

BOARD BRIEFS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

HUNTLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 158 BOARD OF EDUCATION

ONLINE LEARNING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

High School offered two courses during the summer

The Huntley Community School District 158 Board of Education heard a presentation about the success of two online courses offered to District 158 students over the summer.

The courses marked the District's piloting of fully online courses. Two sessions of General Constitution were offered as well as one section of Personal Finance.

According to Chief Academic Officer Erika Schlichter, the 115 students who enrolled in the courses benefited from a flexible learning environment, accessibility of course materials from any location, and a self-paced learning style.

Shelly Kish, HHS associate principal, said the format worked

particularly well in the summer in that it allowed students to complete their coursework while holding summer jobs, traveling on vacation, or participating in summer camps.

"They only had to show up on the very first day and the last day to take the final," Kish said.

Three teachers, Jack Towne, Sam Schaefer, Renee Fowler, were responsible for developing and

teaching the courses.

Schaefer told the Board that in the General Constitution course, she got to know students better than in many of her traditional courses.

She also noted that many students took advantage of online office hours.

"Our outcomes with those students were phenomenal," Schaefer said.

"I had students who were working from vacation in other countries. That's amazing"

- Jack Towne, Teacher,
Huntley High School

JUMP START TO MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM A SUCCESS

The Board also heard a presentation on the success of another pilot program, the Jump Start to Middle School program that was held at Marlowe and Heineman Middle Schools.

The program invited incoming sixth graders to their middle schools to acclimate to the middle school culture.

Two major focuses were touring the building and practicing with lockers, which were repeatedly cited by students as areas of concern.

"We were really looking to ease the nerves of new sixth graders," said Jake Litchfield, principal at Heineman Middle School. "The sixth graders I talked to felt like they were ready to jump into their classes."

Several students who participated also said they enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends through the program.

More than 90 students participated at Marlowe and more than 45 at Heineman.

Work Continuing on Time, Under Budget at HHS

Doug Renkosik, director of Operations and Maintenance, reported that the HHS construction and renovation project is progressing on time and under budget. In addition to cafeteria, LRC, commons, and new classrooms ready for the first day of school, the new concession stand and restrooms at the football field opened in time for the first football game. Superintendent Burkey reported positive feedback from attendees of the game. Mr. Renkosik also reported that the District will soon move forward with construction of a new HHS sign at the entrance to the football field.

Pending Actions

In addition, at its next Regular Meeting, August 20, the Board will vote whether to approve:

- The administration's prepared application for recognition of schools as required by school code 105ILCS2-3.25f for the 2015-2016 school year
- Proposed title change and job descriptions of current Technology Integration Specialists to the larger-umbrella position of Instructional Coach
- Purchase Orders at \$220,838.08; Imprest checks at \$109,740.09; Accounts Payable at \$1,054.96; and Disbursements issued at \$3,792,606.72
- List of items declared as surplus
- A fundraising contract with Scholastic for Leggee Elementary School
- Base Bid "A" from the Brucker Company in the amount of \$66,900.00 and Base Bid "B" from ACS Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$7,500.00 for Bid #2015-23 Air Filters
- Proposed change orders to the trade contractor's contracts for the HHS Additions and Renovations Project in the total amount of \$15,399.00
- Minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of August 20, 2015.

Informational Updates

The Board heard informational reports on:

- The most recent ACT testing at HHS, which resulted in an average composite score of 22.4.
- Sixth-day enrollment figures, totaling 9,451 District-wide:
 - Kindergarten: 533
 - First grade: 635
 - Second grade: 675
 - Third grade: 692
 - Fourth grade: 742
 - Fifth grade: 732
 - Sixth Grade: 807
 - Seventh grade: 752
 - Eighth grade: 763
 - Ninth grade: 784
 - 10th grade: 711
 - 11th grade: 693
 - 12th grade: 674.
- Monthly Human Resources, Revenues and Expenditures, Fiscal, and O&M reports.

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