



July 7, 2021 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 2,600+ students living in portions of Tinley Park, Mokena, and Frankfort

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

Board welcomes new District Office Administrators

At the July 7 meeting, the Board officially welcomed Dr. Paul McDermott as the new Summit Hill School District 161 Superintendent. Dr. McDermott brings 26 years of experience to the position including 7 years of successful Superintendent experience. Julie Stearns (Business Manager) and Glen Wysong (Manager of Operations/Transportation) also join the District Office Administrative team this year. Excitement and enthusiasm are abound as we look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. McDermott recently created and shared a video for D161 staff and this can be viewed at [Video Message From Dr. Paul McDermott - YouTube](#).

District plans to retool Committee to look at SHSD161 Buildings/Grounds Usage

Based on recent declining enrollment data, the 161 Unit District Committee will shift its focus from the unit district discussion to taking a close look at the current usage of buildings and grounds throughout the District. Additional information will be forthcoming as members are added to the committee and as goals are established to guide their work. For additional information regarding the enrollment study predictions, conducted by consultant Dr. Charles Kofron, please navigate to www.summithill.org and click on the links under the Unit District Feasibility Study header located mid page.

Discussions continue related to the opening of school for the 2021-22 School Year

COVID-19 and how communities, states, and our Nation has handled it, is such a polarizing topic with valid points on either side. District 161 is watching this very closely and are examining all available information and guidance as planning and decisions for next year are made. With Governor Pritzker invoking the Illinois Emergency Management Act last year, and then recently extending Illinois' Emergency Declaration, we are anxiously awaiting when this may end or when additional guidance from the IDPH or ISBE will be shared. Superintendents across the state have urged ISBE to share guidance early and clearly so that the fall for students can be appropriately planned for. In the event options or flexibilities are offered, we will fully explore these for our District and also communicate clearly with our parents and wider school community.

In personnel matters, the Board

- Approved the employment of Johnathan Bratko as Assistant Principal at Summit Hill Junior High School
- accepted the resignations of Lauren M. Mondt, Danielle Simek, and Eric Cotter.

In other matters, the Board

- awarded a one-year contract for the purchase of copy paper to Midland paper;
- approved the agreement with Johnson Controls for the fire alarm and sprinkler testing and inspection for Mary Drew, Dr. Julian Rogus School, and Hilda Walker School;
- approve the proposal from Liberatore Electrical Services, Inc. for LED upgrades and electrical repairs;
- approve TRIA Architecture to update the District's facility assessment study;
- heard an update on the preliminary 2021-2022 budget.



Thank you for sending us such great kids!!

Stacey Borgens President	Stefanie McCleish Vice President	Jim Martin Secretary	Amy Berk Member	Katie Campbell Member	George Leonard Member	Trudy Sturino Member
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