



January 22, 2014 meeting

## Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

*Serving 3,348 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort*

For additional information, please contact Supt. Barb Rains at 815.469.9103

### **Board of Education approves revisions to District's Honors Program**

At its Jan. 22 meeting, members of the Board participated in the review of the District's Honors program. Throughout the year, a core team of Honors program teachers and District administrators have been meeting to review and strengthen the current program. The core team also periodically reported progress and discussed revisions with a group of interested parents at committee meetings. Formal programming, which will now be referred to as the Summit Program, will continue to be available for students in grades 5-8. The Walker School Summit Program will follow a group structure for grade 5 and a departmentalized structure for grade 6. Both programs will have a strong emphasis in reading and/or math. The SHJH Summit program will follow a departmentalized structure, providing instruction in reading, math, science, and/or social studies in grades 7-8. When screening students for further identification in the Summit Program, the following criteria will be utilized: Cognitive Skills Inventory (CSI) score of 120 and above, the average of the last three District NWEA MAP scores (90<sup>th</sup> percentile and above), and use of the updated Teacher Recommendation checklist. A new Summit curriculum is being crafted utilizing the Understanding by Design research-based curriculum model. The Summit curriculum will be differentiated from that of other student's performing on grade level. Differentiation includes modification of student goals and objectives, instructional strategies, learning experiences, and evaluation. High performing students in the elementary grades will receive instruction with the same rigor as those in the Summit Program. Students in the elementary grades who are high performers will be clustered together to increase their achievement levels. These students will take various pre-assessments to determine curriculum readiness and will progress through a differentiated curriculum to meet their educational needs.

### **Door monitoring systems to be activated at front entrances beginning February 3**

Beginning February 3, video intercom systems located outside the front entrance of Arbury Hills, Frankfort Square, Walker, and Summit Hill Jr. High will be activated. The door monitoring system was piloted earlier this year at Rogus and Indian Trail Schools. The results of the pilot were positive. The system allows the building secretary the ability to communicate with individuals before authorizing entry into the building. Upon pressing the intercom button to speak to the secretary, a photo of the visitor is taken and recorded. Principals at Arbury Hills, Frankfort Square, Walker, and Summit Hill Jr. High will begin communicating the process to parents at their buildings. This door monitoring system is an added safety and security measure implemented by the Board of Education. The video intercom system is the latest addition to the District's Safe Schools Program. Last year, the District implemented emergency communication software that is integrated with our PowerSchool parent portal to allow parents the opportunity to keep cell numbers and e-mail addresses up-to-date so that emergency messages reach them.

### **District to maintain current registration fees; offers early registration coupon**

Registration fees for the 2014-15 school year will remain the same as the current year fees: \$125 for half day kindergarten and \$150 for students in grades K-8. Parents may take advantage of a Kindergarten early registration coupon and an early student re-registration coupon for a \$20 credit toward student registration fees. The Kindergarten early registration coupon expires on February 28. The early student re-registration coupon expires on May 30. Along with no increase in the registration fee, the District will cooperatively purchase some of the non-educational items on

school supply lists such as tissue, paper towels, and sandwich bags so that parent purchases of supplies more clearly relate to classroom learning.

### **Proof of residency to be included in re-registration process for 2014-15 school year**

The District will incorporate a new component within its student re-registration process: proof of residency. Currently only parents of students new to the District must show proof of residency. Incorporating this new component into the process will help ensure we are utilizing District funds for students who are residents. Beginning in March, parents will be mailed a two-ply form. The form contains a list of documents needed to prove residency in District 161. Parents will be asked to bring the two-ply form and associated documents to the District Administrative Center between 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on April 8 or 9 or between 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on April 10. (The lines will move quickly as there will be no copying of documents – just the marking of checkboxes.) Upon completion of proof of residency, the student's username and password for the online re-registration system will be recorded on the two-ply form. Parents will receive a copy and District personnel will keep a copy for District records. The online student re-registration system will open on April 8 which is about one month earlier than in the past. Parents who come to complete the residency check will receive a \$20 off early re-registration coupon. The coupon entitles parents to a credit of \$20 towards registration fees if completed and paid on or before May 30, 2014.

### **In personnel matters, the Board**

- approved the employment of Marianne Hourihan as a teacher to fill an FMLA beginning in February;
- approved the employment of Meghan Sepessy as a paraprofessional; and
- approved the employment of Kimberly Ulcigrai as a lunchroom supervisor.

### **In other matters, the Board**

- approved the first reading of Board Policies 3:60, 4:100, 5:90, 5:120, 5:200, 6:10, 6:15, 6:60, 6:250, 7:100, 7:180, 7:185, 7:300 and 8:30;
- authorized administration to seek bids for a cleaning service contract;
- authorized administration to seek bids for a lawn maintenance/mulch contract;
- heard a report on the Superintendent Financial Advisory and SHEF meeting; and
- heard an update on the technology pilot at Walker School.

**Next meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2014.**

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