



September 26, 2012

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,323 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

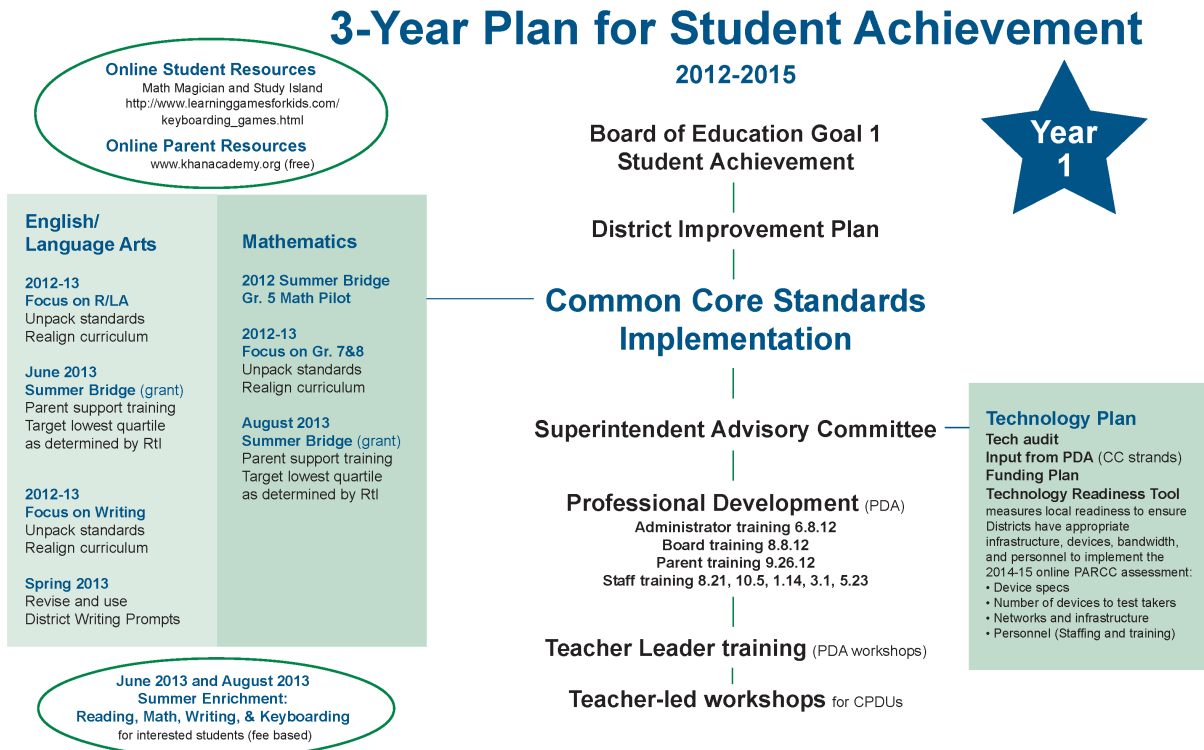
For additional information, please contact Superintendent Barb Rains at 815.469.9103

District 161 unveils first year of 3-year plan for Student Achievement

At the Sept. 26 meeting of the Board of Education, Supt. Rains presented the District's plan for Student Achievement. The plan is grounded in the Board of Education Goal for Student Achievement. The District Improvement Plan, which will be detailed in October, will have as its core, strengthening the rigor of our educational program through the unpacking of the Common Core Standards. Implementation of the Common Core Standards was introduced to administration in June, the Board of Education in August, and the teaching staff on Institute Day. Follow up meetings and work sessions for staff members will take place on institutes and in-service days. Parents were introduced to the standards on Sept. 26. The presentation for parents (audio and PowerPoint) is available on the home page of the District website, www.summithill.org, top navigation tab entitled Common Core.

Interwoven in the standards is the integration of technology. A Superintendent's Advisory Committee has been formed to review the current District infrastructure, scope and sequence of its instructional technology program, and status of its readiness to implement the new state test that will be replacing the ISAT in the next few years. The advisory group will help craft a plan to present to the Board of Education at its planning meeting in January 2013.

In addition, teachers are attending workshops on Common Core implementation and then leading discussions on data gathering, reading, writing, and math strategies. The plan also includes support for students with summer bridge programs and summer enrichment programs as well as online resources in math, writing, reading, and keyboarding.



Board approves FY13 budget; projects deficit to be reduced to approximately \$660,000

District 161 is projected to receive approximately \$37.8 million in revenue from property taxes, federal and state grants, and fees. The District is projecting expenditures for the 2012-2013 school year of \$38.5 million. Last fiscal year the District operated with an approximate \$2.1 million deficit. The deficit was reduced to a projected \$660,000 for the 2012-2013 year due to cost saving measures including the reduction of activity buses, the reduction of materials, streamlining programs, and maximizing building capacities. No student programming was reduced.

The District is expected to employ approximately 300 staff members this year, which is a reduction from the prior year. The current 5-year teacher's contract, which expires after this school year, contains a 5% increase in base salaries. In addition, the cost of health benefits increased by an average of 1.8% for employees. The District has not budgeted for any pension reform that might be enacted by the State of Illinois for the current school year. Earlier this year, the District refunded a portion of its construction bonds to produce a savings for taxpayers. At the time of the bond refunding, Moody's rated District 161 at an AA2 rating, which is comparable to prior years.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Breanne Pluth and Erin Boers as teachers to fill a family medical leave;
- approved the employment of Theresa Stejskal as a lunchroom supervisor; and
- approved two family medical leaves.

In other matters, the Board

- recognized Indian Trail staff for achieving the "Implementing" level in PBIS implementation for the 2011-2012 school year;
- heard a presentation from Summit Hill Junior High staff concerning its Book Club, Research Writing class, Bullying Prevention Program, and ISS program;
- approved the Shared Service Outsourcing Report to be part of the Annual Financial Report;
- heard a report on Mary Drew School ISAT results;
- approved the 2012-2013 Application for Recognition of Schools for Arbury Hills School, Frankfort Square School, Dr. Julian Rogus School, Indian Trail School, Walker School, and Summit Hill Jr. High;
- approved the Summit Hill Jr. High Grade 8 Washington, D.C. trip; and
- set the Annual Board Planning Workshop for January 26, 2013.