

# BOARD BRIEFS

November 14, 2017 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

**Board of Education:**

*Mr. Bob Hiatt, President*  
*Mr. John Corcoran, Vice President*  
*Mrs. Natalie Watkins, Secretary*  
*Mrs. Lori Bryant*  
*Mr. Neil DeSimone*  
*Mrs. Jennifer Gusentine*  
*Mrs. Laurie Scheer*

**Administration:**

*Dr. Patricia Viniard, Superintendent*  
*Mrs. Ali Beiermeister, Director of Teaching & Learning*  
*Mr. Michael Duback, Director of Operations/CSBO*  
*Mr. Brian Graber, Elementary School Principal*  
*Mr. Michael Papierski, Middle School Principal*

## Communications, Visitor(s) Comments and Participation

The meeting opened with two special recognitions. First, Mrs. Ali Beiermeister, Director of Teaching and Learning, highlighted several Middle School students. State Senator John Curran recently invited all seventh graders in the 41<sup>st</sup> Senate District to participate in his first Veterans Day essay contest. Mrs. Chris Phillip, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Teacher, encouraged all Highlands' seventh graders to enter the essay contest which focused on the theme of personal courage. Nine Highlands students had award-winning essays, which were judged by a panel of military veterans. A first place, a third place, two fourth place awards, and five honorable mentions were received by Highlands' students. The student awarded first place--who has been invited to serve as Senator Curran's "Page for a Day" at the Capitol in Springfield--read her moving essay. Those present applauded all of the students for their incredible accomplishment and also Mrs. Phillip and the students' parents for their support.

The next recognition was in honor of School Board Members Day! Dr. Viniard was delighted to express gratitude and thanks to Highlands' School Board members. Displayed in the room were student and staff thank you notes, creative artwork, inspired banners, chocolates, and clever gift packages. Dr. Viniard recognized the School Board members for their exceptional support, which district leadership and staff never take for granted. The district's accomplishments, reputation, and achievement are directly correlated to the tremendous support provided by our School Board.

## Reports

### FY17 Annual Audit and Annual Financial Report (AFR)

Mr. Duback introduced Mr. Matt Beran from the auditing firm Lauterbach & Amen, LLP to present an overview of FY17 audit of LaGrange Highlands School District 106. Mr. Beran thanked Mr. Duback and his team for their hard work in making the audit process seamless. The District's net position of a) \$22M is an increase of 3.8% over 2016, with a large portion, \$11.9M reflective of investment of capital assets (i.e. buildings, equipment and machinery) b) long-term debt was decreased, and c) income statement increase of \$666K which was attributed to expenses held in check, very positive fund balances at 94% and good operations. Five year historical trends summarized the tax extension increasing, bond and interest consistent, along with a maturing bond in 2021. Based on the results of the annual audit, it is also expected that the District may once again receive a Financial Profile Score of 4.0, which is the highest offered. The district maintains sufficient fund balance without a high amount of debt.

### Finance Committee Update

Mr. Duback reported that the Finance Committee, which includes School Board members Lori Bryant and John Corcoran, met at the end of October with the driving focus on capital projects, upcoming tax levy and other financial topics. The committee discussed projected costs over 10 years for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) projects such as boiler upgrades, HVAC controls updates and roof replacements. A comprehensive roofing replacement plan was presented, which broke down the building roofs into 7 sections of replacement needs and cost. The first projected roof replacement recommendation in FY 2019 and the last in FY 2023. With projecting the O&M needs over the next 10 years, it positions the district to plan responsibly. Mr. Duback then discussed funding sources and structures for those capital projects, including levying higher in O&M, as well as analyzing fund balances and district debt to evaluate future needs.

### Legislative Update

Senate Bill 851 (SB851) is in its third amendment and was voted and passed in the House in early November. The bill contains an automatic two-year property tax freeze for Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane, McHenry and Will Counties. The freeze will impact the 2017 and 2018 levy years setting the tax extensions for all taxing districts within these counties at 0% or at an increased rate approved by voters. The impact is approximately a \$250,000 loss in revenue in each of FY18 and FY19. The bill is in the Senate but the Senate decided to postpone its vote until January 2018.

### Presentation of Projected Tax Levy

Mr. Duback explained that in order for a school district to collect local property tax monies, it must formally request them through a process called a tax levy. In December, Illinois school districts are required to adopt a tax levy for the following calendar year. Based on the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), the proposed tax levy on existing properties may increase up to 5% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from prior December, whichever is less, and excluding the bond & interest levy for scheduled payments. Mr. Duback also discussed the rationale behind a process called “balloon levying,” in which the district levies higher to capture any property value increases that may exceed current estimates. Any school district that completes a balloon levy will never receive more tax revenue than it is eligible to receive. In order to balloon levy for an increase that exceeds 5% of last year’s tax extension (i.e., monies actually received), a public hearing must take place prior to the Board meeting in which the tax levy is approved. With Board support for a balloon levy, Duback described that a public hearing will take place to adopt the tax levy at the December board meeting.

### Illinois School and District Report Cards

Dr. Viniard presented highlights from the State Report Card for the District, Middle School, and Elementary School, as well as the accompanying “At-A-Glance” summary documents. From 2016 to 2017, the percentage of Highlands students who met or exceeded state standards on the state assessments increased over 4% to **71%**! The district also saw a significant decrease in the achievement gap for three demographic groups: a) Low Income Students, b) students receiving English Language services and c) students with disabilities. Dr. Viniard praised Highlands for being one of only four local and comparable districts that had over 70% of students meeting or exceeding state standards. Highlands continues to strive for continual improvement as it provides a world-class education to students!

### Concussion Committee

Dr. Viniard explained the district’s Concussion Oversight Team developed a Concussion Management Plan that was implemented last year, in accordance with state law. The committee met this fall to review the concussion management procedures and protocols and to discuss revisions to the plan and its documents. It is critically important for parents, coaches, and all staff to understand the serious and potentially long-lasting effects of a concussion--particularly if an individualized and responsive post-concussion plan is not developed and carefully followed. Last year, the district managed approximately 11 concussion cases; in the first three months of this school year, the district has already

seen five concussion cases. To access up-to-date concussion information, visit the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html> or follow this link to see the district's

Concussion Management Plan:

<http://xbox.district106.net/html/downloads/Health%20and%20Medical/2017.2018%20%20LaGrange%20Highlands%20106%20Concussion%20Plan.pdf>

### **Food Service**

In the food service update, Mr. Duback shared that Quest is seeing a profit compared to last year at this time. Quest costs are down compared to last year, while food purchases are up. Assuming these positive trends carry forward for the school year, Quest would end the year with a small gain. The leadership team will continue to investigate and evaluate options for feasible food service structures that may be advantageous to District 106.

### **Your Board Approved:**

1. Minutes of the October 17, 2017, regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
2. Minutes of the October 17, 2017, closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
3. November 2017 bills payable.
4. October 2017 financial report.
5. October 31, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$458,368.85; and the November 15, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$411,986.99.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, December 19, 2017**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, LaGrange, IL 60525.

- Tax Levy Hearing and Adoption
- IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference Report
- Six-Month Review of Closed Session Minutes/Tapes
- Holiday Card Contest Winner
- Learning Walks Report (January)

Have comments for the Board of Education?  
Email: [boardofeduction@district106.net](mailto:boardofeduction@district106.net)