



# BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

## ***Highlights from the October 21, 2013 business meeting***

To see the meeting video, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiV3bZn9RXI&feature=em-uploademail>



### **Minutes Approved**

The Board approved the minutes from the regular and closed meetings on [September 16](#) and [October 7](#).

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## **Recommendations and Reports of Superintendent**



### **2013 Report Card**

Assistant Superintendent **Gina Ziccardi**, North High Principal **Scott Kasik** and South High Principal **Steve Bild** [made a report on the district and school report cards](#) and shared preliminary copies with Board members:

- [2013 District Report Card](#)
- [2013 North High Report Card](#)
- [2013 South High Report Card](#)

One highlight from the year is the district's overall graduation rate, which climbed 1.7 percent to **92.2 percent this year**. (The state average is 83.2 percent.)

Ziccardi also noted that the district's reported truancy rate is up 4.4 percent to **7.9 percent**. This is due to the fact that the state changed its definition of "chronic truancy." Now it is defined as being absent without valid cause for nine or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days. Previously, it was 18 or more days absent. (The state average is 9.8 percent.)

**"I think it's about raising the standards and making students and parents accountable," said Ziccardi when asked why the state had changed its definition of "chronic truancy."**

In addition to the state providing report cards in the traditional format, it will also be issuing new, colorful and user-friendly report cards for schools at the end of October. The new format will allow readers to go beyond test scores to better understand the culture of the school. For example, in addition to all of the course listings, readers will be able to learn about extracurricular opportunities, awards and achievements. Reports will be available at <http://iirc.niu.edu/> (search for [COMM H S DIST 99 - NORTH H S](#) and [COMM H S DIST 99 - SOUTH HIGH SCH](#)).



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## District Improvement Plan

The district continues to be required to develop and formally approve a district improvement plan because it did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The improvement plan is a continuous process, and aligns to the district's strategic plan. This connection helps the district to clearly see what it's doing to raise student achievement. Offering and encouraging students to enroll in rigorous courses and supporting students with extra help, for example, are part of this plan.

For details, see [the district improvement plan](#) and the report [on how it aligns to District 99's goals](#).

## Consent Agenda



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The Board members **unanimously approved** the following items:

- Personnel report
- [Financial Pages](#)
- [School Library Grant](#) in the amount of \$4,100
- A [student tour to France](#) next summer for South High students
- [2013-14 Application for Recognition of Schools](#), a requirement by the Illinois State Board of Education
- [Deletion of Policy 5.209](#) on employee discipline, which Policy 5.240 addresses

## Recommendation for Action



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The Board members **unanimously approved** the following items:

- [2013-14 district goals](#), which support the overall strategic plan
- The District Improvement Plan as presented earlier
- [Award of bids in the amount of \\$146,896.00](#) for the Transition House project, which is on budget. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year, and students are expected to begin the second semester in January in the new facility.
- Accepting the administration's recommendation on a student discipline case



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## Old Business

Board members **unanimously approved** these policies recommended by the Policy Committee:

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

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## New Business

- The Policy Committee offered the following policies for first reading:
  - [5.270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment](#)
  - [4.10 Budget Planning](#)
  - [4.15 Compliance with Identify Protection Act](#)
  - [4.100 Insurance Management](#)
  - [4.110 Transportation](#)
  - [4.120 Food Service](#)
  - [4.130 Free and Reduced Price Food Services](#)
  - [4.140 Waiver of Student Fees](#)
- Member **Deb Boyle** is the Board's delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). She shared [the IASB platform that is up for discussion](#) and vote at the upcoming state conference in Chicago and asked other members to provide her with feedback.

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## Communications and Announcements

- Member **Keith Matune** reported that at the next LEND meeting on Friday, October 25, the group will receive more in-depth information about the pension crisis.
- Member **Julia Beckman** shared that SASSED negotiations with certified staff went well, and that the groups used interest-based bargaining in creating its 5-year contract. A vote on it will be taken this week.
- Member **Julia Beckman** shared that the Illinois Humanities Council met in September, and they discussed how conversations between business and the humanities are being fostered on WBEZ public radio.
- Member **Terry Pavesich** reported that alumni tents sponsored by the District 99 Education Foundation at the North/South Crosstown game and North High and South High homecoming games were a success.

## Upcoming Board Meetings

November 4, 2013 7 p.m. ASC

November 18, 2013 7:30 p.m. ASC

November 25, 2013 6:30 p.m.

(Student and Staff Recognition/District Open House at South High)

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.*