



May 19, 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 honors District 161 exemplary student award recipients

At the May 19 meeting, the Board acknowledged students recognized by the staff members of their school for exemplary academic progress during the school year. The program provides an opportunity for staff members to reflect on the accomplishments of a student who has exhibited determination and often had overcome challenges. One student from each school, in the exiting year (4th, 6th and 8th), was recognized. This annual recognition by the Board of Education exemplifies the district's whole child approach which not only fosters a student's academic learning and social-emotional development, but also lays the foundation for life-long learning. The following students were recognized: Mackenzie Miller, Arbury Hills School; Keighley Mentzer, Frankfort Square School; Sylvia Peek, Indian Trail School; Isabella Orlando, Dr. Julian Rogus School; Nour Anabtawi, Hilda Walker School; and Kamil Dudek, Summit Hill Jr. High School.

8th grade graduation to take place on May 29

The 8th grade graduation ceremony will take place on May 29 at 1 p.m. in the north end zone of the Lincoln-Way Central football field. The ceremony will be live streamed over YouTube.

Planning for Fall 2021

Based on current conditions, the district is aligning its plan to resume in-person instruction on August 25. Requirements related to the scope of a remote learning option are under review by the Illinois State Board of Education. In March, ISBE released guidance related to full-time remote learning to include students who are at increased risk of severe illness, who have special health care needs, or who live with people at increased risk. On May 19, new guidance was issued which includes a remote learning option available to students not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and those under a quarantine order. ISBE guidance will continue to be monitored for updates throughout the summer.

Summer Enrichment Camp set for June 14-24

District 161 is providing students with an opportunity to participate in an enrichment camp. Students may sign-up for a "fun club" of their choice. This camp will take place at Mary Drew School. The dates are June 14 - June 17 and June 21 - June 24 from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Transportation is not provided. Participation in a club is first come, first serve. Enrollment is limited to 20 students per club to ensure social distancing. Please click the sign-up link at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e4aaca82ea7ff2-summer>

Student online privacy law effective July 1

The Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) is a new online privacy law effective July 1, 2021. It guarantees that student data is protected when collected by educational technology companies and that the data is used for beneficial educational purposes only (not marketing or selling student information). SOPPA requires school districts to have a written privacy agreement posted on its website with each vendor or operator of K-12 educational technology that collects personally identifiable information.

District equity audit aligns with ISBE's equity journey continuum

The Illinois State Board of Education's three-year strategic plan identified goals and priorities for 2020-2023 including an equity journey continuum. Progress on each Illinois school district's equity journey will be incorporated into the state report card by the 2022 reporting year. District 161's equity work is intended to provide welcoming and inclusive schools for all. During the 2021-22 school year an equity audit will be performed to gather baseline information. The first meeting of the District Equity Leadership Team will take place on August 16.

In personnel matters, the Board

- approved the employment of Erin Boers, Erik Donovan, Ryan Hagen, Susan Hartley, Joe Klosak, Katie Mecher, Joe Renardo, and Dawn Scuderi as summer enrichment camp teachers;
- approved the employment of Katie McGrath and Brian Babulic as summer enrichment camp coordinators and substitute teachers;
- approved the employment of Natalie Skobel, Sara Barnes, and Jenna Lynch as teachers for the 2021-22 school year; and
- accepted the resignations of William Bruno, Jakub Gasienica, and Carol Grant.

In other matters, the Board

- appointed the following members to Board committees: Mrs. Sturino and Mrs. Campbell, Policy Committee; Mr. Leonard, Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee; Mrs. McCleish and Mrs. Campbell, PERA Committee; and Mrs. McCleish and Mrs. Berk, Community Outreach Committee;
- approved administrative vacation day compensation;
- approved the review of certified job descriptions per Senate Bill 7;
- approved the 2021-2022 Parent-Student Handbook;
- approved the purchase of reading and math interventions for the Summer Boot Camp;
- authorized administration to seek bids for copy paper;
- approved the food service intergovernmental agreement with Union School District 81 for the preparation of meals under the National School Lunch Program;
- authorized submission of the Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement for the 2020-21 school year;
- authorized the administration to submit state and federal grants on behalf of Summit Hill School District 161 for the 2021-22 school year;
- approved the continuation of the supplemental bus transportation program for the 2021-2022 school year;
- heard that the District summer hours schedule (Monday-Thursday) will begin June 14 through August 6; and
- heard an update on the curriculum review process and action lab/STEM planning.