

# BOARD BRIEFS

April 17, 2018 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

Congratulations to Andrew and Nolan, who were recognized for receiving the **The School Citizen of the Year** (SCOTY) Award. Throughout the West 40 region, one student from each school was chosen to receive this honor. Students were selected based on their positive examples of citizenship shown each day and the ways they make Highlands a great place to be! This was Highland Elementary School's first year to participate. Andrew and Nolan were congratulated by Dr. Viniard, the Board of Education, Mr. Graber, Mr. Papierski and the many staff and family in attendance.

In addition, a community member spoke to the Board regarding the Lyons Township Treasurer's (TTO) Office. He questioned the need and value for this entity. He referred to an expenditure list of \$2500 or more, provided by the TTO. In his opinion, the list shows many questionable expenses. He recommended the Highlands 106 Board of Education reconsider its support of the TTO.

## Reports

### Student Services Update

Mrs. Laskowski began the annual Student Services update by reiterating the "standards of belief" for students receiving services: "The severity of one's disability does not determine his level of potential. All student learning should be held to high expectations. All students can and will achieve ambitious goals." Approximately 113 Highlands' students have an IEP, and approximately 43 students have a 504 Plan. The number of students in outside placements has significantly decreased in recent years. In addition, compared to both peer districts and statewide data, a much higher percentage of Highlands' students with disabilities (84.2%) receive their education within the general education setting at least 80% of the school day. Highlands has its staff, Board of Education, and community to thank for this highly inclusive service delivery model.

The Board's support of the co-teaching model, the inclusion facilitator, Response to Intervention programs, the English Language facilitator, and the blended pre-k program are large supportive factors for the powerful inclusive practices and impressive student growth at Highlands. The percentage of students with IEPs who have met NWEA/MAP fall-to-winter Reading growth targets has increased from 28% in 2015 to 52% this year. The percentage of students with IEPs who have met NWEA/MAP fall-to-winter Math growth targets has increased from 34% in 2015 to 61% this year. PARCC scores for these students show the same positive trend. The number of students who qualify for English

Learner (EL) services has increased in five years from 18 to 51; currently, 16 languages are represented, with Spanish being the most predominant. EL students' progress on the NWEA/MAP and PARCC assessments shows tremendous growth in recent years! Dr. Viniard thanked Mrs. Laskowski and all Student Services educators for the collaboration and efforts that have led to these impressive student results.

#### Technology Purchase & Sale of Tech Assets

Mr. Callis presented the technology purchase proposal which includes laptops for 5th grade students, as well for the teachers and administrators whose computers are due for replacement. The replacement of 4-year-old computers utilized within the PLTW (Project Lead the Way) program will be delayed one year, since these devices have more limited usage. Additional items in the proposal included classroom Apple TV's, iPads, classroom/conference room LCD projectors (current projectors are 10 years old), and classroom screens. Mr. Callis's presentation included the recommendation for the annual sale of equipment such as 4-year old laptops, desktop computers, LCD projectors, and 3-year old iPads.

#### Summer Projects Report

Mr. Hoeffling recapped the larger summer buildings and grounds projects to include retrofitting classroom space for early childhood and modifications to classrooms for 2nd and 3rd grade; middle school boiler replacement; HVAC controls updates; and parking lot work. These capital projects are included in the proposed district budget for 2018-2019.

#### 5th Grade Outdoor Education Proposal

Mr. Papierski and the 5th grade team presented a proposal for next year's 5th grade class to attend an outdoor education experience. They shared that an outdoor education program provides students the opportunity to enrich their intellectual, academic, social, personal and interpersonal skills through inquiry, challenge, and adventure in a safe, supportive environment. The activities and opportunities within a quality outdoor education program align to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Illinois Learning Standards. A sample schedule and sample activities were presented, and a previously-shared "FAQ" document which addresses many questions was referenced. The inaugural outdoor education experience is proposed for September, 2018. The next step will be an informational meeting and discussion with the parents of next year's fifth graders.

#### Food Service Update

Mr. Duback presented that during the 2018-19 school year, research of several food service options has been conducted. The first option, entering into a cooperative agreement with a larger partner district, is not available at this time, but it could be an option in the future. Option 2, securing a "Brown bag" provider, has pros and cons. While it would streamline meal options, district oversight would be needed and parent survey feedback indicates parents want higher-quality food than this option might provide. A third option, joining the National School Lunch Program, is not advisable for District 106, due to the increased costs we would incur to meet the program's guidelines. The final and recommended option is to maintain the current structure with Quest and continue to offer the a la carte options for students, which has increased access and profit margin. Based on vetting all options, Mr. Duback's recommendation to the Board is to contract with the current food provider, Quest, for the 2018-2019 school year.

#### School Funding Update

Mr. Duback communicated that ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) has finalized the Evidence-Based Model (tier funding) for the 2017-2018 school year. ISBE determines a district's "tier" level by using a variety of data points (e.g, staffing ratios, at-risk populations, insurance costs). This equates to \$11,297.07 per student in District 106 and is the target amount to meet the minimum threshold to fund an adequate education at Highlands. Each school year, new data is placed into the model to determine a districts new "tier" level, annually. Based on each year's new data, Highlands'

“tier” level may increase (e.g., tax revenue due to new homes built) or decrease (e.g., potential tax freeze).

## Personnel

The Board accepted and approved the following:

- Retirement request for 1.0 FTE Elementary school paraprofessional
- Resignation request for 1.0 FTE Elementary school paraprofessional and part-time crossing guard/lunch supervisor
- Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) request for 1.0 FTE Elementary school Teacher and 1.0 FTE Middle school principal

## Your Board Approved:

1. Revised job description for Director of Student Support Services
2. Food Service Contract for 2018-2019 with Quest
3. Amended 2017-2018 School Calendar
4. 1st Reading of Revised Board Policy
5. Minutes of the March 20, 2018, regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education
6. Minutes of the March 20, 2018, closed session meeting of the Board of Education
7. April 2018 bills payable
8. March 2018 financial report
9. March 30, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$441,499.70 and the April 13, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$399,287.98

## Future Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, May 15, 2018**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, LaGrange, IL 60525.

- West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence Report (May)
- Services for Advanced Students Report (May)
- Cooperative Paper Bid (May)
- Budget Assumptions (May)
- Administration/ESP Salary Discussion (May)
- Annual Audit Company Approval (May)
- 2018 Summer Employment Recommendations (May/June)
- Personnel Review (May/June)
- Ninth Grade Survey Report (May/June)
- MAP Report (June)
- Prevailing Wage (June)
- Learning Walks Report (June)
- Local Writing Assessment Report (June)
- District Report Card (June)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

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