

# BOARD BRIEFS

June 18, 2019 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

## **Board of Education:**

*Mr. John Corcoran, President*  
*Mrs. Lori Bryant, Vice President*  
*Mrs. Natalie Watkins, Secretary*  
*Mrs. Jennifer Dunleavy*  
*Mrs. Jennifer Gusentine*  
*Mrs. Laurie Scheer*  
*Mr. Andy Taylor*

## **Administration:**

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

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## Communications, Visitor(s) Comments and Participation

### Dr. Brian Graber and Dr. Patricia Viniard Recognized

Dr. Viniard and the Board recognized Dr. Graber at his last Board meeting before starting his new position at School District 45. Board members and others present expressed gratitude for his lasting impression on students, families, and staff, thanking him for his leadership, which he balanced with both his head and heart. During his nine-year tenure, Dr. Graber significantly strengthened the elementary school's programs and its sense of community, always exemplifying child-centered leadership. He received a warm round of applause and was presented with a gift from the Board.

Board president, Mr. Corcoran, and the other Board members recognized Dr. Viniard at her last Board meeting before retiring from District 106 at the end of June. For the past six years, Dr. Viniard has led our district with passion, a commitment to excellence, and a focus on serving students, families, and the community. She was the type of leader who deflected praise to her staff and always kept a positive focus on the students. Dr. Viniard received a warm round of applause and was presented with a gift from the Board. She thanked the current and previous Boards of Education for giving her the privilege of working in this exemplary school district.

## Reports

### District Assessment Report

Mrs. Beiermeister presented the results of three assessments utilized within the district. The AIMSweb+ reading and math assessments are administered three times annually to all K-4 students and grades 5-8 students who are in workshop classes. Most Highlands' students score in the 75th to 99th percentile (Above/Well Above) or the 26th to 74th percentile (Average). The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments for reading and math are administered to all grades 1-8 students, three times per year. For reading, each grade's spring National Percentile Ranking was at or above the 90th percentile, and the percent of students meeting their growth projections ranged from 57% (grade 2) to 78% (grade 6). The overall CGP (Conditional Growth Percentile) for reading increased to 75.2

percentile for FY19 from the previous year's 68th percentile. For math, six out of eight grades' spring National Percentile Ranking was at or above the 90th percentile, and the percent of students meeting their growth projections ranged from 52% (grade 3) to 83% (grade 2). The overall CGP (Conditional Growth Percentile) for math was the 79th percentile, compared to the 84th percentile in 2018. Regarding writing, three genres of writing are assessed locally for students in grades K-8. Writing scores have steadily increased since the 2016 implementation. We are proud of the overall 2019 writing proficiency of 87%, which exceeded the district goal of 80%.

### Elementary School SIP Report

Dr. Graber noted that FY19 was Year 2 of the elementary school's two-year School Improvement Plan goals, which focused on Math, Personalized Learning, and Social-Emotional Learning. Based on fall testing, math results showed 55% of students fell within the 76<sup>th</sup>ile and above. Personalized learning tools/strategies, such as WIN ("What I Need") time, provided tailored instruction. Other personalized learning strategies used in the classroom included 1:1 reading and writing conferences, collaborative writing, individual research, and digital student portfolio and publishing. Through the social-emotional learning goal, the school established a safe, supportive community and engaged students in goal setting and planning.

### Middle School SIP Report

Mr. Papierski presented the updated 2018-19 School Improvement Plan (SIP). Goals included increasing the CGI (Conditional Growth Index on MAP assessment) by at least 5% for math (goal was met for two of four grades) and reading (goal was met for three of four grades); and, at least 75% of students scoring "meet" or "exceeds" on local writing assessment (goal was met for 11 of 12 areas). There was also a social-emotional focus to increase Social emotional wellness and the connections between Middle and Elementary School students. The SEL goals were enhanced through NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) presentations to both students and staff, abilities awareness day, and bridging activities with middle and elementary school students.

