



October 12, 2016 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

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

Board of Education participates in presentation by Indian Trail third graders

At Wednesday night's meeting, Indian Trail third-grade students participated in a presentation to the Board of Education led by Mrs. Jurasits, Mrs. Plese, Mrs. Wandersen, Mrs. Hand, and Mrs. Moss. Students utilized the Time for Kids website, *Around the World*, in conjunction with the book, *Oh the Places You Will Go!* Students researched a country by selecting a place on the globe. Their research project consisted of facts about the capital, language, and products from their country. They drew a picture of the flag, created a sightseeing guide, drew a historical sight, and made a postcard. Each student presented their final project to a Board member. Several Indian Trail staff members also were in attendance to support the third graders and teachers during the presentation.

Board of Education hears update on Supt. Advisory on Board Goal 1- assessments

At Wednesday's Board meeting, information was shared from the Oct. 11 meeting of the Supt. Advisory Committee meeting for Board Goal 1. The Supt. Advisory committee, which consists of parents and administrators, reviewed the topic of retakes/corrections. This topic was previously discussed by teachers at the recent Assessment and Grading Team meeting. In terms of parent feedback on retakes/corrections, it was noted that there was a lot of value in doing things right the first time. Additionally, there was a statement shared that students need to earn the right to redo/correct an assessment. Advisory members also had a lengthy discussion about shifting our focus from grades to real learning. Discussion highlights on this topic included the importance of the learning that is taking place formatively, chunking summative assessments to break concepts down to ensure students are learning, and the need for common practices at all grade levels. The next meeting of the Supt. Advisory for Board Goal 1 will be at 6 p.m. on Nov. 28.

Board of Education hears favorable audit report for the 2015-16 school year

At Wednesday's meeting, the Board approved the FY16 audit report. Tawnya Mack from Mack and Associates presented the report to the Board of Education. She shared that District 161 is in a good financial position. During the 2015-16 school year, she noted that the District had an increase in revenue and kept expenditures in line with the budget. It was also noted that the District has adequate reserves to withstand the uncertainty surrounding the state's current financial difficulties as they relate to education funding.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Kaitlyn Bonavia as a clerk; Lorie Lysik and Kathleen Binns as paraprofessionals; and Griselda Espinosa and Cathy Antis as lunchroom supervisors.

In other matters, the Board

- recognized John Snipes, Jason Isdonas, Dana Wright, Mike Ruffalo, Frances Boss, Laura Goebel, Maura Carroll, Dan Pierson, and Colin Bradley in celebration of National Principals Month;
- authorized publication of notice of the 2016 levy hearing to be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14;
- authorized the Superintendent to publish the FY16 Annual Statement of Affairs; and
- heard an update on the Walker School 20th birthday celebration.

Rich Marron
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Stacey Borgens
Vice President

David Faber
Secretary

Pam Kohlbacher
Member

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Member

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Member

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Member