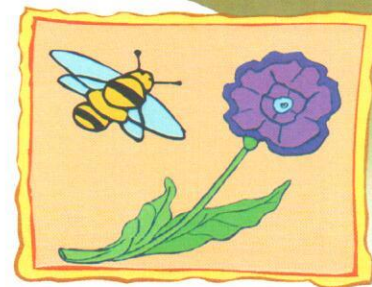


Board Briefs

The Board of Education Brookwood School District 167



A Word from the Board President

Volume 4, Issue 17

March, 2014

"The purpose of education is to develop the minds of young children and adolescents and help them grow up to become healthy, knowledgeable and competent citizens." - Diane Ravitch, research professor of education

The need for education is greater than ever! In order for our children to become lifelong learners and decision makers, they must be equipped with knowledge to compete in this global economy. For many years the Board of Education has worked earnestly to provide our students with the core curriculum, fine arts, and extra-curricular activities. While other districts have cut many programs, District 167 continues to provide programs for students and remain fiscally responsible.

The State of Illinois financial crisis may put a strain on the district's finances. The Board of Education held a Community Forum to inform citizens of the education crisis. Dr. Robert Grossi, Bloom Township Treasurer, informed citizens that we currently receive only 89% state aid for education. The state may reduce state aid to 85% or 80% which could be a substantial loss of nearly \$1,000,000 to our district. The reduction in state funding forces the Board of Education to continue looking for ways to reduce spending. Though the district has healthy fund balances, we cannot continue deficit spending. We must be prepared for the uncertainty of state funding. We have a fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers to keep the district **solvent**.

The state is giving more mandates and less funding. Parents, teachers, and community members were encouraged to sign petitions, load buses, and go to Springfield demanding adequate funding for our children. Elected state officials will also be invited to speak to the district.

The New Brookwood Middle School referendum does not affect the district's fund balance. The district's funds come from the state. The new school will be built with the \$15.8 million referendum bond. The referendum bond can only be used for the building project.

Congratulations to R.A.Y. (Reclaim-A-Youth) on another successful Career Day!!!

Thanks to all the wonderful professionals from various careers who shared strategies for success with Brookwood Jr. High students. Several presenters were former students of the district. A special thanks to Rev. Dr. Diana Fields, a trailblazer, the first African-American teacher in the district. She taught at Hickory Bend from 1978-1994.

Congratulations MPAC (Male Parent Advisory Committee)!!!

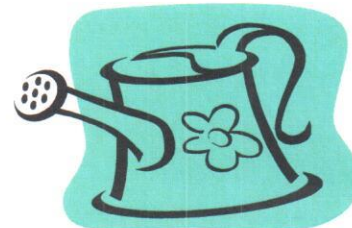
Mr. Herald and Mr. Brandt received a grant for fourteen of our students to attend "The Frog in the Bog" Educational Camp at the Indiana Dunes on March 26-28th.

It is of **urgency** that our children receive adequate funding in order to become lifelong learners and decision makers!!

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Birmingham, M.Ed." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah Birmingham, M.Ed.



The Board of Education
Brookwood School District 167
Deborah Birmingham, President
John Dixon, Vice President
Lorrie Wheeler, Secretary
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We're on the Web!
 www.brookwood167.org

The Board Policy Handbook is now
 available on line at:
 www.brookwood167.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, April 4, 2014 — End of Quarter Three, 2:00 p.m. Dismissal
- Friday, April 11, 2014 — Report Cards Issued
 BMS Family Movie Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 BJH Parent Advisory, 10:00 a.m.—Noon
- Monday, April 14, 2014 — April Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 17, 2014 — Half-Day School Improvement, 11:30 a.m.
 District Dismissal
- Friday, April 18 to
 Friday, April 25, 2014 — Spring Recess/No School
- Monday, April 28, 2014 — School Resumes
- Thursday, May 1 and
 Friday, May 2, 2014 — Pre-K Screenings, Longwood School
- Wednesday, May 7, 2014 — Hickory Bend ACES Walk, 10:00 a.m.
 Taste of Longwood, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 8, 2014 — Brookwood School District 167 Fine Arts Festival,
 Junior High School 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 9, 2014 — Half-Day School Improvement, 11:30 a.m.
 District Dismissal
- Monday, May 12, 2014 — May Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Mission Statement:
 Brookwood School District
 167, in partnership with par-
 ents and community, will cre-
 ate a learning environment in
 which all students excel at
 becoming lifelong learners
 and decision makers.

RESIDENT
GLENWOOD, IL 60425



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