



Sept. 14, 2016 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,000+ students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

Board of Education recognizes ISBE 'Those Who Excel' program recipients

At Wednesday night's meeting, Kelly Collins, social worker at Frankfort Square School, and Tina Gnade, kindergarten teacher at Dr. Julian Rogus School, were recognized by the Board of Education as recipients in the Illinois State Board of Education's 'Those Who Excel' awards program. The program honors individuals who have made significant contributions to our state's schools. Ms. Collins received an Award of Merit and Mrs. Gnade received an Award of Recognition. They will be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education at a formal awards banquet in Bloomington-Normal in October.

Board of Education hears update on first Supt. Advisory meeting on assessments

At the Sept. 13 Supt. Advisory meeting, information was shared on formative and summative assessments as well as the plan for communication for the month of September. The remainder of the meeting focused on listening to parent questions. Some questions were about the ultimate goal and how it would encompass the many ways children learn, consistency in practice, and clarification that a summative could be a project or performance or something other than a chapter test. It was also clarified that little has changed in how teachers assess students. The change is that the District has labeled the assessment practices as formative and summative and configured the grade weights to be 25% formative and 75% summative which is the same weighting as the other School District that sends its 8th graders to Lincoln Way East. In terms of highlights from the conversation, Supt. Rains shared a comment from a parent that she just wanted to know how this would work for her child; that the more we explain this, the more parents may become more comfortable. Another comment shared was that we need to talk about how students grow in their learning to eventually achieve mastery. The next meeting will be on Oct. 11. On a related note, several parents at the meeting stated their appreciation to the Board of Education for listening to their concerns and comments at the last Board Meeting.

Board of Education hears update on fiber connectivity project

The fiber has been connected at six schools. The connection at Arbury Hills is scheduled to be active by Sept. 19. The next phase of the project involves network routing. The final phase involves network programming and final testing. The anticipated switchover from the current system to the new fiber system is anticipated to take place over winter break to minimize downtime and interruption of service while school is in session.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the retirement of Kathryn Klein, effective September 9. Mrs. Klein has been with the District for 11 years. She has served as Principal at Indian Trail School, Principal at Mary Drew Elementary School, and Principal at Dr. Julian Rogus School prior to serving as Director of Curriculum for the last two years.
- approved the employment of Rebecca Smith and Kim Segvich as FMLA teachers;
- approved the employment of Sandra Ellis, Ann Petrovich, and Haley DiVenti as paraprofessionals;
- approved the employment of Michelle Sturgis as a lunchroom supervisor;
- approved the employment of Becky Honchar as a districtwide substitute lunchroom supervisor;
- accepted the resignations of Debbie Koren, Trish Schuyler, and Kathy Derkacy;

- approved a FMLA request; and
- approved an extraordinary leave request.

In other matters, the Board

- approved the second and final reading of Board Policy 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:70, 2:130, 3:10, 3:30, 4:80, 5:150, 6:100, 6:235, 6:255, 6:260, 7:10, 7:270, 7:280, 7:285, 7:340, 8:90 and 8:110;
- approved the 2016-2017 Application of Recognition of Schools for Arbury Hills School, Frankfort Square School, Dr. Julian Rogus School, Indian Trail School, Walker School and Summit Hill Jr. High School;
- approved the revised Intergovernmental Agreement between Summit Hill School District and the Frankfort Square Park District;
- discussed HVAC system control units;
- discussed impact fees; and
- heard an update on the Rogus boilers project.