

BOARD BRIEFS

March 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

Communications, Visitor(s) Comments and Participation

Highlands Board of Education candidates, Mrs. Jennifer Dunleavy and Mr. Andy Taylor, introduced themselves and encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote.

Ability Awareness Day

Director of Student Services, Amy Laskowski, introduced Melissa Luetkehans, Middle School social worker, and Marion Mortimer, speech language pathologist, to share information about “Abilities Awareness Day” held on February 15 for fifth and sixth grade students. The individuals, community members, and organizations that participated included LADSE, CASE, National Association for Down Syndrome, SeaSpar, and staff members. The interactive exchange with students included sessions and demonstrations regarding autism, Braille, service dogs, Down Syndrome, sign language, and more. A student quote that sums up the opportunity: “One thing I learned was never judge anybody.....We are more alike than different.” The seventh and eighth grade students participated in career-related presentations given by Junior Achievement volunteers, staff members, and parents.

Reports

School Safety/Security

Dr. Viniard first briefly reviewed information previously provided to parents and staff about school safety and security information, particularly regarding the following topics: 1) School Buildings, District Property, Crossing Guard Areas; 2) Drills and Other Safety-Related Practices; 3) Ongoing Training and Formal Security Reviews; and 4) Climate, Culture, and Social-Emotional Support. Following the February 21 parent/community meeting with Commander Velasquez, an additional safety/security topic has been raised--specifically, engaging an “SRO” or School Resource Officer. Dr. Viniard highlighted the role and primary duties of an SRO, as well as another option--accessing a “hire back” officer as needed. The hire back option may be the best option for Highlands. Commander Velasquez will provide additional information regarding both options, and Dr. Viniard will provide an update when this information is available.

Budget Calendar Development

On behalf of Mr. Duback, Dr. Viniard reported an update of the FY20 budget calendar activities, which includes presenting a tentative budget in June and a final budget in July or August, at the respective Board of Education meeting.

Student Services Update

Mrs. Amy Laskowski, Director of Student Services, began with Highlands' *Standards of Belief*, which states "All student learning should be held to high expectations" and "All students can and will achieve ambitious goals." Currently, 12% of Highlands' students have an IEP. There are fourteen categories of disabilities, with speech/language impairment (31%) and autism (17%) being the highest represented at Highlands. The district's strong inclusive practices are evidenced by data, including: 82.2% of students having identified special education needs receive their education at least 80% of the time in the general educational environment, compared to peer districts (60.3%) or the State (53.3%)! We also celebrated IEP students' MAP and PARCC growth in both reading and math.

Regarding English Learners, Highlands currently has 49 English Language (EL) students. Currently, there are 16 different languages represented, with Spanish representing the largest percentage and Polish being the next higher percentage. MAP, PARCC, and ACCESS assessment data were reviewed and celebrated. Also highlighted was the district's strong proficiency exit rate with Highlands having a 17% exit rate compared to the State's exit rate of 9.1%. A special and well deserved thank you was offered to Amy Laskowski and also to Kate Townsend, EL teacher, for her amazing work and support of our EL learners and families.

Updates/Discussions

Township Treasurer's Office Update (TTO)

Board president Mr. Bob Hiatt recapped a recent conference call with other board presidents indicating they would like the tone for the March 21 TTO panel discussion, hosted by the League to Women Voters, to be fact-based instead of emotional. Mr. Hiatt shared with other board presidents that over the past four years District 106 TTO fees have increased, which adds to the concern regarding the lack of ability to control TTO costs. The neighboring board presidents are initiating a separate meeting with Representative Durkin to continue further discussions.

Personnel

The Board accepted and approved the following:

- Resignations: 1.0 FTE 1st grade teacher; 1.0 FTE kindergarten teacher; 1.0 FTE 5th grade teacher; .5 FTE early childhood teacher; .5 FTE PE teacher

Your Board Approved:

1. Minutes of the February 19, 2019, regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
2. Minutes of the February 19, 2019, closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
3. March 2019 bills payable.
4. February 2019 financial report.
5. The February 28, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$427,444.39 and the March 15, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$416,497.32.
6. Two Freedom of Information Act requests one from New York University and the other from SmartProcure.

Future Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, April 23, 2019**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, LaGrange, IL 60525.

- Summer Projects Report (April)
- Food Service Update (April)
- Technology Purchase and Sale of Tech Assets (April)
- Reorganization of the Board of Education (April)
- Establish Time and Place of Regular Board of Education Meetings (April)
- Budget Assumptions (April)
- Quarterly Finance Report (April)
- West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence Report (April/May)
- Services for Advanced Students Report (May)
- Analysis of Facilities Reorganization (May)
- 2019 Summer Employment Recommendations (May/June)
- Personnel Review (May/June)
- MAP Report (June)
- Prevailing Wage (June)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

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