



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 July 27, 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.

Reopening Plan

School board members approved an administrative recommendation to return to school remotely with “e-school” for the first trimester, which ends Nov. 16, 2020, during an almost six-hour Board of Education meeting Monday night. The vote was 5-2 in favor of remote learning. School administrators also stated they would continue to work with board members, teachers and parents to plan how and when to reopen schools in-person during a public health crisis.

The meeting was recorded and can be seen [here](#), in two videos.

For about the first three hours of the meeting, school board President Tom Vickers and school board member Dr. Amie Krummick read from letters and emails that community members submitted for the public comment section of the meeting. The communications supported an earlier consideration of allowing families to choose either in-person school with adaptations (face masks, social distancing, extra cleaning, etc.) or remote school. Community members also wrote in favor of just in-person school, or only remote learning, or a mixture of the two with a hybrid approach. Some emails from D70 families wanted to know more about how in-person or remote learning would look when school began in August. Eight D70 community members attended the school board meeting, some of them speaking about how they would like to see the 2020-21 school year begin.

School administrators then presented their plan to board members. The Reopening Presentation can be found [here](#).

The recommendation to have e-school was not arrived at lightly. At its core, the recommendation was based on the health and safety of our students, families, and staff.

The move to offer only remote learning through e-school developed as school officials were planning school in-person and:

- became less and less confident that a safe in-person learning environment for our students, their families, and our staff could be provided;
- determined that staffing an in-person option would be problematic given the number of staff unable to return to in-person learning due to pre-existing medical conditions;
- acknowledged guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Lake County Health Department indicating the likelihood of absences of both students and staff adhering to self-isolation or quarantine protocols would result in significant, lengthy, and potentially multiple disruptions to the learning environment.



Following the presentation, school board members asked questions about the recommendation and how they could continue to work toward opening schools.

In the next month, school administrators and teachers will work diligently to create a robust “e-school” that will exceed state requirements, provide an experience for our students that closely approximates in-person learning, and which reflects the innovative spirit

that District 70 has built its reputation upon. D70 is up for this challenge.

An [FAQ on reopening with e-school](#) is now posted on the D70 website at d70schools.org under the 20-21 Reopening tab. This is a developing document and will be updated frequently.

Welcome New Rockland Principal Jim Ciecwa

School board members unanimously approved hiring new Rockland Principal Jim Ciecwa.

Before coming to District 70, Cieciva was principal of Oakland Elementary School, which serves 615 students in kindergarten through fifth grade, in Antioch School District 34. Before serving as principal, Mr. Cieciva was an assistant principal at neighboring Middle School North in Vernon Hills, as well as at Cary Junior High School.

The approachable and engaging educator started his instructional career in 2003 when he was selected for the Golden Apple Teacher Education program. His career includes teacher science and math in sixth and seventh grades at Middle School South in Vernon Hills and teaching fifth through eighth grade in Chicago Public Schools at the start of his career.



The forest science major who eventually went on to earn masters' degrees in instructional leadership, as well as educational leadership and administration, attended the University of Illinois at Champaign, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Northeastern Illinois University.

"I believe in a whole-child approach to education and will work to ensure that each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged," Cieciva shared with his staff and Rockland families. "... I will work to encourage collaboration, open communication, and engagement with the community. I am honored to lead Rockland School and join the District 70 family and I look forward to an exciting year of learning with my fellow Rockland Raptors."

He replaces Jeff Knapp, who moved to Cieciva's old district to become the director of human resources.

Amended School Calendar

Now that the governor has signed Senate Bill 1863, making **Nov. 3, 2020**, Election Day, a state holiday and non-attendance day for schools, the Libertyville School District 70 school calendar was amended by the school board.

The calendar now reflects Nov. 3, 2020, as Election Day and a non-attendance day, and established June 4, 2021, as the last day of school (instead of June 3), with June 11 as the last day should all five of our emergency days be needed (instead of June 10).

The revised school calendar is [here](#).

New Rockland Playground

Shout out to Rockland families who completed their goal this month of installing a completely new playground on the site of the village's oldest school building.



After selecting a design, Rockland families raised more than \$82,000 for the new blue and white playground with a variety of fundraising events, including selling



commemorative bricks and t-shirts, hosting a fun run, and accepting donations from local corporations as well as alumni of the school known for its red doors. Then over a July weekend, Rockland families spent full days unpacking equipment, digging holes for posts and filling them with concrete to set the equipment, and finally installing the equipment.

Even Rockland Principal Jim Ciecwa pitched in to help before he was formally hired by the school board.



Thank you. It looks amazing! New mulch is on its way shortly.

Personnel Update

The Board approved the following personnel recommendations on Monday night:

RETIREMENT

- **Francisco Perez**, Night Custodian at Highland, affirming notice received June 18, 2020, effective on August 14, 2020;

RESIGNATION

- **Shelby Greenstein**, RtI and Life Skills Teacher at Highland, effective immediately;

NEW EMPLOYMENT

- **James Ciecwa**, Principal at Rockland School, effective July 1, 2020;
- **Rebecca Block**, EL Teacher at Adler and Highland, 2020-2021 school year;

CHANGE IN STATUS

- **Robin Kollman**, from Public Relations Facilitator to Director of Communications, effective upon approval;

FMLA

- **Carrie Ross**, Social Worker at Highland, affirming letter received July 7, 2020, effective on or about October 6, 2020, for ten (10) weeks;

EXTENDED LEAVE

- **Abby Vaughan**, Social Worker at Butterfield, affirming request received July 22, 2020, for the 2020-2021 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

Following the required second reading of recommended policy language, the school board approved changes to the following policies:

7:90 **STUDENTS**: Release During School Hours

8:80 **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**: Gifts to the District

[Policies Approved Date of School Board meeting](#)

[First Reading](#)

Revisions to the following policies were presented for a first reading and consideration:

4:180 **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**: Pandemic Preparedness

6:235 **INSTRUCTION**: Access to Electronic Networks and Internet Safety

7:345 **STUDENTS**: Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

