

# BOARD BRIEFS

January 21, 2020 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. Amy Warke, Superintendent*  
*Mrs. Ali Beiermeister, Director of Teaching & Learning*  
*Mr. Eric Callis, Director of Technology*  
*Mr. Michael Duback, Director of Operations/CSBO*  
*Mr. Kent Hoefling, Director of Buildings and Grounds*  
*Mrs. Amy Laskowski, Director of Student Support Services*  
*Ms. Laura Magruder, Elementary School Principal*  
*Mr. Michael Papierski, Middle School Principal*

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## **District Celebration**

### Elementary Second Step Pilot Program (SEL)

Dr. Warke invited Ms. Magruder, elementary school principal, to introduce teachers Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Vaupell, along with students Catelyn, Maya, and Mae to present the Second Step program. Mrs. Vaupell described that the Second Step program is rooted in social-emotional learning research (SEL) to help transform schools into supportive, successful learning environments uniquely equipped to encourage students to thrive. Mrs. Taylor continued by indicating that the Second Step program uses a holistic approach, which nurtures the student's physical, social and emotional development to become their "best selves". This sets the students up for more successful learning. Mrs. Taylor introduced Catelyn, Maya, and Mae who demonstrated a lesson by involving the Board and audience interactively with questions and response reflection time with each other. Each week, the students experience a lesson. The Board applauded and thanked their "teachers" for the lesson. For further information on the Second Step research, please click the link [Second Step Research](#).

## **COMMUNICATIONS, VISITOR(S), COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION**

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Mr. Martinez, who has two children at Highlands addressed the Board. He advocated for the teachers, spoke about salaries attract and retain teachers, respect of teachers, and respect of online course work. He urged the Board to make a plan, share the plan and execute the plan.

## **Old Business Reports**

### Debt Service Discussion

Mr. Duback stated that during the December 2019 regular Board meeting, an update regarding school district debt extension was presented. The December presentation included information on a new bond factoring in growing enrollment; potential changes to class size targets; the need to renovate and rethink existing learning spaces; and other upcoming capital expenses, such as roofs and boilers. To provide the Board with additional detail, Mr. Duback introduced Mr. Kim, Director of Public Finance with PMA Securities, LLC. Mr. Kim provided detail on the bond process, the options of a 1- or 2-year short-term bond and the necessary timeline should the Board plan to move forward with a short-term bond. The district leaders are recommending either a 1- or 2-year bond to provide funds for these projects.

### Facilities, Space and Staffing Update

Mr. Duback explained there is a Building Utilization Committee that has a two-prong focus, which is to allocate the current space to maximize instructional time and student learning experiences, and to encompass future-ready practices to enhance learning. Mr. Duback indicated that the Leadership Team has reviewed current enrollment figures by grade, as well as existing sections and class sizes at the elementary school level. Based on this information, he presented the needed staffing projections through 2022-2023.

### 5-Year Strategic Plan DRAFT

Dr. Warke presented the 5-year Strategic plan draft, which is the culmination of the strategic plan team (parents, staff, students, community, and administrators) and stakeholders through survey feedback. She indicated there will be another opportunity to provide feedback at the January 23rd focus group. To provide a further reach to stakeholders, a survey will be sent to gather any additional feedback on the strategic plan draft. The final strategic plan will be presented at the February board meeting. For further details on the Strategic Plan, click on the following link: [Strategic Plan](#)

### Plainfield Road Property Discussion

Mr. Duback stated that as the district enrollment grows, along with continued space constraints, the administration has identified options and potential solutions. One solution discussed previously at a regular Board meeting was the use of the currently-owned district property on the east side of Laurel Avenue. As part of that discussion, it was noted that an adjacent property (1606 W. Plainfield Road) is for sale. If the additional property is purchased, the administration would determine within 5-years whether the three parcels will be used or sold. So depending on the future needs of the district, by purchasing the property it would give the district more land area, which would be conducive to building or resale. Mr. Duback indicated the seller has agreed to sell the property at 1606 W. Plainfield Road property for \$245,000.

## **New Business Reports**

### Acceptable Use Policy - 1st Read

Mr. Callis stated that since September, district administration has worked with focus groups that included teachers, students, and parents to clarify the types of learning experiences in our classrooms. He also indicated that Franczek (legal counsel) provided guidance, along with Dr. Kecia Ray, an expert in student data privacy, who provided support on best practice language to include in the policy. The emphasis is for policy language to be clear, understandable, and reflect practices consistent with the curriculum, instruction, and student-centered learning. The acceptable use and social media policies have been combined to place all relevant language together. The policy will be brought to the Board for approval at the February meeting.

### Behavioral Interventions & Time Out/Physical Restraint Policy - 1st Read

Mrs. Laskowski explained, following published articles highlighting disturbing cases of inappropriate use of isolated time outs and physical restraints in schools across the state, the Governor's office issued immediate, emergency legislation banning the use of isolated time outs, banning the use of certain types of physical restraint, and significantly increased the supervision and documentation of any instance of time out or physical restraint. Neither Highlands or LADSE operate any programs which use separate (locked or unlocked) rooms to remove students from the educational setting. Highlands has, however, fully updated its policy to align with current legislation. The updated policy will be brought to the Board for approval at the February meeting.

## **Information ONLY**

2020-2021 School Calendar - 1st Read: Dr. Warke indicated that each year a draft calendar is presented to the Board of Education in preparation for the upcoming school year. The calendar format has been restructured to include a month by month list of events with corresponding color-coded highlights on the calendar. The draft calendar does align with the winter and spring breaks of Lyons Township HS. Once LT determines late start days, adjustments will be made and the finalized calendar will be brought to the Board for approval.

## **Updates/Discussions**

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

Board president, Mr. Corcoran, reported that the January trial date was postponed. There are no other new developments.

## **Personnel**

The Board accepted or approved the following:

- To Accept the Following Resignation: - Erin Burke, 0.5 FTE Paraprofessional, (effective when position filled)

## **Your Board Approved or Accepted**

1. Minutes of the December 17, 2019, Regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
2. Minutes of the December 17, 2019, Closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
3. January 2020 bills payable.
4. December 2019 financial report.
5. The December 31, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$431,351.71; and the January 15, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$467,482.99.
6. Freedom of Information Act requests from SmartProcure and WLS-TV.
7. The resolution to designate a person to prepare the 2020-21 preliminary budget.
8. The resolution declaring the intention to issue working cash fund bonds.
9. The resolution approving real estate purchase for the property at 1606 W. Plainfield Road.

## **Future Agenda Items**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, February 18, 2020**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, La Grange, IL 60525.

- Set Graduation Date (Board Policy 6:20, 6:40, February)
- Approve 2020-2021 School Calendar - 2nd Read (Board Policy 6:20, February)
- Residency Policy Review (Board Policy 7:60 - February)
- Grand Avenue Daycare Contract Revision (Board Policy 4:60, February)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

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