nights. The students in Nate Baker's class read an article about how everyone -no matter your age- can make a difference. Students then wrote an essay about how they could make a difference in Libertyville.

“Hailey noticed the need for community events in Libertyville, especially through the pandemic,” Mr. Baker said. “Hailey came up with the idea of a movie night in the park as a way the community could come together., She even wanted local vendors to sell food and drink at the event to increase their business in these tough times.”

Hailey worked on her idea asynchronously with paraeducator Ms. Nikki Krissoff. She then worked with teacher Ms. Laura Willians to write a speech. Hailey gave her speech before the executive director of MainStreet Libertyville to persuade the organization to host outdoor movie nights as a way to bring people together safely during COVID-19.

Hailey's plan was comprehensive and included a reservation system, safety protocols, possible movies, and even food and drinks! Although Movie Night is not yet scheduled, Hailey continues to work to improve the idea and be an active member of the Libertyville community.

Math Curriculum Update

The Board of Education approved the purchase of Bridges (K-4) and enVision Mathematics (5th grade) math materials for the 2021-2022 school year. A May 17th presentation by Dr. Erik Youngman and Mrs. Jenny Parkhurst provided an overview of recent areas of focus and a materials review by the K-5 Math Committee.

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

Science Curriculum Update

The Board of Education approved the purchase of Savvas Elevate Science materials for Highland for the 2021-2022 school year. A May 17th presentation by Dr. Erik 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.

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

Approval of Dreambox, STAR Assessment for One Year Each

The Board of Education approved the purchase of DreamBox for elementary students for one year as presented at the May 17, 2021 Board of Education meeting. Elementary students and teachers have used DreamBox for the past three school years to differentiate and personalize online math learning. Another one-year contract with DreamBox was recommended for 2021-2022 along with a review of the best available options for subsequent years.

The Board of Education approved the purchase of Renaissance STAR Assessments for K-8 students for one year as presented at the May 17, 2021 Board of Education meeting. Elementary students and teachers have used Renaissance STAR Assessments for the past six school years to assess reading and math for K-8 students. Another one-year contract with Renaissance STAR Assessments was recommended for 2021-2022 along with a review of the best available options for subsequent years.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) Items 8.9 and 8.9

Strategic Plan

District 70's current five-year strategic plan sunsets this year. As such, District 70 will begin meeting to create a new strategic plan in January, 2022.

The [timeline for the new Strategic Plan](#) can be found on the board agenda. Item 9.2

Exit Survey

Dr. Bean shared the results of exit surveys that were sent to families who elected not to enroll their children for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

[Here is a link to the School Board presentation](#) Item 9.3 - Exit Surveys

General Enrollment, Class Sizes

Dr. Bean presented an overview of the elementary sections and average class sizes as we move into the 2021-2022 school year.

[Here is a link to the School board presentation](#) Item 9.4 - Projected Sections

Five-Year Projections

Chief School Business officials Mike Adamczyk and John Herrin presented an overview of the Five Year Financial Projections for District 70.

This had been a process over several months, and aligns with District 70's goals of fiscal transparency. The five-year projections show the financial position of D70 and the impact of the expiring Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, debt, fluctuations in revenue, and the impacts of COVID-19 on the long range fiscal solvency. Also, they announce that District 70's recent credit rating review from Standard & Poor's Global Ratings continues to boast a perfect "AAA" rating. This all shows a bright fiscal future for D70.

[Link to School Board presentation](#) Item 9.6

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Ryan McBride**, Social Studies Teacher at Highland, 2021-2022 school year;
- **Nancy McNett**, 4th Grade Teacher at Adler, 1-year contract, 2021-2022 school year;
- **Michelle Sieks**, rehired, Kindergarten Teacher at Copeland, 2021-2022 school year;
- **Brooke Baier**, Summer School Aide, 2021 session;
- **Eileen Donovan**, Summer School Teacher, 2021 session;
- **Rebecca Powell**, Summer School Aide, 2021 session;
- **Mike Sansonetti**, Summer School Aide, 2021 session;
- **Linda Willms**, Summer School Aide, 2021 session;

RECALLED FROM HONORABLE DISMISSAL

- **Lindsay Marcum**, First Grade Teacher at Adler, 2021-2022 school year;

RESIGNATION

- **Dena Ferdinand**, Paraeducator at Adler, effective June 25, 2021;
- **Alex Garrison**, Paraeducator at Highland, effective immediately;

CHANGE IN STATUS

- **Beth Buttlere**, from 4th Grade at Butterfield to EIP Classroom Teacher at Butterfield, 2021-2022 school year;
- **Ashley Zeinz**, from 1st Grade at Adler to Special Education at Adler, 2021-2022 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:

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

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

[Link to Policies Approved at the June 21, 2021 School Board meeting](#)

First Reading

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

2:260 **SCHOOL BOARD**: Uniform Grievance Procedure

2:265 **SCHOOL BOARD**: Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure

7:10 **STUDENTS**: Equal Educational Opportunities

7:20 **STUDENTS**: Harassment of Students Prohibited

6:185 **INSTRUCTION**: Remote Educational Program

[Link to the policies that were presented for the first reading.](#)

Superintendent's Report

Excitement was in the air as D70's Summer School 2021 opened on Monday, June 14, 2021 at Highland Middle and Rockland schools! A special thanks to Ms. Elizabeth Davis and Mrs. Carrie Modra, our co-directors of summer school, for their planning and leadership efforts in making this year's offering a great experience for our students, their families, and our staff!

We also are pleased to announce that Champions Child Care is providing child care for students in summer school and the program is open for all children in Liberyville. This new program allows summer school students to spend the entire day with District 70, including

Fridays when summer school does not meet. The [Summer School Champions program is being held at Highland Middle School.](#)

The Teen Vax Clini was a great success for the second dose that was given to 230 people 12-years-old and older on June 15. Thanks to Highland Middle School Principal Jon Hallmark and Assistant Principal Ms. Elizabeth Davis for their assistance in helping with the vaccination day, as well as guidance from support staff member Jennifer McBride who made sure the clinic ran smoothly. We'd also like to thank School Board Member Jennifer Khan and her fellow Family Association parents for providing stickers and freeze pops as treats to teenagers who received their shots. And, last but not least, thank you once again offer our endless appreciation to Osco Pharmacist Dr. Steve Harper for partnering with District 70 to make four COVID-19 vaccination clinics possible for our community.