

# Board Briefs

*The Board of Education Brookwood School District 167*

## A Word from the Board President

**“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”** – John F. Kennedy

As we begin the New Year, the Board of Education will have the opportunity to continue learning as we lead with our first responsibility – detecting and articulating a compelling vision. The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) notes an effective school board adds unique value to its public schools by ensuring that it meets the community’s expectations in providing the best possible education for its children. In large part it does this by modeling a culture and practice of continuous learning, and by providing leadership and resources for student learning.

- ◆ The Illinois Association of School Boards offers a free Targeting Achievement through Governance (T.A.G.) Program that is funded by a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education. The grant provides the resources to enable Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to offer free services and board development opportunities to school boards in districts in Corrective Action Status.

The program includes a series of workshops, board development opportunities, and coaching focused on the School Board’s role in student achievement with a particular focus on the effective use of data and board policy-making. The school board can receive more than \$4,200 worth of services and training at no cost to the District. The Board will have the opportunity to vote for the program at the Feb.13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- ◆ Cable Channel School Board Meetings - In an effort to engage stakeholders and provide transparency, the Board will have the opportunity to vote for televised meetings.
- ◆ Illinois Association of School Board Policy Services - Using technology to enhance board effectiveness through online services, parents and the community will have access to the latest policy and procedure information with links to legal references.

**“Everybody can be great. Because everybody can serve.”** – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am passionate about learning. I am a drum major for education. I believe teachers, parents, and the community play a vital role in our children becoming lifelong learners. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. noted, you don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don’t have to know Einstein’s Theory of Relativity to serve. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. All you need is the desire and dedication.

I am asking for your time and talent in assisting our students in becoming the best! You can be instrumental developing the next scientist, technology expert, journalist, or astronaut. Individually and collectively, you have all contributed significantly in your own way. I encourage you to re-arm and prepare for the tasks ahead. I envision our children being well equipped in order to be the best they can possibly be. We are not striving for mediocrity

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### Important Dates

- Feb. 13 Board of Ed Meeting
- Feb. 13 Cookie Dough Fundraiser Ends
- Feb. 16 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 17 No School - Teacher Institute Day
- Feb. 20 No School - President’s Day Observance
- Feb. 22 Musical Tribute to Black History Month at Brookwood Middle School
- Feb. 29 District Parent Advisory Council at Brookwood Junior High
- Mar. 5 No School - Casimir Pulaski Day Observance
- Mar. 12 Board of Ed Meeting
- Mar. 16 End of Third Quarter - 2:00 p.m. Dismissal
- Mar. 21 Spring Arrives!
- Mar. 23 Report Card Pickup

**The Board of Education**  
**Brookwood School District 167**

**Deborah Birmingham, President**  
**Melinda Plott, Vice President**  
**Cynthia Pettis, Secretary**  
**Shirley Brunson**  
**John Dixon**  
**Arthur Taylor**  
**Lorrie Wheeler**

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We're on the Web!  
[www.brookwood167.org](http://www.brookwood167.org)

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The Board Policy Handbook is now  
available on line at  
[www.brookwood167.org](http://www.brookwood167.org).

but for superiority in our curriculum. We do not want to become content but consistent in our striving to produce substantial citizens in the area of academia and overall contributions.

The possibilities are limitless when we work together. Take the New Year Challenge— Invest your time and talent to the schools and community and reap positive returns!!

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."** Margaret Mead

Educationally yours,

  
Deborah Birmingham, M.Ed.

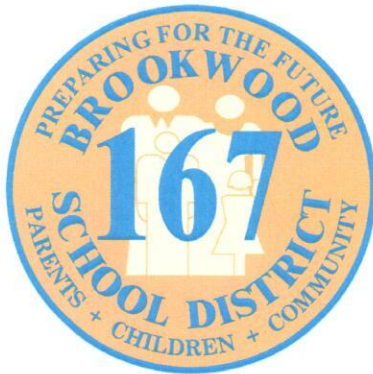
**Attention! Attention! Attention!**

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012**  
**Noon—8:00 p.m. at all four schools.**

**Please call your child's school to reserve an appointment.**  
**Walk-ins are welcome.**

**Longwood 708-757-2100**  
**Middle School 708-758-5350**

**Hickory Bend 708-758-4520**  
**Junior High 708-758-5252**



**Mission Statement:**

Brookwood School District 167, in partnership with parents and community, will create a learning environment in which all students excel at becoming lifelong learners and decision makers.

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