



October 24, 2012

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,295 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

For additional information, please contact Superintendent Barb Rains at 815.469.9103

School & District Improvement Plans aligned to 3-year goal for student achievement

Members of the Board heard reports from Building and District administration on the District's School and District Improvement Plans at Wednesday night's meeting. The plans were designed to align with District 161's three-year Common Core Standards implementation plan. Common Core standards are a single set of expectations aimed at preparing students for college and or career readiness. Utilizing these standards, students in kindergarten through fourth grade will spend more time reading across the curriculum with a focus on fluency and comprehension of nonfiction texts. In math, extended written response learning will be emphasized. Behavioral intervention to support student growth was also highlighted as part of the K-4 School Improvement Plan.

Administrators from Walker and SHJH emphasized staff development training in aligning lessons with the Common Core Standards as part of their school improvement plan. Reading and comprehension strategies and writing across the curriculum will be emphasized. The Gr. 5-8 School Improvement Plan addressed newly implemented anti-bullying efforts as well.

Supt. Rains noted that Principals are leading discussions about Common Core at monthly faculty meetings and that the District is already making great strides in implementing its three-year plan. The next step of the implementation is developing a plan for Common Core resource allocation.

Summit Hill District 161's Top 3 Points of Pride shared with school community

In the spirit of school and district improvement, Supt. Rains shared at Wednesday's meeting, the District's Top 3 Points of Pride.

The first Point of Pride relates to the District's safe and caring school climate which is vital for learning:

- During the first 40 days of school, 98.8% of the 3,296 students did not receive a disciplinary referral. Additionally, .005% of students served an in-school suspension as a consequence to an action.
- The Staff Climate Survey results indicate that 90% of staff believe student discipline is appropriately enforced within the buildings.
- Additionally, 96% of staff members feel they help each other, treat each other with respect, and work together.

The second Point of Pride is the strength of District 161 partnerships:

- Over the years, the Summit Hill Educational Foundation has contributed over \$280,000 in grants and technology improvements.
- Over the years, the District's intergovernmental agreement with the Frankfort Square Park District has benefited the residents of the community in the sharing of services and facilities. Most recently, the Park District has offered its support through participation in the Supt. Advisory Committee for Student Wellness and will soon begin utilizing a portion of Mary Drew School for a dance program that will begin in January 2013.
- Band Boosters, Athletic Boosters, and Building School Community Organizations have banded together once again this year to support and extend student programs that build connections among our learning communities and offer students a variety of opportunities to foster their skills in specialized interest areas.
- Throughout the transition involving District students and staff, open communications and a positive working relationship was maintained with the Teacher Union. This was most evident

in working together to bring back as many teachers as possible from the Honorable Dismissal List.

The third Point of Pride is the District's ability to achieve high student performance while managing its finances as evidenced in receipt of the 17th consecutive Bright Star Award:

- Students are positioned to make the transition to Common Core as they have mastered basic skills as evidenced on their achievement on the ISATs. Students achieved 94% meets and exceeds in reading and math. This is 12 percent above the State's meets/exceeds average in reading and math.
- Fall NWEA Reading and Math scores, which included Common-Core aligned questions, reflect our students' readiness to make the transition to a fully-aligned Common Core curriculum over the next three years. Overall, NWEA Math scores were above the 86% percentile for students meeting and exceeding expectations. NWEA Reading scores were above the 89th percentile for students meeting and exceeding expectations.

Concluded Supt. Rains, "It is the strong collaboration and dedication to student achievement demonstrated by the Board, our community, parents, and staff, that has enabled our students to adapt and succeed in light of the changes they have encountered. We are very proud of our students and their achievements and thankful for our collective spirit to do what is best for students."

Building Principals, Assistants recognized for leadership role in student achievement

Building Principals and Assistant Principals were recognized by the Board as part of the 23rd annual Principal Appreciation Week in Illinois. The week-long celebration culminated with Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, Oct. 26. On behalf of the Board, Supt. Rains noted, "Very few individuals have the ability to impact a student's life like our educational leaders do every day. Our building administrators work tirelessly to ensure the success of our schools and to make sure our students are provided every opportunity to succeed. And at this point in time in our world of educational reform, courageous leadership is essential to effectively educate students and work to provide the resources and support they need to be successful in the 21st Century." Each Principal received a collage of photos of their students framed by student signatures and well wishes of thanks and praise.

In other matters, the Board

- heard a presentation from the Walker School staff and students on Red Ribbon Week;
- heard a report on the success of the annual District wide Family Run for Fun;
- heard that there will be a Special Meeting on November 3 to further review the tax levy;
- heard a report on the Superintendent Advisory Committee on Student Wellness;
- reviewed legal fee usage;
- accepted, with gratitude, gifts from Arbury Hills STARS in the amount of \$90.00; Dr. Julian Rogus School RESCO in the amount of \$4,097; Frankfort Square School SCO in the amount of \$3,300; Indian Trail School SCO in the amount of \$ 3,603; Walker School SCO in the amount of \$150; and Summit Hill Jr. High SCO gifts in the amount of \$700;
- acknowledged receipt of the State School Report Cards;
- heard an update on the Young Authors program; and
- heard a report on the Regional Office of Education Health/Life Safety annual inspections.