



Sept. 15, 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. Paul McDermott, Ed.D. at 815.469.9103

### **2021-2022 Budget Hearing and Budget Approved**

On September 15, 2021, after posting and making the Tentative Budget available for public inspection for 30 days, a Budget Hearing was conducted to offer additional information and field any questions from the Board of Education or the public present at the Board of Education Meeting. After closing the Hearing, later in Board action, the SHSD161 Budget was approved with a 7-0 vote. The details include, based on last year's assumptions and work, an anticipated \$46,919,860 in total revenues, \$47,796.313 in budgeted expenditures, which accounts for a \$1,041,453 in expense over revenue position. With the new District Administrative team in place, a high priority is on accessing additional revenues while reigning in costs to improve year end results.

### **Weather and Lockdown Response Praised**

A congratulations was offered to a variety of different groups within the Summit Hill School District learning community in relation to the handling of September 7, 2021 weather (tornado) event. Despite making difficult decisions in midst of student dismissal, with buses already on route to students' homes, administrators, teachers and staff, parents, bus drivers, and even our students all pitched in to make sure everyone was safe throughout. Dr. McDermott also reported that scores of parent correspondences were received thanking SHSD161 for their efforts, many specific to individual buildings, leaders, and teachers for really pulling together on behalf of keeping people safe. The following week, there was a community alert regarding a possible child behind Walker School with a weapon. With the information from the TPPD, coupled with some great decision making by the Walker administration, our students were safely secured inside the building throughout...until we had the all-clear. As reported, and with the investigative information provided, this was determined to be a false claim, but one that allowed us to thoroughly work our safety and communications plan. Again, great job to everyone involved!

### **Communications and Community Outreach**

In an effort to ever-improve District communications, and in alignment with Board Policy, we are closely examining how we communicate with our students, parents, staff, and community. Updates to the website and SHSD161 app are being scheduled, but these communications vehicles do not reach all people we serve. We have therefore added podcasting and a community-wide newsletter to the to-do list so that our entire learning community has the good news of what we are accomplishing here in SHSD161.

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

- accepted the resignations of Sara Peterson, Brian Babulic, Sandra Ellis, and Kelly Muehlnickel.
- approved and extraordinary leave for employee 2506
- approved the employment of Amanda Irwin, paraprofessional at Dr. Julian Rogus School, and Lois Botros, paraprofessional at Hilda Walker School.

## In other matters, the Board

- approved the Washington D.C. trip for Grade 8 students from April 29, 2022 thru May 1, 2022;
- held a public hearing before approving a resolution to adopt the 2021-2022 budget;
- approved the first reading of Board Policy: 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:20, 2:30, 2:130, 2:240, 3:30, 5:10, 5:30, 6:100, 6:145, 6:160, 6:170, 6:235, 6:255, 6:260, 7:220, 7:230, 7:280 and 8:90;
- approved to set extracurricular fees at \$20;
- approved the Forecast 5 upgrade of 5Cast Plus.

**This year, we will “*flourish*” together!**

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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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