



October 9, 2013 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,311 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 video intercom systems for each school

The Summit Hill Board of Education approved the installation of video intercom systems to be located outside the front entrance of each of our schools. The system also will be installed at the Early Learning Center entrance to Rogus School. The systems will allow building secretaries 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 will be taken and recorded as well. The installation process will begin within the next few weeks at the Early Learning Center entrance and at Indian Trail School. Afterwards, installation of the systems will take place at the rest of the District schools. Discussion of building safety enhancements with parents, administrators, and our local area first responders has been ongoing. 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.

Board welcomes new member, Jennifer Werner

At Wednesday's meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Jennifer Werner to fill the position previously held by George Perros. Mr. Perros resigned in early September. Mrs. Werner was one of seven candidates vying for the Board appointment. The Board held a special meeting on Sept. 28 to interview each of the candidates. Mrs. Werner's appointment will run through April, 2015.

Board hears presentation on Illinois' new school report card

The Illinois State Board of Education has redesigned its annual school report card to reflect the comprehensive change underway in Illinois schools to ensure students meet higher expectations for college and career. The report card will provide a multi-dimensional picture of how a school is performing and what it is doing to improve to better equip parents in conversations with teachers and administrators. The new report card will feature information about school performance, school climate and learning conditions, awards, and extracurricular programs in addition to state test scores and district demographics. The new report card will be available beginning Oct. 31 on each school's homepage.

In personnel matters, the Board

- employed Margaret Divittorio as a teacher to fill a FMLA
- employed Karyn Kozak as a paraprofessional;
- employed Penny Nomikos as a lunchroom supervisor; and
- employed Renee Clifford as a substitute lunchroom supervisor.

In other matters, the Board

- did not approve the proposed tax abatement incentive request for the Tinley Park land development at 191st St. and Harlem;
- authorized publishing the notice of the 2013 levy hearing to be held at 8 p.m. on Dec. 11;
- approved a service agreement with Rich Dombrowski to assist with business matters; and
- heard an update on technology projects.

Next Meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2013.