



March 12, 2014 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,339 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

District to participate in statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions

District 161 will participate in the Illinois State Board of Education's Illinois 5 Essentials Survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides an opportunity for teachers, parents, and Grades 6-8 students to help identify strengths and weaknesses in our school learning environment. The survey opens March 17 and runs through April 25. District teachers will have an opportunity to participate in the survey during their March 21 afternoon in-service. Parents will be receiving invitations to participate through building administrators. Participation of interested students at Walker and SHJH is being arranged as well. The Illinois 5 Essentials Survey provides a comprehensive picture of a school's organizational culture by measuring five "essentials" critical for school success: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction. Research has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of the 5 Essentials were ten times more likely to make substantial gains in improving student reading and math than schools that were weak on three or more of the essentials. Survey findings will be available this summer.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Catherine Wojtulewicz as a nurse for a FMLA;
- approved the employment of Sandra Gabrys as a lunchroom supervisor; and
- accepted the resignation of Manel Salah.

In other matters, the Board

- heard a presentation from Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood teachers on Common Core in the classroom;
- accepted, with appreciation, a \$2,800 grant from Seattle Foundation for six Microsoft Surface tablets for Indian Trail School;
- heard an update on pre-school program costs;
- approved publishing the notice of the tentative amended budget hearing to be conducted at 7 p.m. during the Board's April 16 meeting;
- approved the amended FY14 tax levy as presented;
- discussed clubs at the elementary buildings;
- heard an update on the applied tech modules; and
- reviewed the agenda for the March 21 afternoon teacher in-service.

Next meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

Sean William Doyle
President

Rich Marron
Vice President

David Faber
Secretary

Stacey Borgens
Member

Pam Kohlbacher
Member

Richard Ward
Member

Jennifer Werner
Member