



November 14, 2012

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,299 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

For additional information, please contact Superintendent Barb Rains at 815.469.9103

Story Update 11.19.12

Board of Education approves \$32.2 million levy estimate at Special Meeting

The Board of Education approved the 2012 tax levy estimate resolution at a Special Meeting on Nov. 19, 2012. The \$32.2 million levy estimate requests a \$1.55 million increase compared to last year's finalized levy. The resolution raises the estimated tax rate to just above 3.7 percent. This translates to an approximate \$69 tax increase for the owner of a \$200,000 house.

At the Special Meeting, additional information was shared with Board Members concerning the District's Plan for Student Achievement. The three year plan is grounded in the Board of Education's Goal #1 – Improve student achievement by developing and implementing a challenging curriculum. This year's planned improvement has at its core strengthening the rigor of our educational program through the unpacking/curricular alignment of the Common Core English/Language Arts Standards. The standards include technology integration embedded within English/Language Arts instruction. The District's plan to address our technology infrastructure was also shared.

After being provided this information, the majority of the Board acknowledged the role that the additional dollars generated by the levy will play in supporting the three year plan and voted to approve the original levy estimate resolution that was presented at the Nov. 14 meeting.

A Superintendent's Advisory Committee has been formed to review the current District technology infrastructure, scope and sequence of its instructional technology program, and status of the District's readiness to implement the new Common Core state test that will be replacing the ISAT in 2014-15.

The levy hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Following the hearing, the Board will vote to approve the levy.

Results of Annual Staff Climate Survey remain very positive

At Wednesday night's meeting, Board Members heard that responses to the Annual Staff Climate Survey remained very positive, with the majority of the questions receiving at least 95 percent agreement. The same questions as last year were presented to gauge agreement/disagreement levels. The most notable decrease from respondents was with the question concerning the District curriculum. In the 2011 Survey, 97 percent of respondents agreed that our curriculum appropriately challenges students. This year, 89.4 percent were in agreement. The decrease is believed to be due to the introduction of the Common Core Standards. This year the District is focusing on introduction of the English/Language Arts Standards and the rigor they bring to student learning.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Mathew Kutylo and Meagan Freeman as teachers to fill family medical leaves; and
- accepted retirement letters, effective 2016-17, from Special Education Teacher Pam Tucker, Grade 4 Teacher Leslie Janes, and Speech Pathologist Dianne Mohebbi.

In other matters, the Board

- recognized Summit Hill School Board Members for their work on behalf our students, our staff, and our community;
- recognized Natalie Seidell as the recipient of the 2012 Roy Corrigan Band Scholarship;

- approved the First Reading of Board Policies 2:20, 2:30, 2:110, 2:125, 2:130, 2:200, 2:220, 4:100, 4:110, 4:170, 5:30, 5:125, 6:20, 6:60, 6:110, 6:210, 6:290, and 7:70; and
- heard that the District was 100% compliant with immunization requirements.

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Joy Murphy
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Member

Sean William Doyle
Member

George Perros
Member

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