



December 11, 2013 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,332 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

Board hears update on progress toward Common Core implementation

At Wednesday's meeting, members of the Board were made aware that we are mid-way through our three-year plan to implement the Common Core shifts. Teachers and administrators have spent a considerable amount of time unpacking the standards in order to fully understand the level of cognitive functioning that is expected of students. Grade-level progressions of the standards and the key shifts required in teaching and learning are being reviewed. Every staff member in the district has been engaged in this undertaking which is being led by core teams of grade-level teacher leaders, administrators, and content specialists.

A solid theoretical foundation is in place to now comfortably move to the practical side of the implementation process. Thanks to the efforts of many, conditions are conducive to success for our repacking efforts. A strong foundation is in place to align units and lessons to the standards so as to provide evidence of student learning and mastery of the standards. English/Language Arts teacher leaders have completed quarterly checklists of skills mastery and also end-of-year checklists per grade level.

As we continue the transition process, common expectations for instructional practice are being established. Effective implementation requires that instructional resources used by teachers and students closely align with the goals and expectations of the standards. Staff members are reviewing instructional materials that are content-rich and build knowledge and academic vocabulary coherently from year to year. They are identifying available resources to supplement gaps in existing materials and fill additional gaps with materials developed collaboratively by our teachers. A cloud-based file sharing system is being utilized to enable two-way sharing and group collaboration.

Math teacher leaders are meeting to continue their efforts with the math standards. They also will begin looking at resources, potential math pilots for the fall, and professional development opportunities.

Technology teacher leaders also have been meeting to review technology integration as prescribed within the Common Core Standards. We are piloting two classroom sets of Microsoft surface tablets as instructional tools in Language Arts activities at Walker School. The pilot was funded through the generosity of the Summit Hill Educational Foundation. We also are looking at different staffing approaches to ensure support for classroom teachers as we craft our vision for the use of technology in teaching and learning. For more details, please click [here](#).

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Aubrey Gallagher to fill a FMLA;
- approved the employment Carolyn Stigter as a paraprofessional; and
- approved the resignations of Jill Mampreian and Blair Bucci.

In other matters, the Board

- recognized the Walker Lady Wildcat basketball team and Coach Collins for winning the Des Plains Valley Conference;
- recognized Yjia Zhang, Emma Dickenscheidt, and Nicole Zralka for participating in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest;

- heard a demonstration of Common Core in the Classroom: Reader's Workshop by 4th grade teacher Christina Horan and her students;
- reviewed Board Policy Section 6 – Students;
- heard a report on the Parent Survey results: 374 parents participated with 90+% agreement of evidence in all four focus areas (academic expectations, communication, collaboration, and safety/respect);
- following the close of the 2013 levy hearing, approved the adoption of the tax levy resolution in the amounts of: Education Fund - \$21,709,891; Operations & Maintenance Fund - \$2,976,675; Transportation Fund - \$1,556,256; Working Cash Fund - \$202,917; IMRF - \$240,000; Social Security - \$346,112; Tort Immunity - \$210,464; and Special Education Fund - \$209,625, including Bond and Interest, for a total levy in the amount of \$32,847,804; and
- heard a brief update on the review of the District's Honors program.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO OUR SUMMIT HILL FAMILY !**

Next Meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

Sean William Doyle
President

Rich Marron
Vice President

David Faber
Secretary

Stacey Borgens
Member

Pam Kohlbacher
Member

Richard Ward
Member

Jennifer Werner
Member