



September 28, 2011 meeting (continued to Sept. 30, 2011)

## Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

*Serving 3,479 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort*

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

### **District students continue to perform well on Illinois Learning Standards (ISATs)**

At the Sept. 28 meeting of the Board of Education, members were made aware that 92.1% of District 161 students met or exceeded the Illinois Learning Standards as measured by the state test (ISAT) in 2011. This is an increase from 91.3% in 2009-10 and a continual increase since 2001-02 when 77% of District students met or exceeded the state standards. In comparison to last year, several schools and grade levels increased meets/exceeds levels by five percent or more. Mary Drew School students achieved 100% meets/exceeds in Gr. 3 Math and Grade 4 Math. Additionally, Board Members reviewed the percentage of students in the exceeds category in each of the subjects and grade levels. It was noted that the percentage of students in the exceeds category per subject and grade level was consistently higher than state percentages.

### **Board approves District budget for 2011-12 school year**

Following a public hearing on the matter, the Board of Education approved the adoption of its FY12 budget. District 161 is projected to receive approximately \$36.5 million in revenue from property taxes, state aid, federal and state grants, and fees. The District is project to spend approximately \$38.6 million to operate the district and pay for the district's construction bonds. Projections for the District's funds at the end of the fiscal year in June, 2012 are positive at \$19.3 million. Those projected balances amount to approximately six months of operating expenditures and are projected to be approximately \$1 million less than the end of the fiscal year in June, 2011. The loss of federal and state funding of more than \$1 million led to the small decline in revenue for the current fiscal year. The loss of those funds was offset by new property coming onto the tax rolls and a tax rate increase allowed under the state property tax limitation law. Areas of increased spending from last year include:

- a 5-percent contract increase in base salaries for teachers;
- a 7-percent increase in health benefits for district employees;
- \$425,000 for one-time roof repairs to Arbury Hills School and Walker School;
- \$360,000 increase in budgeted staff positions (offset by a \$300,000 decrease in administrators' salaries);
- \$325,000 increase for the principal and interest on district construction bonds;
- \$200,000 increase in board spending because of legal fees and a one-time early retirement payment to the former Superintendent;
- \$190,000 increase in transportation costs ( higher fuel costs and added bus routes); and
- \$160,000 increase in special education costs

### **Board approves employment of Assistant Superintendent**

The Summit Hill Board of Education employed James Martin as Assistant Superintendent for the 2011-12 school year. Mr. Martin will begin his duties on October 11. Since 2008, Mr. Martin has been Principal of Liberty Jr. High School in Burbank. He previously was an Assistant Principal in Community Consolidated School District 146 in Tinley Park from 2006-2008 and Assistant Principal at Summit Hill Jr. High from 2003-2006. Mr. Martin's duties will support the areas of technology, special services, curriculum, and human resources.

### **District 161 receives Bright Star Award for educational excellence**

For the 16th consecutive year, Summit Hill District 161 has been awarded the SchoolSearch 2011 Bright Star Award for achieving high student performance while managing the finances of the district. District 161 is one of the 79 Illinois school districts (out of 868 school districts) to be honored with the award in 2011. The district has received the honor yearly since the award originated in 1995. Award criteria are based on districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper one-third of Illinois school

districts, but whose expenditures per pupil ranks in the lower one-fourth of Illinois school districts. The ranking is based on 2010 Illinois Report Card data, which is the most recent data available. Award criterion for student achievement an overall ISAT percentage at or above 88.54%. The award criterion for fiscal management – the average operating expenditure per student -- is at or below \$8,374. The award demonstrates the success of District 161's Board, administration, and staff in continuously reaching high student achievement in its classrooms and in the superior financial management of district resources.

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

- approved the employment of Andrea Roney as a teacher;
- approved the employment of Mary Ellen Smith as a paraprofessional;
- approved the employment of Rosanna Mooth as a substitute nurse; and
- approved the employment of Michele Vetter as a substitute paraprofessional.

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

- was informed by the Board's legal counsel that the Sept. 17 Special Meeting was in compliance with notice provisions related to Board Policy and the Open Meetings Act;
- discussed closed session confidentiality and Board Policy;
- agreed to record all meetings;
- set the date for the Board's planning workshop for 2012-13 to be February 4, 2012;
- approved the second and final 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;
- heard a presentation from the Summit Hill Jr. High PE staff and toured the Fitness Center;
- recognized the Lady Spartans Softball Team from Summit Hill Jr. High who won the IESA Class 3A regional and sectional championships. Team members include: Anne Allen, Taylor Bowman, Allyson Cappel, Kaylee Dietze, Erin Dilger, Ali Geary, Sara Grygus, Haley Holder, Molly Kapala, Olivia Mergenthaler, Jessica Miller, Jennifer Pozza, Anna Wheatley, Kayla Wols, Jessica Zobak, Riley Lang, and Abby Devries; and
- recognized Summit Hill Jr. High student Sinead Flynn who was named the September 2011 recipient of the Kiwanis Student of the Month Award. Sinead was nominated based on her love of volunteering, academic success, involvement in extracurricular activities and her strong character.