



September 14, 2011 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,483 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

For additional information, please contact Interim Superintendent Barb Rains at 815.469.9103

Board updated on District's plan to transition to Common Core Standards

At Wednesday's meeting, the Board heard an update on the District's plan to incorporate Common Core Standards for Math and English/Language Arts into the Illinois Learning Standards. The goal is to better prepare students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy. The state's previous standards were adopted in 1997.

The Common Core State Standards were developed through a process led by U.S. states to craft academic standards that establish clear and consistent benchmarks for essential learning and skills. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate from high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The Standards are research and evidence based, aligned with college and work expectations, rigorous, and internationally benchmarked.

The K-5 Math Standards provide a foundation in the basics (whole numbers, addition, subtraction, etc.) while the Grades 6-8 Standards describe robust learning in geometry, algebra, and probability and statistics. The English/Language Arts Standards include four strands: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language that are organized around college and career readiness anchor standards. The anchor standards further define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade level to progress towards college and career readiness in that particular area. The English/Language Arts Standards also embed requirements for reading and writing in Social Studies, Science, and other content areas. Additionally technology requirements are blended throughout the Standards.

All Districts must fully transition to incorporating the Common Core Standards by 2013-14. District 161 currently is completing the transition in grades K, 1 and 5. Next year, Grades 2 and 6 will be added, with the remaining grades fully transitioned the following year.

A new national assessment that is aligned to the Common Core Standards is also being developed. The new assessment will be anchored in college and career readiness. Students will take parts of the assessment at key times during the school year, closer to when they learn the material. The ISAT will be used until 2014 and pilot items will be incorporated into the ISAT beginning in 2012. The target date for the new assessment is the 2014-15 school year.

Results of the Fall 2011 Staff Climate Survey presented to the Board

The results of the Staff Climate Survey were presented to the Board of Education. There were 236 staff members who completed the survey for a 71% return rate. The survey was undertaken in support of Board Goal 2 which is to ensure a safe, inspiring, and welcome environment for students, staff, parents, and community members. The survey will serve as a baseline for improvement. Overall, the results of this district wide survey were very positive. At the end of September, a follow-up survey will be available that will be school-specific to further explore attitudes on the topics of respect and discipline.

Board of Education to recognize school community members

Over the years, the Board has established recognition programs for students and staff and will now formalize its appreciation to school community members through the inception of the Summit Hill District 161 Board of Education's Standing Ovation award. This recognition opportunity is aligned to Board Goal 3 which is to strengthen communications and connections to develop partnerships with

the community that support student achievement. This quarterly award would acknowledge significant contributions by individuals or organizations to the students of the District. The nomination process includes writing a brief, compelling story about the individual or organization and then highlighting how the individual/organization's actions benefit the students of Summit Hill District 161. Please include your name, address, and phone as well as that of the person/organization nominated. Send your nominations to the Summit Hill District 161 Board of Education at 20100 South Spruce Drive in Frankfort. The deadline for submission for the first quarter award is October 5, 2011. One individual/organization will be selected by a committee of Board members and administration. The individual/organization will be recognized at an upcoming Board Meeting.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Connie Brothen, Erin Boers, Leslie Pimental and Abbie Wertin to fill leaves;
- approved an FMLA leave;
- approved the employment of Katie Bryan as a paraprofessional; and
- approved the employment of Sandra Spear as a substitute nurse.

In other matters, the Board

- recognized three Members for their achievements in the Illinois Association of School Board Master Board Member Program: Dee Molinare for maintenance of her Master Board status and additionally earning Fellow Status in IASB's Leadershop; Sean William Doyle for maintaining his Master Board status; and Stacey Borgens for earning Level 1 status and Member status in IASB's Leadershop program. The Board Members were thanked for their dedication and support of the Association and the children of our District.
- approved the First Reading of Board Policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:130, 2:260, 3:10, 3:30, 3:70, 5:10, 5:20, 5:125, 5:170 and 7:20;
- approved the Application of Recognition of Schools;
- approved the Improvement Plans for the Schools and District;
- heard an update on the In-School Suspension Room; and
- heard that there currently are 3,483 students enrolled in district schools.