



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

Highlights from the September 16, 2013 business meeting

To see the meeting video, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYjpp5y7HFk&list=PL437FAF3A8077265B>



Minutes Approved

The Board approved the minutes from the regular and closed meetings in August and September. See the minutes from the special [September 9, 2013 meeting](#) and open [August 19, 2013 meeting](#).

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Recommendations and Reports of Superintendent:



South Pursues RAMP Certification for its Counseling Services

Amy Klug and Terry Tiesman, both counselors at South High, presented information about the school's pursuit of national RAMP certification—which is an elite designation. “RAMP” stands for “Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program.” Receiving RAMP certification validates that the school's counseling program aligns with nationally known best practices.

The model challenges counseling programs to question not only what school counselors do, but also how students are different as a result of what counselors do.

By analyzing data collected from its program, counselors can better evaluate the services it provides to students and families in order to ultimately improve student achievement. One result of the effort was to encourage and enroll a greater number of African American and Hispanic students in more challenging courses, including AP/Honors courses.

The goal to become RAMP certified has been a department-wide effort. The school will know in January if their submission is approved or if revisions will be needed.

“Encouraging and enrolling students in more challenging coursework, and advocating for students in general, helps to improve the school and the district as a whole,” commented Klug.



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2013-14 District Goals

The superintendent and members of the district's administrative team provided [highlights of the 2013-14 district goals](#):

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- The first year of the new AVID program to support students who are “in the middle” and underserved and underrepresented in college preparation programs will be assessed at the end of the year. Measures of success will include attendance, success in the more challenging courses and ongoing enrollment for the next school year.
- The literacy instructional programs will be evaluated and assessed on their effect on student literacy.
- The co-teaching model will be evaluated to determine staffing and staff development decisions for 2014-15.

Facilities

- The “Transition House” facility for special needs students will be renovated and completed.
- The Master Facility Plan will be completed and shared with the Board of Education and community.

Technology

- A comprehensive technology plan will be put into place that includes the possibility of one-to-one devices for students.

Resources

- Performance “rubrics” for the appraisal process for teachers and other certified groups will be improved and training will be provided for evaluators.
- Teachers pursuing National Board Certification will continue to be supported and their progress will be reported to the Board.

Communications

- In the spring, a community communications survey will be issued and reported upon.
- The “key communicators” program will be reviewed and evaluated in early 2014.

Members asked questions about the plan and made suggestions for how to measure success.



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Salary and Benefit Report

The [administrator and teacher salary and benefits report](#) from the 2012-13 school year has been posted.

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School Signs

Board members were given an [update about the signs](#) at North High and South High. Three of the four outdoor signs (one at North High and two at South High) are currently not in compliance with the sign ordinance of the Village of Downers Grove.

To comply with the ordinance, current signs will need to be moved and modified. The district proposed seeking a variance from the village as another possible option to Board members.

Pictures of signs that other high schools use in our area, including nearly all of those located in DuPage County, were shared. The vast majority of signs used by high schools are digital. The benefits of digital signage include the ability to share a variety of information quickly, including event, schedule and student recognition information. These types of signs can also be instrumental when needing to communicate crisis information. Digital signs will give the district an opportunity to better inform and engage the community as a whole.

Board members gave their support in pursuing different sign options and collaborating with the village.

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Freedom of Information Act Requests

The following request was received:

1) Freedom of Information request received via email August 29, 2013 from Lisabeth Searing, Assistant Professor, Illinois Wesleyan University School of Nursing, Bloomington, Illinois. The request was for copy of the job description for any nursing or health aide positions in District 99.

The response to Ms. Searing's request was fulfilled in a letter sent via email from Mark Staehlin on September 4, 2013.

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Consent Agenda

The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, including:

- The personnel report;
- [The monthly financial pages](#);
- [Student tours](#), including North High student trips to Normal, Illinois in January and France in June; and
- Deletion of the following Board Policies:
 - 5.270 - Salary - this policy is delineated in the Support Staff Contract
 - 5.272 - Voluntary Payroll Deductions - currently a District procedure-no need for a Board policy
 - 5.274 - Appointment - current District practice-no need for a Board policy
 - 5.275 - Separation - current District practice - no need for a Board policy
 - 5.281 - Information Regarding Teacher Quality - this is a *School Code* and federal government requirement - no need for a Board policy
 - 5.292 - Responsibilities and Duties - delineated in employee job descriptions
 - 5.400 - Contributions or Membership Dues - current District practice - no need for Board policy



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Recommendations for Action

[The Board approved to delete verbatim recordings](#)

[The Board approved to award bids to vendors for ten Transition House projects in the total amount of \\$758,126.](#)

The superintendent requested removing the 2013-14 District Goals from the consent agenda until the goals are revised and reworded before the Board votes on them; the Board agreed.



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Old Business

The second reading of the Policy Committee report was made and items were approved:

- 5.200 - [Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal](#)
- 5.220 - [Substitute Teachers](#)
- 5.240 - [Suspension](#)



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New Business

The Policy Committee brought forth the following policies forward for first reading:

- 2.105 - [Ethics and Gift Ban](#)
- 2.120 - [Board Member Development](#)
- 5.290 - [Employment Termination and Suspensions](#)
- 5.300 - [Schedules and Employment Year](#)
- 5.320 - [Evaluation](#)
- 7.340 - [Student Records](#)



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Communications and Announcements

- Member Keith Matune shared that the first meeting of LEND will be held on September 27; he said that elected officials will update members about the state's pension crisis and will report at next Board meeting.
- Member Julia Beckman shared that the SASSED Board has reviewed its 5-year strategic plan and is currently in the process of establishing a foundation. She mentioned SASSED's efforts in serving autistic students, which represents a growing population.
- Member Julia Beckman also shared that the Illinois Humanities Council's website is at www.prairie.org, and that the organization provides professional development opportunities for social studies teachers.
- The superintendent shared that the District 99 Education Foundation will be hosting hospitality tents at the North High and South High homecoming games and at the North/South football game. They are also planning a "Pizza Wars" fundraiser for January 16, 2013.
- Member Deb Boyle provided a report about the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). The conference will be held on November 22-24; a preview of the conference booklet is online to see which panels may be of interest to members who will attend.



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Upcoming Board Meetings

October 7, 2013 7 p.m.

October 21, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Service Center
6301 Springside Avenue, Downers Grove

*This publication is for information purposes only;
minutes approved by the Board serve as the official meeting record.*