

# Board Briefs

*A report of items discussed and actions taken at the November 15, 2016, Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education*

**Board of Education:**

Mr. Bob Hiatt, President  
Mr. John Corcoran, Vice President  
Mrs. Natalie Watkins, Secretary  
Mr. Neil DeSimone  
Mr. Dan Dolgner  
Mrs. Jennifer Gusentine  
Mrs. Laurie Scheer

**Administration Office**

1750 W. Plainfield Road  
La Grange, IL 60525

**Administration:**

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

## CELEBRATIONS!

Board Members Day - November 15th is School Board Members Day. The Board members were honored with cards and posters signed by the students and staff. Dr. Viniard thanked the Board members for their service on behalf of the entire district and community.



The Bob Barnes Classic was very successful again this year. Sixteen teams participated in the three-day event, and all proceeds will go to the District 106 Educational Foundation.

Although the Highlands 7th Grade team lost both of their games, the team felt it was a great experience and learning opportunity for the future. The Highlands 8th Grade boys came in 3rd place after losing their semi-final game to the eventual tournament champions.

Overall champions: 7th Grade - McClure Junior High  
8th Grade - Jefferson (Woodridge)

## Interested in Becoming a School Board Member?

Four seats on the seven-member Board of Education will be filled at the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election. All four seats will be full four-year terms. Candidate information packets are now available in the District Office.

Here are some key dates and deadlines regarding the April 4<sup>th</sup> election:

**Tuesday, September 20, 2016** First day that prospective candidates may circulate nomination petitions for signatures for the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election.

**Monday, December 12, 2016** First day that prospective candidates may file nominating papers with the Cook County Clerk for the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election.

**Monday, December 19, 2016** Last day candidates may file nominating papers with the Cook County Clerk for the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election.

## *Proposed Tax Levy Presentation/Establish Public Hearing Date for Tax Levy*

Mr. DePorter highlighted a few items from the written report on the proposed tax levy including the calculations used for this year's levy. He also explained the need to balloon levy in order to capture new growth and to ensure that no new tax dollars are lost. A public hearing for public comment regarding the levy will be held at the next Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, in the LRC.

## *Illinois School and District Report Cards Report*

Each fall, the Illinois State Board of Education provides each district with report cards for each school and district along with "At-a-Glance" documents that provide an overview and shorter version of the longer and more detailed report cards. Dr. Viniard reviewed the "At a Glance" documents and highlighted a few items from the report cards. Dr. Viniard also provided a Two-Year PARCC Scores Comparison sheet which shows Highlands doing very well compared to surrounding districts. The report cards and "At-a-Glance" documents are now available for review on the district website.

## *Learning Resource Center (LRC) Update*

Dr. Viniard and Mrs. Beiermeister provided an update on the early stages of a possible redesign of the Highlands Learning Resource Center (LRC). The current LRC was built in 1992 and contains 27,000 books, including the leveled library and RTI materials. Although libraries have been archives of knowledge for centuries, they are no longer being used for only written materials. Libraries are now being reinvented into learning spaces. Updating the LRC would allow for:

- Technology instruction to add STEM and programming, as well as providing space for students to utilize specialized technology for projects.
- A creative environment that encourages students to explore resources, work as teams, and engage with texts and technology in a comfortable atmosphere.
- The leveled library would have space to grow and provide teachers access to high-quality literature for reading instruction.
- A multi-use space which could be transformed to meet needs for multiple classes to work in the space at one time, and provide space for students to create, learn, research, design, and share ideas.

The process to reinvent the Highlands LRC is in the very early stages and will include a review of the current program and use of the facility, visits to several updated LRCs, surveying all stakeholders, and developing lists of needs/wants, which potentially may lead to designing an updated LRC that would create a learning hub for the district. Dr. Viniard will keep the Board informed as the process continues.

## *Technology Report*

Mr. Callis provided an update regarding the Technology Department. He discussed WiFi updates with new access points, bandwidth, routing internet traffic, security cameras, Google accounts, the transition to Gmail, and the continuing need to improve usage for parents. He also discussed the current goal to make data work by becoming more proactive in reporting. He introduced Ms. Rebecca Brink, a fifth grade teacher who gave a presentation on her experience with Google connected classroom. She is one of six teachers working on a pilot program regarding the use of iPads in the classroom. As an example, she discussed a recent project in which her students participated in a mystery hangout activity with another classroom in New York. The students solved math problems in order to ask yes/no questions to try and guess the location of the mystery school. It was an exciting and successful activity for the students and they are looking forward to another mystery school project.

## *Personnel*

The Board accepted/approved two Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requests.

## *Your Board Also:*

1. Approved the minutes of the October 18, 2016 regularly scheduled meeting and closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
2. Approved the November 2016 Bills Payable.
3. Approved the October 2016 Financial Report.
4. Approved the October 31, 2016 payroll in the amount of \$447,004.20, and the November 15, 2016, payroll in the amount of \$421,620.99.
5. Approved the first reading of revised Board Policies.

*Future Agenda Items (The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held Tuesday, December 20, 2016, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, La Grange, IL 60525.*

1. IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference Report (December)
2. Learning Walks Report (December)
3. Tax Levy Hearing/ Adopt Tax Levy/ Fund Levy Resolution (December)
4. Six-Month Review of Closed Session Minutes/Tapes (December)
5. Holiday Card Contest Winner Presentation (December)

**Have comments for the Board of Education?**

**Email: [boardofeducation@district106.net](mailto:boardofeducation@district106.net)**