



October 22, 2014 meeting

## Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

*Serving 3,263 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort*

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

### **Walker teachers and students share ELA and math learning strategies with Board Members**

Walker teachers Tracy DeCesare and Jen McFarland shared learning strategies in ELA and math class with members of the Board at Wednesday night's meeting. During the math segment, Mrs. DeCesare said her students begin a lesson by exploring a concept as a group using prior knowledge. They then build on prior knowledge by going over the lesson together, practice as a class, and then practice independently. Her students demonstrated a "group explore" with each student having a specific role in their demonstration of dividing fractions using fraction strips they created. During the Language Arts segment, Mrs. McFarland and her students featured the narrative writing process. Students participated in a mock gallery walk using pictures from the book, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* by Chris Van Allsburg. During the demonstration, pictures were placed on the wall to simulate how students would walk around the classroom to study each picture and caption and jot down story ideas on sticky notes. The ideas are then shared to help students get started writing their narrative stories.

### **School community has opportunity to offer feedback on state education budget and SB 16**

The Illinois State Board of Education is offering a series of public hearings across the state to gather opinions and ideas regarding education resources and funding as the State Board develops its budget recommendation typically sent to the General Assembly and Governor in January. This year the hearings will also offer attendees an opportunity to voice feedback on Senate Bill 16. Testimony from the budget hearings regarding Senate Bill 16 will be shared with legislators and ISBE staff members.

There are two options available to communicate your opinions about Senate Bill 16:

- E-mail ISBE at: [isbefy16@isbe.net](mailto:isbefy16@isbe.net)
- Offer feedback at a scheduled state budget hearing:
  - ✓ Nov. 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Quincy: Adams County Health Dept, 330 Vermont St.
  - ✓ Nov. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Round Lake: John T. Magee Middle School cafeteria, 500 Cedar Lake Rd.
  - ✓ Nov. 17 from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. in Granite City: GCHS Atrium, 3101 Madison Ave.
  - ✓ Nov. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Chicago: Thompson Center conference room 16-503, 100 West Randolph St.

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

- accepted the resignations of Jennifer Bazik, Michelle Vetter, and Kari Jo Mikuze.

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

- celebrated Principal Appreciation Day by recognizing principals and assistant principals for the work they do throughout the year supporting students, staff, and parents;
- heard a presentation from teachers John Buchanan, Linda O'Dell, and Sarah Turek and then approved the purchase of the *Journeys* ELA resource for Grades K-5;
- accepted the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plans for schools within District 161 and the District Improvement Plan;
- heard a quarterly update on Superintendent Advisory Committee meetings for Goal 1, Goal 3, and Goal 4;
- approved the administration of an extended school year program within District 161 for Summer 2015 for eligible students;

- heard that the 2014 Illinois Report Card will be available online October 31 at <http://illinoisreportcard.com>;
- accepted, with sincere thanks, gifts from Arbury Hills STARS in the amount of \$4,186.27, Rogus School RESCO in the amount of \$5,491, Frankfort Square SCO in the amount of \$3,911.98, Indian Trail SCO in the amount of \$364.23, Walker School SCO in the amount of \$1,696.01, Summit Hill Jr. High and Walker Band Boosters in the amount of \$4,001, Summit Hill Jr. High and Walker Athletic Boosters in amount of \$19,967.17, and Illinois Defenders in the amount of \$1,000;
- heard a quarterly investment report from PMA; and
- heard a presentation on the District's financial status and projections.