### Learning Walks Report

Dr. Viniard provided an overview of the Learning Walks proces, in which Highlands' educators have the opportunity to observe each other in a non-evaluative way, focusing on best practices and standards-based instructional areas. Each learning walk is followed up with a conversation. Based on three years of Learning Walk data, a pattern of the best instructional practices that are more or less observed is emerging. Learning Walks provide an opportunity for professional reflection and discussion. Currently, Learning Walks are conducted for math, reading, writing, and science in grades K-8 and also social studies in grades 6-8. For FY20, they will be expanded to the elementary grades for social studies and physical education.

### District Report Card

Dr. Viniard presented the updated local report card for the district, which is an internal evaluation instrument the Board requested of the superintendent several years ago. The report card includes seven areas: collaboration, curriculum, instruction, achievement, personnel, technology, and facilities. Within those areas, a total of 11 indicators were targeted for implementation or revision in the 2018-2019 school year. Of these, 10 were met or implemented and 1 is in progress.

### 2018-19 District Goals Report

Dr. Viniard reported results for the 2018-2019 Board-established District 106 goals, which encompassed the areas of Academic and Financial. As an exceptional district, we continue to set and strive for "stretch" academic achievement goals. A Conditional Growth Percentile (CGP) goal, for example, is much more rigorous than a National Percentile Ranking (NPR) goal, because CGP compares our students' performance only against similar districts, not all districts. The math MAP goal

was a CGP at or above the 90th percentile; although the CGP of 79.9 was very strong, the goal was not met. The reading MAP goal was a CGP at or above the 85th percentile; the CGP increased from the previous year--68th percentile to 75.2 percentile, but did not meet the goal. The local writing assessment goal of at least 80% of students “meeting” or “exceeding” was achieved with 87% of students meeting or exceeding. All four of the financial goals were met, and they involved developing a multi-year financial plan, developing a balanced operating budget, achieving a district designation of “Financial Recognition,” and increasing resources and operational efficiencies.

## Updates/Discussions

### Township Treasurer’s Office Update (TTO)

Mr. Corcoran, Board president, stated there has been no recent activity of the Board presidents’ group.

## Personnel

The Board accepted and approved the following:

- Resignations: **Sharon Lyons**, 1.0 FTE Elementary paraprofessional, effective 6/6/19
- Employment Recommendations: - **Laura Garcia**, part-time Summer Custodian, effective approximately, 6/10/19 to 8/16/19; **Richard Morton**, 1.0 FTE Social Studies teacher, effective 8/19/19, replacing C. Phillip; **Sara Sparks**, 1.0 FTE 1st Grade teacher, effective 8/19/19, NEW position for added section; **Kelly Verrecchia**, moving from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional, effective 8/19/19, replacing P. Herman; and **Darcey Denton**, 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional, effective 8/19/19, replacing Sharon Lyons.

## Your Board Approved:

1. Minutes of the May 21, 2019, regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
2. Minutes of the May 21, 2019, closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
3. June 2019 bills payable.
4. May 2019 financial report.
5. The May 31, 2019, payroll in the amount of \$437,019.67 and the June 3, 2019, payroll in the amount of \$1,249,241.15, which includes the five teachers payrolls for the summer months; and June 14, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$136,472.55
6. Board of Education 2019-20 Meeting Schedule.
7. Resolution to Abate Funds.
8. Contracts over \$1,000.
9. 2019-20 Transportation Contract.
10. Administration Center Receptionist Position.

## Future Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, July 16, 2019**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, La Grange, IL 60525.

- Approve 2019-20 Tentative Budget (July)
- Services for Advanced Students Report (July)
- Ninth Grade Survey Report (When Available)
- 5Essentials Survey Results (When Available)
- Draft - 2019-2020 District Goals (TBD)
- Classrooms/Facilities Update (TBD)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

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