



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

Highlights from the October 7, 2013 workshop meeting

To see the meeting video, visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFv8fXz8val&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PL437FAF3A8077265B>

Student Perspectives



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Four students from South High described their efforts to bring new clubs to the school:

- Seniors **Nathan Gresik** and **Rob Quinn** started the Robotics Club. After finding a capable sponsor, they started creating a variety of robotics using special kits. The club allows them to use science as well as their design and programming skills, which has expanded their knowledge of robotics.
- Junior **Robert Keding** initiated the Movie Club at South High. Encouraged by Sue Thornquist, his English teacher, Robert said that members designate a genre for each month, vote on what movie to view, and then discuss the movie following the viewing. Keding said that after their first meeting, “free popcorn and a great time were had by all.”
- Senior **Egle Keturakyte** started the Equestrian Club for those students with a passion for horses. “We’re the Mustangs, so I thought it was ridiculous we didn’t have any [clubs that were] horse-related,” she said. She was inspired to start the club by her English teacher Lori Vanek, who also appreciates horses.

When asked by the Board what they had learned in the process of launching a new club, Keturakyte said: “**I personally learned that if you want something to happen, you can’t just sit around and wait for someone else to do it for you—you have to get out there and just do it for yourself!**”

Board Workshop



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Report on Student Achievement Data

Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning **Gina Ziccardi** reported on the district’s 2012-13 student achievement data.

Because District 99 receives Title 1 funding to help at-risk students, we must make “adequate yearly progress” as defined by the federal government. For 2013, the minimum state target was 92.5% of all juniors meeting/exceeding reading and math standards.



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Like the majority of other schools, we fell short of making the high target: At North High, 75.5% of all students met/exceeded the reading standards and 76.5% met/exceeded the math standards. At South High, 69.6% of all students met/exceeded reading standards and 70.1% met/exceeded math standards.

When looking at specific “subgroups” of students across the district, one subgroup (White students) made AYP in reading and two subgroups (Asian and White students) made AYP in math. Also:

- For the Class of 2014, **every subgroup increased** the percent of students that met/exceeded standards in reading.
- The percent of Black students that met/exceeded standards increased by 15.3%.
- The percent of Economically Disadvantaged students that met/exceeded standards increased by 12.9%.

District 99 is also encouraged by other meaningful achievement data from the 2012-13 school year:

- The average ACT score was 22.9, an increase of .1 from 2012. Although slight (and still lower than the 2011 high of 23.3 average), the 22.9 average is significant considering that ACT changed the way it now calculates these averages. ACT now takes into account student accommodations for testing, which **resulted in decreases** in both state and national ACT averages.
- Both schools continued to have strong growth in overall scores, called the GEM score. The GEM score shows the academic growth for the same group of students, tracking them from their freshman through junior years using standardized testing. This measures the value of high school work on student academic growth.
- Both schools had the highest percentage ever of students enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course. **Approximately one third of all students are enrolled in an honors or AP course--and performing at a high level.**

The district continues to provide students with high levels of strategic academic support, through the Algebra Assist, Summer Bridge, Back on Track Math and STRIVE programs. Also, new this year, the district is offering Supplemental Educational Services as a requirement for Title 1 funds. Nearly 30 providers are offering academic support for over 100 students.

Associate Principals for Curriculum **Georgia Hash** (South High) and **Janice Schwarze** (North High) reported academic highlights from their respective schools:

- At South High, more sub-groups than ever have made AYP, a testament to the literacy coaching and other resources that have been put in place. African American students met standards in both reading and math; Principal Steve Bild’s outreach to the families was cited as a contributing factor to this success. While Advanced Placement scores are down,



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the number of students taking AP courses is up. More students are taking rigorous courses and challenging themselves academically.

- At North High, the increase in the GEM Scores (EXPLORE to ACT growth) shows that students are achieving beyond what would be expected. Also, the number of students enrolled in AP classes and taking exams have both increased; the pass rate is higher than national averages.

The curriculum efforts in the future will continue to align to the district's strategic plan, and also focus on Common Core implementation for math as well as English Language Arts speaking and listening and writing standards.

For the full student achievement report, visit

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9C6P6R59E049/\\$file/Student%20Learning%20Report%2010%207%2013%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9C6P6R59E049/$file/Student%20Learning%20Report%2010%207%2013%20(1).pdf).



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2013-14 District Goals

Adjustments and clarifications were made to the 2013-14 district goals document; these were reviewed. See

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9C4VQF6A6E43/\\$file/District%202013-2014%20goals.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9C4VQF6A6E43/$file/District%202013-2014%20goals.pdf). The Board will vote to accept the goals at the October business meeting.

Upcoming Board Meetings

October 21, 2013 7:30 p.m.

November 4, 2013 7 p.m.

November 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Service Center
6301 Springside Avenue, Downers Grove

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minutes approved by the Board serve as the official meeting record.*