



January 23, 2013 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,298 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

2013-14 District calendar approved; school to begin August 20 with Teacher Institute

The Board of Education approved the 2013-14 District calendar at Wednesday night's meeting. The school year will begin with Teacher Institute on August 20 and 21 with the first day for students on August 22. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held during the week of Thanksgiving. Winter Break and Spring Break will match the Lincoln Way schedule. Winter Break will be Dec. 23-Jan.3 and Spring Break will be April 18-April 25. The last day of school will be June 10 which includes five weather days. The full calendar can be accessed [here](#).

District to upgrade its emergency messaging software program, check-in procedures

At Wednesday's meeting, the Board approved the purchase of Alert Solutions software to better facilitate communication with parents in the event of any emergency. The District expects the system to be in place in mid-February. The District is also clarifying the levels of safety alerts to promote better understanding of procedures in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the District will also be enhancing visitor check-in procedures. Visitors will continue to show an ID and sign in at the main office. Office personnel will then check the visitor's name against the database utilized in the District's hiring process.

Illinois 5 Essentials Survey to be administered in February

Next month, the Illinois State Board of Education will administer the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey which is a statewide learning conditions and school climate survey. It will be offered online to K-8 teachers and students in grades 6-8. An optional parent component will also be available. Senate Bill 7, passed as part of the states' reform agenda in 2011, requires ISBE to provide the survey beginning this year to help local educators better identify their schools' strengths and areas in need of improvement. The survey will generate data to help schools target resources and make decisions that accelerate learning and student growth. The survey is intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of school organizational culture with customized reports that can be used to drive school improvement on five indicators or "essentials" which include: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environments, and ambitious instruction. Results will be available this summer and will be part of the 2013 Report Cards to be released in the fall.

In other matters, the Board

- honored Will County Police Detective Sergeant Duane Davis with a "Standing Ovation" Award for his support of District 161 schools over the years;
- heard a presentation by Dr. Julian Rogus School staff on progress being made on the writing component of English/Language Arts Common Core Standards;
- approved the contract for the emergency messaging software;
- approved the contract for residency software; and
- approved a transportation agreement with Lincoln Way 210.