



January 9, 2013 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,296 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

District parents invited to safety coffees on January 14 and 15

District administration has been reflecting upon recent events and parent input involving the safety of students in our schools to assess what we need to do better/differently in the face of future safety issues. In preparation for the District's annual Safe Schools meeting with local area first responders that will take place Jan. 17, the District is hosting two parent coffees to provide an additional opportunity for input prior to the annual meeting. The first coffee will be held from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14 at the District Office for parents of students in grades K-4. The second coffee will be held from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the District Office for parents of students in grades 5-8. Parents unable to share their input in person may e-mail their comments to nhutchinson@summithill.org. District 161 has had a Safe Schools Program in place since 1999. Each year an annual review is required by the Regional Office of Education. The review involves local first responders. The collection of data from the coffees, parent e-mails, meetings with area superintendents and a meeting with the Tinley Park Police Department will be analyzed at an administrative meeting on Jan. 16 for presentation at the annual meeting with first responders.

Fall 2013 Kindergarten registration drive will begin on February 5

District 161's Fall Kindergarten registration drive will begin on Feb. 5. Half day and extended day programs are available. Students must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2013. To begin the process, parents are asked to come to Dr. Julian Rogus School, 20027 South 88th Ave. in Frankfort on Feb. 5, 6, or 7 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. to register their child. Parents will need to present an official birth certificate (with certification seal from the county) and proof of residency. A checklist of documents is available on the District's homepage, www.summithill.org

Superintendent Advisory on Technology reviews analysis of technology skills

The Advisory Committee for Technology recently met to review the analysis of technology skills within English/Language Arts Common Core Standards. The committee acknowledged the need to have technology in students' hands to address these skills. Interactivity using the iPad and mirroring software was demonstrated. Using a tablet device in this manner was determined to be a way to incorporate interactivity while making use of the other technology tools within the prototypical classroom. Items needing further exploration include the availability to download interactive activities available on the internet, apps to support classroom instruction, and durability of devices. Committee members recommended getting input from teachers, piloting this technology at a particular building or grade level, and exploring options for obtaining tablet devices (fundraising, grants, donations, leasing, bring your own device, etc.). Committee work will resume following the Jan. 18 teacher in-service. During the in-service, the tech teachers will assess what it would look like to incorporate technology into instruction and how their roles would shift.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Elizabeth Mathias and Kelly Arthur as teachers to fill family medical leaves;
- accepted the request for a family medical leave for employee 1913; and
- accepted the request for a family medical leave extension for employee 9262.

In other matters, the Board

- heard plans for the January 18 half-day teacher in-service that will focus on grade-level work on the English/Language Arts writing standards for teachers in Grades K-8 and the Common Core Math Standards in Grades 7 and 8;
- heard a report on the new standards-based Kindergarten Mastery of Standards report to parents and the progress being made on the State's pilot of the Kindergarten School Readiness Measures;
- heard information about a local debt recovery program developed by the State of Illinois Comptroller;
- accepted gifts, with appreciation, from a District family;
- set the cost of student milk to be \$45 for the 2013-2014 school year; and
- heard a report on the Mary Drew Rental status.

Mary Kenny
President

Joy Murphy
Vice President

Denise A. Lenz
Secretary

Stacey Borgens
Member

Sean William Doyle
Member

George Perros
Member

Denise Wildeveld
Member