

BOARD BRIEFS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING DECEMBER 4, 2014

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 158 BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD TO VOTE ON NEW HHS COURSES

Five proposed new STEM and Medical Academy Courses

The Board of Education heard proposals for several new courses to be offered at Huntley High School.

The proposed courses include five new classes in the Medical and Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Academies, as well as four new electives.

According to Erika Schlichter, the District's chief academic

officer, the new courses will build upon HHS's academies, which are already among the best in the state.

New proposed courses

- Bio-Medical Innovation
- Medical English IV
- Medical Ethics
- Medical Foods and Nutrition
- Principles of Engineering
- Service in Action
- Dance
- Spanish for Spanish Speakers II
- Dual Credit English

A new elective course, "Service in Action," will have students perform work to improve the community.

In addition, revisions were proposed to the following existing courses to better meet

student need:
Accounting - Basic Principles and Procedures,
Accounting - Financial and Managerial,
Leaders Prep, Theatre Workshop, Drivers Education, and American Government.

The Board will vote whether to approve the courses at its next regular meeting on December 18, 2014.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board heard proposals to revise Policy 6:300 (graduation requirements) to:

- Better align with the HHS handbook
- Adjust the Government requirement to 0.5 credit hours
- Adjust the Elective requirement to 7.75 credit hours.
- Reflect the repeal of the requirement that students to

take the Prairie State Achievement Examination

- Reflect the new requirement that students participate in State assessments required for graduation by the School Code

The Board will vote on the policies at its next regular meeting.

HUNTLEY HIGH CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The Board heard several updates on construction projects at Huntley High School.

Bid Release 2 bids were opened on November 20, 2014. Results and award recommendations will be made available to the Board as soon as they become available.

The Harmony Road Widening project is considered 99% completed, and the second access drive was opened on November 17, leading to a large reduction in traffic congestion.

In addition, construction is being completed thus far well within the budgeted contingency.

After some weather-related delays, construction of the Fieldhouse is on track to be completed by May 1.

Middle Schools See Continued Success with Chromebooks

The Board got a first-hand lesson in the advantages provided by 1:1 Chromebook devices in use by sixth- and seventh-grade students at Heineman and Marlowe Middle Schools.

Technology integration specialists Chris Skrzypchak and Michele Kenefick, along with a team of students from the schools, presented a few of their past digital projects, culminating with an interactive online quiz.



[View the online book report at PowToon.com](http://PowToon.com)

Projects ranged from completing online book reports to creating a virtual chemistry lab to producing videos using PowToon, an online presentation platform that animates information using graphics and music.

"A lot of this is about student choice—giving students the ability to report information, whether they want to write it in written form or do it orally, or in an artistic form," Skrzypchak said.

"I've actually enjoyed using the Chromebooks for a lot of things," said Keano Roberts, a seventh-grade student at Heineman. "I think it's a lot of fun for all of the students in my class and my entire school. It's right there, and it's easy to use."

The Board also got an encouraging glimpse into the future of technology integration at District 158. When asked what her favorite part of school was, a kindergarten student on hand to lead the pledge of allegiance responded that she enjoyed using her tablet, provided through the 1:1 Initiative.

Informational Updates

In addition, the Board heard reports on:

- The Curriculum Department's ongoing curriculum reviews
- More than 30 proposed overnight trips planned for 2015-2016 by the middle and high schools
- The District's plan to participate in the creation of and to join a consortium of Northern Illinois school districts for the purpose of saving money on the District's prescription drug costs, with the expectation that the Board will see final documents for approval at the January board meeting.
- Various policy updates recommended by PRESS.
- Potential energy cost savings that could be realized by replacing old kitchen equipment and retrofitting lighting at various District facilities
- The potential impact of the Supreme Court's overturning reforms dealing with Illinois's unfunded pensions
- The status of Illinois Senate Bill 16, which is considered dead for the current legislative session but is likely to be discussed again next year
- The potential impact of the rollback of the state income tax from 5% to 3.5%.

Pending Actions

In addition, at its next meeting the Board will vote whether to approve:

- Purchase orders as presented, including \$3,018,206.40, Imprest checks at \$131,870.51, accounts payable at \$2,310.29, and disbursements at \$6,625,343.98

- The administration's recommendation to extend the 2014 Levy with the Consumer Price Index increase of 1.5% in accordance with PTELL.
- Moving forward with a request for a waiver from the state from publishing the 2015-2016 Statement of Affairs in a local newspaper, estimated to save the District between \$2,000 and \$3,000
- A Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Architect with Arcon & Associates for the security grant project
- A letter of proposal from Kimley-Horn for traffic study services
- Change orders to trade contractor's contracts for the HHS Additions and Renovations Project in the total amount of \$112,205.00
- Minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting November 13, 2014, Committee of the Whole November 6, 2014, and Special Meeting November 6, 2014.

Learn more about the Board of Education and review schedules, agendas, minutes, and live streams of meetings at www.district158.org/boe.