



December 16, 2020 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

Tutoring, academic assistance programs to support academic needs of students

District 161 is reinstating the following programs to support students during remote learning and throughout the remainder of the school year as in-person learning returns: Tutoring and Academic Assistance. Twenty teachers will be participating and will be assigned to a student in need of academic support. Through consistent check-ins, the teacher will work to build a positive rapport with the student while helping the student set goals and navigate day-to-day responsibilities. Reteaching, homework help, and connecting the student to other appropriate supports will be provided. Weekly communication with classroom teachers and parents will be maintained. Students in need of academic support will be identified by each school and notification will go out in early January 2021. Teachers will begin meeting with students virtually to start building a positive rapport and to discuss expectations during the week of January 11, 2021.

Superintendent Rains announces retirement

At the December 16, 2020 Board Meeting, Supt. Barb Rains, Ed.D. announced her retirement, effective at the end of this school year, to allow this Board of Education the opportunity to complete the hiring process and permit a smooth transition for the district's next educational leader on July 1, 2021. Dr. Rains said that she will provide whatever assistance the Board desires to ensure a smooth transition.

Dr. Rains has been serving the educational needs of students at the elementary, high school, and college levels for over 40 years. Dr. Rains was employed as District 161's Director of Human Resources and Public Relations in 2008. She was named District 161's Interim Superintendent on July 1, 2011 and was approved as District 161's Superintendent on Dec. 15, 2011. She served the District 161 school community for the last 13 years.

"There are so many everyday heroes working in District 161. While our educational world has been forced to change at warp speed over the last eight months, so many administrators, teachers, nurses, office staff, and families have risen to the challenge so that we could continue to care for the students we serve. Thank you to members of the Board and our awesome administrative team for your support over the years – especially during this pandemic. Thank you to the many wonderful staff members I have had the opportunity to welcome into the district over the years. And a very special thank you to our students who continue to work so hard to keep learning no matter if the lesson is taught in-person or remotely," said Dr. Rains.

In other matters, the Board:

- approved the adoption of a school attendance plan which may include, but is not limited to, full in-person, A/B hybrid, or full remote to be set at the District, school, section, class, or student level at the discretion of the Superintendent (more information to follow);
- adopted a certificate of tax levy resolution for the 2020 levy in the amounts of: Education Fund, \$26,000,000; Operations & Maintenance Funds, \$4,400,000; Transportation Fund, \$425,000; Working Cash Fund, \$325,000; Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, \$250,000; Social Security Fund, \$825,000; Tort Immunity Fund, \$325,000; Special Education Fund, \$525,000; and Bond and Interest Fund for a total levy in the amount of \$33,075,000;
- set the date of December 21 at 7 p.m. for a special meeting to hear a presentation by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) on the executive search process;
- set the 2021-22 Board Planning meeting date to be March 6, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.;

- reviewed a draft calendar for the 2021-22 school year;
- approved the contract with R.B. Crowther Company for the recoating of the roof at Hilda Walker School;
- approved the purchase of 100 Microsoft Surface tablets;
- heard information on the Lincoln-Way Transportation intergovernmental agreement; and
- heard an update on the monthly financials.

In personnel matters, the Board:

- approved the employment of Patricia Dornhecker and Patrick Doran, teachers; Gina Wagner and Tamara Reif, FMLA teachers; Kevin Prezedziecki and Tiffany Sharp, district wide building technicians; Larry Trotter, cleaning custodian; Lillie Holman, paraprofessional; and Kara Jelderks, lunchroom supervisor;
- accepted the resignation of Meghan Bednarz; and
- accepted the rescindment of the extraordinary leave of employee 2793.