



Board Briefs

Mission: To ensure that District 70 students experience learning that prepares them to live and work in the 21st Century.

Board Briefs from School Board Meeting May 18, 2020

Board Briefs are a communication tool designed to highlight important conversations and decisions made on behalf of students, families, staff, and the larger community by the District 70 School Board at each monthly School Board meeting.

Remote Learning Update

District 70 has an e-learning task force that continues to evaluate our remote learning plan. Composed of teachers and administrators, the task force is working hard to continuously improve upon the experience that our students are receiving during remote learning, including adding minimum expectations, with guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). More information can be found on the [parent FAQ](#). The task force is now actively engaging in planning for our remote learning plan in the event that we are required to use it next school year.

An update on remote learning was presented at the school board meeting on Monday. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Summer School Update

Summer school will be offered remotely this year to safeguard the health and wellness of our students, their families, and our staff. An update on planning efforts for remote summer school took place at the school board meeting on Monday. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Approval of Technology Purchases

Our teachers use smartboards and projectors in their classrooms regularly during in-person instruction. These devices are aging and require replacement. This was discussed and an approach to replace these devices through first initiating and then evaluating a pilot program was discussed at the February 24, 2020 school board meeting. A link to this presentation from the February board meeting can be found [HERE](#).

On Monday night, board members approved spending \$96,324.75 to support a pilot of 25 units consisting of an interactive smartboard, Apple TV, carts, and iPads. The pilot will launch in the fall, will be evaluated, and a recommendation will take place during the 2020-21 school year.

Looking at continuous improvement, Mr. Andrievsky noted a wireless network infrastructure upgrade is needed to address aging access points, outdated software, and necessary security upgrades. The cost of this purchase is \$216,000. District 70 will apply e-rate monies to reimburse the district for approximately 40% of the cost.

Note: e-rate is a federal program that subsidizes public entities for internet and network purchases. Given the impacts that the pandemic has had on the economy and changes to the e-rate program, it is highly likely that this funding may not be at this level next year. Subsequently, Mr. Andrievsky, Dr. Kurt Valentin, assistant superintendent of finance and operation, and Dr. Barbini agreed that the time to act on this necessary network upgrade is now otherwise additional costs (increases in equipment costs and decrease in e-rate) will likely occur.

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RECALLED FROM REDUCTION IN FORCE

- **Allison Gattone**, to 1st Grade at Copeland, effective 2020-2021 school year;
- **Rachel Simonsen**, to 1st Grade at Rockland, effective 2020-2021 school year;

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **Kendall Miller**, Dean at Highland, effective July 1, 2020;
- **Kelsey Waggoner**, Special Education Teacher at Copeland, effective 2020-2021

school year;

CHANGE IN STATUS

- **Meriann Negovetich**, from Special Education Resource Teacher at Copeland to Interventionist at Copeland, effective 2020-2021 school year;
- **Ivana Sieroslawski**, from 5th Grade Classroom Teacher at Butterfield to 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher at Highland, effective 2020-2021 school year;
- **Rachel Simonsen**, from Interventionist at Copeland (recalled from RIF) to 1st Grade at Rockland, effective 2020-2021 school year;

RESIGNATION

- **Cynthia Bsaibes**, EL Teacher at Adler and Highland, affirming resignation received May 13, 2020, effective end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Policy

The administration and school board use a policy subscription service provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards as the basis for developing, reviewing, recommending, and approving policy language. This service is used by the majority of school districts in Illinois and is known as the Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS).

Policy Approvals

No policies were presented for approval this month.

First Reading

No policies were presented for the first reading this month.

Superintendent's Report

Retirees

Traditionally, the school board individually honors and recognizes retirees at the May

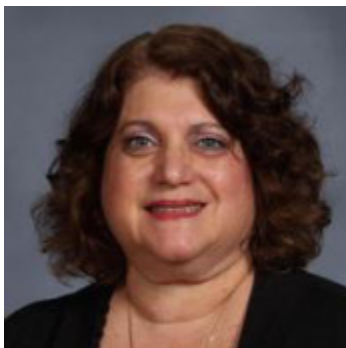
regular business meeting. Even though retirees were not able to be recognized in-person, each was recognized on Monday night at the remote school board meeting. Our retiring class for the 2019-2020 school year includes:



- Mary Conn-- Copeland Manor paraeducator for 20 years



- Dale List--Rockland kindergarten teacher for 20 years, Butterfield paraeducator for two years, Rockland long-term substitute teacher for one year.



- Holly Simon--Speech and Language Pathologist for 37 years at Butterfield, Adler, the now-closed Central schools.



- Jack Turner - General music and band teacher for 32 years at Adler Park, band at Butterfield, general music and band at Copeland Manor and Rockland, student taught at Highland Middle schools.



- Kurt Valentin--Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations for 20 years.

Thank you for your service and commitment to our students, their families, and your colleagues throughout your career in D70. Although you will be missed, we are happy that you can begin this next exciting chapter in your lives. Enjoy retirement!



Retirees attending the May 11 remote School Board meeting

Fall Planning Task Force

Our schools will eventually be reopened for in-person learning. Doing so will require a singular focus on the safety and wellness of our students, their families, and our staff. Reopening schools will also require careful planning and adherence to re-opening guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that are forthcoming.

Even in the absence of specific re-opening guidelines from ISBE, we can not wait to begin preparing for the fall. Toward that end, D70 has begun planning efforts for the 2020-2021 school year. This began with identifying a variety of reopening scenarios that include:

- Normal In-Person Opening (Back-to-Normal with no adaptations)
- Adapted In-Person Opening (Back-to-Normal with adaptations, such as temperature checks, masks, social distancing, etc.)
- Hybrid Opening - (Combination of In-Person & Remote)
- Varied In-Person Opening (Alternating Days, Split Shifts, etc. with adaptations, such as temperature checks, masks, social distancing, etc.)
- Remote Opening (Enhanced Remote Learning)

A task force has been established of teachers, nurses, and administrators to plan for each of these scenarios. The task force will be divided into three teams that will evaluate each of the scenarios above through the following lenses: Health, Teaching and Learning, and Social Distancing. Each team will incorporate guidance from various regulatory agencies that govern our practice in their important work.

The task force will have an organizational or kick-off meeting on Tuesday, May 18, with the goal of completing their work by the end of June. The task force will incorporate re-opening guidance from ISBE when it becomes available.

An update of the progress of the task force will be provided at the June 22, School Board Meeting.