



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

Highlights from the December 16, 2013 business meeting

To see the meeting video, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJAYJnHD0rw>



Video stop:
0:00:55

Minutes Approved

The Board approved the minutes from the [November 18, 2013 business meeting](#) and the [December 2, 2013 special workshop meeting](#).

Recommendations and Reports of Superintendent



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0:02:02

National School Lunch Program/Student Lunch Nutrition Program

Representatives from Aramark, the supplier of District 99's food services, [provided an update about the school lunch program](#) and how they are adapting menu items to meet the dietary requirements set forth by the federal government. These guidelines are required for all reimbursable meals.

Changes to the menu include more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy options. Aramark is also using improved cooking techniques, such as baking rather than frying. All grains offered must be 100% whole-grain rich by July 2014; currently at the district 80% of the grains, including buns, bread and pizza crust, follow this guideline.

In addition to offering more nutritious menu items, vending machines are now filled with more healthful snacks. Items with fewer calories and reduced fat content are available for students to purchase before and after lunch.

Aramark reported that often students will choose a la carte items rather than purchasing the full meal, even though it is more expensive to do so. In order to make healthful meals more appealing, Aramark stated they are always experimenting with new recipes and taste-testing.

"It's an art as well as a science as to what's being cooked and presented to children, and being innovative so that the food isn't thrown away," said Stephanie Romic, Aramark's district manager.



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Communications Program Update

An [update about District 99's communications program](#) was provided by Jill Browning, director of communications.

The social media communication channels continue to grow in popularity, providing another point of contact with the public and another outlet to communicate in times of crisis. There are almost 3,000 "likes" for three primary district Facebook pages (Community High School District 99, North High School in Downers Grove and South High School in Downers Grove). On Twitter, the number of followers has grown 70% over last year.

Highlights of high social media traffic included the Governor Quinn visit and ABC Flyover event at North High this fall; each garnered over 10,000 post views. The district also has a YouTube channel, and there have been over 9,000 views of board meeting videos over the past two years.

One recently launched project is the [new interactive map](#), which allows users to enter an address and view district and school boundaries, and better understand the larger community the district serves.

On the horizon for 2014 is an app for mobile devices, an Intranet for staff and a survey to be issued in the spring.



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Technology Plan Update

Director of Technology Rod Russeau shared [details of the district's activities related to exploring 1:1 computing](#). In 2011, the district installed wireless access across the district and in 2012, mobile computers were provided to all teachers. The stage is set for moving to 1:1 computing.

In order for 1:1 computing to be successful, Rod explained that it will be completely focused on curricular goals and desired learning outcomes. A cross-section of staff members is currently part of a committee studying 1:1 and how other districts have incorporated 1:1 into their schools.

Over the next few months, the technology vision will be further refined and defined and a pilot program will be launched. More specifics will also be researched, such as our infrastructure and organizational readiness and which mobile devices offer the best solution in terms of performance, reliability and cost.



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Teacher Appraisal Process

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Pete Theis [provided an overview of the teacher appraisal process](#) now followed at District 99. The teacher evaluation process complies with the new state law for teacher appraisal and rating performance using four categories.

Tenured teachers are observed every other year, while non-tenured teachers are observed every year. Theis explained that the district differentiates between experienced and non-experienced, non-tenured teachers. In addition to the formal observations by administrators and department chairs, all non-tenured teachers are also observed informally. For example, administrators often “pop-in” unannounced during class time.

The formal observation process includes a pre-observation, observation, reflection, and post-observation meeting and report. Theis noted that a valuable part of the process is the reflection portion, in which evaluators pose questions about the lessons they’ve observed and ask teachers to respond about their specific classroom strategies or techniques used.

A separate “summative appraisal process” allows the teachers and administrators to review the district’s standards for teaching and evidence of performance. Together, they identify areas of strength and areas for future focus.

Consent Agenda



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

- Personnel report, [Financial Pages](#), [2014-15 School Calendar](#), and deletion of the following policies, which have been replaced by Policy 4.10 Fiscal and Business Management:

[4.01 Budget as a Spending Plan](#)

[4.05 Budget](#)

[4.11 Public Review of the Budget](#)

[4.12 Adoption of Budget](#)

[4.13 Amendment of Budget](#)

[4.20 Transfer of Monies](#)

[4.31 Federal Funds](#)

[4.75 Inventory of Equipment](#)

[4.151 Relations with Residential Builders](#)



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Recommendation for Action



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[1:09:350](#)

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

- The 2014-15 curriculum proposals for Science, CTE, Fine Arts, and Mathematics as presented.
- The [Intergovernmental Agreement to Participate in the Local Governmental Property Assessment Consortium](#).
- The assessment of non-resident tuition charges for Student 14-R01 for the enrollment period in the 2013-2014 school year, beginning August 28, 2013 through disenrollment on December 2, 2013.



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Old Business

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

- [4.30 Revenue and Investments](#)
- [4.40 Incurring Debt](#)
- [4.50 Payment Procedures](#)
- [4.60 Purchases and Contracts](#)
- [4.80 Accounting and Audits](#)



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[1:21:20](#)

New Business

The Policy Committee offered the following policies for first reading:

- [4.70 Resource Conservation](#)
- [4.90 Activity Funds](#)
- [4.100 Insurance Management](#)
- [5.50 Drug Free Workplace](#)
- [5.90-Child Abuse](#)
- [5.120 Ethics and Conduct](#)
- [6.60 Curriculum Content](#)
- [7.185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited](#)
- [8.25 Advertising](#)



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Reception of Visitors

A resident from Darien requested the Board to take the busing contract out to bid.

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Communications and Announcements

- Member **Keith Matune** reported at the next meeting, LEND members will discuss the new pension law and be briefed by an attorney as to how the law will impact school districts.
- Member **Julia Beckman** shared that SASSED will begin offering transition type programs to students aged 14 1/2.
- Member **Julia Beckman** shared that the Illinois Humanities Council is looking for an executive director.
- Member **Terry Pavesich** reported that the District 99 Education Foundation will be hosting a Pizza Wars event on January 16, 2014 at South High. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Eight local pizza vendors will be participating.

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Upcoming Board Meetings

January 13, 2014 - 7 p.m.

Administrative Service Center
6301 Springside Avenue, Downers Grove

January 27, 2014

Transition House Dedication, 6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Transition House - 4232 Venard, Downers Grove

*This publication is for information purposes only;
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