



August 10, 2011 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 3,389 students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

Board of Education provided with report on progress of staff survey priorities

During the Board planning session, several priorities surfaced based on feedback from the Board's recent Survey of Staff. To date, the following progress has been made:

- **Climate:** All staff will participate in an Employee Climate Survey at the start of the school year. We will follow up mid-year with a second survey to monitor progress. Our goal is to increase morale. Also, we have planned our four Teacher In-Service half-days in such a manner so as to reduce the number of times teachers are out of the classroom for curriculum meetings. Additionally, overall building cleanliness, temperature, and pest control have been addressed.
- **Discipline:** The District will implement use of a classroom at Walker and SHJH designated for students who exhibit disruptive classroom behavior as well as for those who must serve suspensions as a consequence of their actions. This pilot program is designed to help maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning for all students and targets the 1st and 2nd Board Goal for Student Achievement. Also, PBIS: Bullying Prevention will be a focus throughout this school year. Increased student accountability for bullying behavior has been included in the 2011-12 Student-Parent Handbook. Additionally, new protocol and procedures will be in place for lunchroom supervision at the Junior High.
- **Open Communication:** We have increased the scope of *Board Briefs*, our Board Meeting highlights so as to keep the community more fully informed of Board action. Also, in an effort to more fully communicate with parents, we have developed *District 161 Parent News Briefs*. Additionally, Board meeting locations will now include hosting meetings at individual schools. Our first school-based meeting will be in September at SHJH. And finally, Board liaisons have been established. Liaisons will visit the schools and work to establish positive relations between the school community and school board. Liaisons will follow the same protocol as other administrators and parents and sign in and show ID upon arrival.
- **Intergovernmental Agreement:** We met with the Frankfort Square Park District to begin a discussion to formalize the intergovernmental agreement between the Park District and School Board. A draft document developed by the Park District was presented to the Board for initial review.
- **Finance Committee:** We have completed the process to add the Finance Committee to our Board Policy on Committees. The committee will be setting its first meeting date and agenda.
- **Gifted & Honors:** In October we will begin our review of the Gifted and Honors Program. The review committee will include parents, teachers, and administrators.
- **Testing Schedule:** We will be surveying staff this school year to review our need to utilize the various local assessments currently in place.

Board updated on District's Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) on ISATs

At Wednesday's meeting, the Board was updated on the District's AYP status. Adequately Yearly Progress is the academic performance targets students in grades 3-8 must achieve on ISAT reading and Math tests. The AYP target for 2011 was 85% of students in all sub groups meeting or exceeding standards. All District 161 elementary schools and SHJH met or exceeding the AYP target of 85% this year. Walker Gr. 5 did not make AYP in one subgroup: students with disabilities. An improvement plan is being developed to further support our students.

During the discussion on AYP, the Board was made aware that just recently, President Obama directed the U.S. Dept. of Education to grant waivers to states that agree to adopt a prescribed set of educational reforms. Details will be made public in September. Waiver authority is granted under the Elementary and

Secondary Education Act (of which NCLB is the current version). In exchange for a waiver from the 2014 deadline of AYP of 100% meets/exceeds, states would adopt college-or career-ready standards, propose their own differentiated accountability systems, and adopt teacher evaluation systems based in part on student growth on state tests. The state of Illinois and our school district are working toward putting these systems in place to apply for the waiver.

In personnel matters, the Board

- accepted the resignation of paraprofessionals Jeanne Jerantowski, Stephanie Spellman, Michael Doyle, and Jen Boyer;
- approved the employment of Breanna Pluth, Erin Boers, and Melanie Richardson to fill leaves;
- approved the employment of teachers Lauren Gatto Clough, Amy Venable, Laura Cissell, Jen Walsh, Stephanie Spellman, Joseph Cardinal, Michael Doyle, and Sharon Canniff;
- approved the employment of James Ramsey and Shane Mosel as paraprofessionals;
- approved the employment of Deana Duvall, Sharon Koczor, Angela Beckstrom, and Michelle Borgia as lunchroom supervisors; and
- approved the employment of Mary Filicette as a .5 Learning Center Aide.

In other matters, the Board

- approved the contract with Ivy League for after-school services for the 2011-2012 school year; and
- heard that there currently are 3,389 students enrolled in district schools.