

BOARD BRIEFS

February 19, 2019 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
Mrs. Amy Laskowski, Director of Student Support Services
Mr. Michael Papierski, Middle School Principal

NOTE: The date of the April Board of Education Meeting has been changed to April 23, 2019.

8th GRADE GRADUATION

Graduation will be held on JUNE 4, 2019, AT 6:00 P.M.

2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED

The Board of Education approved the 2019-2020 Highlands School Calendar. The 2019-20 school calendar will move to trimesters. The calendar has been posted on the website, and you can view it by clicking [HERE](#).

Reports

Reading and Writing Workshop

Mr. Papierski introduced science teacher, Mary Wilson and social studies teacher, Chris Phillip, to share highlights of a literacy workshop they recently attended. The workshop focused on 14 strategies to boost reading and writing achievement. The teachers highlighted specific inference strategies that can be implemented across all subjects to strengthen student writing. They also demonstrated tools used in specific activities, which promote solid writing skills to infer what the student read or viewed. Workshop attendees also included Kevin Kolar (PE), Kathy Lipkowski (5th grade), Kristen Rusthoven (social studies), and Mr. Papierski. Because it is atypical for non-ELA teachers to participate in a workshop like this, Dr. Viniard and others present thanked them for their commitment. The teachers shared the workshop strategies with their respective team members to enhance their team's expertise.

Middle School Schedule Update

Mr. Papierski continued the discussion regarding the Middle School's elective schedule that was begun at last month's Board meeting. The exploration was precipitated by the issues associated with the current schedule, including core class interruptions for band/orchestra lessons, a lack of equity among electives, band/orchestra rehearsal conflicts, student/family stress, and conflicts for advanced math students who wish to participate in band/orchestra. Since last month's Board meeting, a parent survey was conducted, a parent meeting was held, and student survey was conducted. Based on the totality of all information analyzed and feedback gathered, the Administration recommends the following for 2019-2020 school year:

- Band and orchestra will become an elective.
- The Musical will be moved to an outside-of-school-day activity, but there will be a musical theatre elective.
- The school calendar will move to trimesters for both schools.

Winter MAP Report

Mrs. Beiermeister presented the 2019 Winter MAP assessment data for reading and math. Comparing Fall to Winter scores across grades 1 to 8, both year-to-year and cohort data were shared. The Winter Mean RIT National Percentile Ranking for **all** of the grade levels assessed for reading was at or above the 85th percentile, and six out of the eight grades for math was at or above the 90th percentile! MAP data will be evaluated to determine patterns, areas of strength, and areas for improvement. Mrs. Laskowski presented impressive data highlighting the increased percentage of students with an IEP who are meeting MAP Fall-to-Winter Growth Targets: Since 2015, the percentage of IEP students who are meeting Fall-to-Winter Growth Targets for Reading has increased from 25% to 54%, and for Math there has been an increase from 27% to 52%.

Updates/Discussions

Township Treasurer's Office Update (TTO)

Board president Mr. Bob Hiatt reported the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a panel discussion on March 21 (location to be determined) to include Board presidents from districts 105 and 102, Representative Jim Durkin and Ken Getty, TTO treasurer. All are welcome to attend.

Personnel

The Board accepted and approved the following:

- Resignation, 1.0 FTE Elementary teacher
- Two Retirement requests effective end of school year 2021-2022
- FMLA leaves: 1.0 FTE middle school teacher, 1.0 FTE early childhood paraprofessional, 1.0 FTE speech/language pathologist, 1.0 FTE custodian

Your Board Approved:

1. Grand Avenue Daycare lease renewal.
2. The 2019-2020 school calendar.
3. Minutes of the January 15, 2019, regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
4. Minutes of the January 15, 2019, closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
5. February 2019 bills payable.
6. January 2019 financial report.
7. January 18, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$2059.00; the January 31, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$488,150.50 and the February 15, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$417,995.40.

Future Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, LaGrange, IL 60525.

- RIF/Dismissals/Rehires (March)
- Food Service Update (March)
- English Learners and Student Services Update (March)
- Budget Calendar Development (March/April)
- Summer Projects Report (March/April)
- Technology Purchase and Sale of Tech Assets (April)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

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