



Sept. 28, 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 Mrs. Martin, Wall of Gratitude recipients**

At Wednesday night's meeting, the Board recognized Member Patricia Martin for becoming a member of the School Board LeaderShop Academy. The academy promotes continuous learning and professional development. Also recognized by the Board at the meeting were recipients of August/September's Wall of Gratitude. These individuals have gone above and beyond in support of students and fellow colleagues. Honorees include: Shaun Mooney, Hugh Sumner, and Leslie DeBoer from the Administrative Center; John Snipes from Arbury Hills; Francie Boss and Michael Ruffalo from Rogus School; Jason Isdonas from Frankfort Square School; Deniz Aslan, Danielle Capps, Melissa Farrell, Joann Hand, Kristin Heenan, Christina Horan, Ed Johnstone, Lauren Jurasits, Kathy Pirkle, Betsi Plese, Jen Skrobanski, Pam Wandersen, and Dana Wright from Indian Trail School; Maura Carroll and Laura Goebel from Walker; and Annette Barron, Katie Barry, Amanda Baske, Rita Bottomley, Colin Bradley, Ken Cronin, Michael Deutscher, Kim Grice, Kathryn Hopkins, Anna King, Nancy Kirschsieper, Kim Koran, Mollie Marshall, Mike McDonald, Laura Meagher, Jack Mecher, Cheryl Michals, Amber Ostrowski, Amanda Park, Laura Pavelich, Dan Pierson, Fred Pufahl, Scott Smalter, Agnes Soch, Lisa Strzykalski, Ray Strzykalski, Patrick Sullivan, Kristina Turek, and Beth Zinsky from SHJH.

### **Board of Education hears update on assessment and grading team meeting**

At Wednesday's Board meeting, information was shared from the Sept. 21 meeting of the District's Assessment and Grading Team. The topic of discussion was retakes. Team members brought to the meeting perspectives from their colleagues on how retakes have been handled in previous years. Interestingly, the discussion on retakes morphed into a discussion of corrections. Many comments were shared about correcting areas that were not mastered vs. retaking an entire summative. The discussion will continue at the next team meeting which will be held on October 24 and October 25. During that meeting the team will begin to highlight commonalities of past practices as its starting point. Important to share is that the District will continue during 2016-17 with its current practices of doing what is in the best interest of the students. The team will be working for the next several months on guidelines and practices for the 2017-18 school year based on a request from teachers to balance defining basic parameters with professional discretion for consistency purposes by grade levels. This information will be shared with parents at the Supt. Advisory for Board Goal 1 meeting on October 11.

### **District to align 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation practice with local area school districts**

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, District 161 will be aligning its practice to no longer recognize a valedictorian and salutatorian at graduation. Instead, District 161 will be recognizing all students with high honors. This is consistent with the practices at Lincoln-Way High School District 210, Frankfort 157C, Mokena, and Manhattan. New Lenox will also begin to align with this practice in the 2017-18 school year. The alignment coincides with a trend to seek out other ways to signal that students are top performers without resorting to often arbitrary ranking systems where top students were sometimes separated by less than 0.01 of a GPA. District 161 will continue to recognize students for their accomplishments at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade awards ceremony and acknowledge these students at graduation by having them stand. Student academic achievements will continue to be listed in the graduation program.

### **In personnel matters, the Board**

- approved the employment of Terry Jones and Judy Reimer as lunchroom supervisors;
- approved the employment of Diane Boulanger as a districtwide substitute nurse; and
- accepted the resignation of Rita Castanon.

### **In other matters, the Board**

- approved the 2016-2017 District budget;
- approved a service agreement with Jennifer Edmonds as the interim curriculum director;
- approved the proposal from Johnson Controls to update HVAC system controls;
- set the date for the special meeting for board planning to be Saturday, January 21, 2017;
- heard an update on the October 7 half-day teacher in-service; and
- heard an updated on the Early Childhood program.