

# BOARD BULLETIN

Superintendent Joyce Carmine, Ed.D.

News from Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163 Board of Education

September 2015

## BARACK OBAMA SCHOOL TO BENEFIT FROM DONATIONS

Dr. Carmine shared that Andrea Finnan, STEAM teacher at Barack Obama School, had solicited donations for the purpose of the STEAM program. A total of \$1,719 has been collected: \$619 from Mrs. Finnan, \$100 from Rebecca Bozue and \$1,000 from ARCO/Murray Foundation.

## SUCCESS IN SUMMER SCHOOL

Caletha White, Director of Grants and Instructional Services, related that the District had “an awesome summer school program.” The five week program was held at two sites and was funded under the 21st Century Community Learning Grant. 190 students participated in the program, and 167 students completed it. Mrs. White shared that there was a gain in student learning in both reading and math. Stephanie Lloyd, lead instructional teacher, said, “The daily focus of the program was to provide a stimulating, innovative and exciting experience for the students.” Renee Hawthorne, project manager, stressed the importance of getting parents engaged in the educational process and noted that the program culminated with a parent day that enabled the parents to compete against their children in activities ranging from math facts to potato sack races.

## ATTENDANCE

Dr. Carmine announced the attendance rates for May:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century – 99%, Algonquin – 99%, Barack Obama – 99%, Mohawk – 98%, Blackhawk – 98% and Michelle Obama – 99%

She said, “Our children are loving coming to school.” Dr. Carmine added there were about two weeks of school in the attendance numbers.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

In additional business, the Board approved:

- the 2015 - 2016 District Budget
- the application for recognition of schools for the 2015-2016 school year for 21st Century Primary Center, Algonquin Primary Center, Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM, Blackhawk Primary Center, Mohawk Primary Center and Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts
- the Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts seventh grade trip to Springfield, scheduled for October 14, 2015
- a 3 percent rate of pay increase for Denise Faris, the Public Relations Coordinator
- donations for the STEM project to be used equitably between the schools
- the carryover of vacation days in addition to the carryover of days noted in policy GCO - 5:332 for the following employees: Regina Nottke - 3 carryover vacation days; David Ricker - 3 carryover vacation days; Caletha White - 1 carryover vacation day; Cheryl Muench - 2.5 carryover vacation days; Ericka Patterson - 2 carryover vacation days

### Board of Education

Jacqueline Jordan, President

Allison McCray, Vice President

Tammi Braxton, Secretary

Cheryl Franklin Judy Hawthorne Margaret McDannel Walter Mosby

**WHAT'S NEXT**

Education Committee, 6 p.m., Monday, October 26, Virginia Ford Media Center/Board Room, 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Regular Session, 7 p.m., Monday, October 26, Virginia Ford Media Center/Board Room, 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Approved meeting minutes are available for view within seven days following Board approval by accessing [www.sd163.com](http://www.sd163.com) and clicking on Board of Education.