



August 5, 2020 meeting

Summit Hill District 161 Board Briefs

Serving 2,800+ 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 of Education approves remote learning plan, student support plan

At the August 5 meeting, Board members approved implementation of the Remote Learning Plan for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year until a date determined by the Board of Education. The plan aligns with the July 23 guidance from the IL State Board of Education to include at least five clock hours of instruction or academic engagement each day, at least 2.5 hours to be synchronous (real-time instruction with live interactions) and 2.5 hours asynchronous (self-paced, academic engagement). Learning activities include, but are not limited to, the teacher delivering instruction via recorded video and a synchronous (live) platform, remote small group work, independent/flexible student work time, and virtual or phone teacher-student check-ins.

Development of the plan included numerous marathon meetings in July with teachers and administrators. The plan was reasonably completed on July 23. However, that evening, ISBE released its remote learning guidance and the models and schedules for K-4 and 5-8 school days needed to be reworked. That work began on July 24 and concluded on August 3. Both schedules emphasize compassion and structure which are key attributes in social and emotional learning. The draft PPT and draft plan were e-blasted to parents one day prior to the Board Meeting and the approved documents have been placed on the District homepage.

In terms of student support during mandated remote learning, students who may be missing live instruction would have access to activities and pre-recorded videos as would the students participating during school hours. All staff with additional time and availability may be assigned by administration to instructional duties for which they are qualified to support these students to connect with them, develop materials, and contribute to a video library of key concepts based on the power standards/skills being addressed during live instruction during the school day. District devices and materials will be available to all students during the tablet/material pick-up days August 26-28. Tech assistance for families will be available via e-mail. We are developing videos to assist parents and students on how to access student work on the new learning management system. We are encouraging families to be online, if possible, via their childcare provider, etc. but if barriers exist like Wi-Fi access, to please let the building principal know so that the student can be supported.

Schools will begin to survey families at the end of this month to determine the number of students who will be online during the school day (live instruction/interaction with teachers) and those who will be online after the school day in the evening so that we may better understand the scope of student support needs.

Also at the meeting, the Board directed administration to develop a plan for the support and transition to in-person learning for special education students, IEP students, EL students and 504 students and a separate plan for the transition of all students for in-person learning.

In personnel matters, the Board:

- approved the employment of Shari Schneider, early childhood teacher; Terrisa Kwasneski, PE teacher; Melanie Berger, paraprofessional; and Susan Rossi, districtwide substitute nurse; and
- accepted the resignations of Anastasia Kiliias and Yvonne Kmiec.

In other matters, the Board:

- approved the second and final reading of Board Policy 7:20, 7:90, 7:130, 7:325, 8:10 and 8:110;
- canceled or suspended all fall sports and activities including, but not limited to softball, baseball, cross country, golf, band, and clubs;
- approved the 2020-21 Administrative Handbook, 2020-21 Certified Handbook, 2020-21 Non-Certified Handbook, 2020-21 Paraprofessional Handbook, and 2020-21 Custodial Handbook;
- approved rolling over unused vacation days that administrators earned in the 2019-2020 school year into their 2020-2021 school year allotment of days;
- authorized the administration to seek bids for snow removal services at District buildings;
- set the tentative 2020-21 budget hearing to be conducted at 7:30 p.m. on September 16;
- confirmed the existence of hazardous conditions requiring the transportation of students which have been previously approved by the IL Department of Transportation for the 2019-20 school year;
- authorized the destruction of closed session audio recordings for the period of July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018;
- was made aware that we have 166 completed/paid general education kindergarten registrations, 12 special education kindergarten registrations, and 1,761 completed/paid re-registrations with approximately 600 re-registrations still outstanding;
- was made aware that the agreement with Freckle will not be renewed for the upcoming school year and that a list of alternatives for online skills practice is being generated; and
- was made aware that due to the difficulty in conducting Gr. 5-8 action lab in a virtual setting, the current action lab curriculum is being adjusted to include a stronger technology focus this year with opportunities for students to explore 3D printing, computer design, coding, and career exploration.