

BOARD BRIEFS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 9, 2014

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 158 BOARD OF EDUCATION

STEM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at HHS

The Huntley High School Engineering Program took center stage at the District 158 Board of Education Meeting October 9, 2014. After an introduction from Curriculum Director Mr. Michael Wheatly, Ms. Henk and Mr. O'Neill, teachers in the high school's STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Engineering Academy, presented the board with information about the

program and board members with a special gift—key chains students designed and created using a 3-D printer.

Mr. O'Neill said the Academy incorporates curricula from Project Lead the Way, a national organization that aims to prepare the country's future leaders in STEM fields. The coursework is designed to teach students to think like engineers through the

design process, including creating prototypes and evaluating them. In class, students receive "instant challenges," in which they are presented a problem and must come up with a solution as well as documenting their process, the same way professional

engineers do. Students got even more first-hand experience by traveling to the International Manufacturing Technology



Show in Chicago.

There, among other highlights, they spoke with professionals from the industry and checked out a working car made with a 3-D printer.

The program, which was introduced last year, has already proven immensely popular, with 230 students enrolled over eight class sessions this semester.

BOARD TO VOTE ON FIRM TO HELP REDRAW BOUNDARY LINES

The Board heard a report of the administration's plan to work with DecisionInsite to help draw up boundary changes for the 2015-2016 school year.

Superintendent Burkey noted the probable need to make changes to attendance areas to lessen the future enrollment at Leggee Elementary.

It also will be studied whether any changes need to be made to the middle school boundaries.

It is expected that any boundary changes will only affect a small percentage of our students.

"We would like to have this be something we do once, do right, and have last a good long time," said Associate Superintendent Awrey.

The board will vote whether to move forward with the plan at its next meeting October 16.

AP Scores Reach All-time High

Chief Academic Officer Erika Schlichter reported strong numbers of Advanced Placement students, AP tests taken and students scoring 3 or higher on AP tests at Huntley High School in 2014.

- 637 AP students, up 21% from 2013
- 1,081 AP tests taken, up 14% from 2013
- 74% scored 3 or higher (score required for college credit), compared to 66% state average

Costa Rica Trip

The board heard about HHS world history teachers' plans to take students on a field trip to Costa Rica during Spring Break 2016 and will vote whether to approve the trip at its next regular meeting October 16.

Financials

Eric Anderson from BMO Capital Markets provided an update on the District's options to restructure its debt and indicated optimism that drops in the bond market may translate into favorable rates when the District moves forward. The Board will vote whether to instruct the administration to move forward with its plan at the October 16 meeting.

CFO Altmayer reported that the District's finances are tracking well with its budget, and he plans to receive the final report from the District's outside auditor next week.

Boundary Lines

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Draft Calendar

Mr. Awrey presented a draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar, which reflects a starting date eight school days before Labor Day. This is consistent with the start date in past years. The Board will vote whether to adopt the calendar at its next meeting.

PAC Changes

The Board heard about a plan to restructure the current role of the Performing Arts Center director. One position will handle administrative operations of the center and the planned TV studio, with a possible one or more part-time PAC technician jobs. The Board will vote whether to approve the plan at its next meeting.

Policy Updates

The board studies proposed policy updates in accordance with recommendations from the Illinois Association of School Boards. The board will vote whether to adopt the policy updates at its next meeting.

Sears Center Contract

The Board discussed the District's plans to again hold graduation at the Sears Center in Hoffman Estates. While the cost to use the venue is increasing, Superintendent Burkey noted the limited options for venues in the area and the possibility of increased ticket revenue from the event as graduating classes grow larger. The Board will vote whether to approve the contract at its next meeting.

Construction Updates

Mr. Renkosik informed the board that the new HHS Fieldhouse is taking shape and remodeling is going well. In addition, the contractor working on the road project is optimistic that its work will be done by the end of October, weather permitting. The Board will vote whether to approve a few change orders from contractors at its next meeting.

Possible Partnerships

Mr. Renkosik also reported positive conversations he had held with representatives from Sun City and the McHenry County Department of Transportation about two possible projects. Many neighbors are interested in increasing landscaping near their border with the Harmony Road Campus. The board asked the administration to design a landscaping plan at a cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The Department of Transportation expressed possible interest in partnering with the District to store some winter salt reserves at the Square Barn Road Campus.

Cash Farm Contract

The board heard about a proposal to extend the contract for its cash farm lease with Fruin Farms for two additional years at a slightly lower rate due to decreased yield. The board will vote whether to approve the contract at its next meeting.

Accolades for the Board

The Board was recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) with the School Governance Recognition Award. In addition, board member Kim Skaja was honored as an IASM Leadership Academy Fellow, and board member Paul Troy was honored as a Master School Board Member.

Senate Bill 16

The Board heard a resounding call against IL Senate Bill 16 from Dr. Burkey. The bill proposes a radical change in the formula Illinois uses to disperse state funds to public schools. As written, the District would lose about \$2.2 million in state funds, which would be devastating to the budget. The bill has passed the Senate, and Dr. Burkey encouraged the public to contact Speaker of the House Mike Madigan to express opposition.

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