

Superintendent's Report

June 18, 2018

MCAT Funding

On Wednesday the Illinois Comptroller's Office announced it released the third quarter mandated categorical grants. These payments come nearly two months earlier than they did last year and will be a nice ending to the FY18 budget. I am thankful the Comptroller prioritizes education payments given the backlog of bills, however, I do receive this news with cautious optimism. This year the District received 5 MCAT payments. Looking back on other election years, similar amounts have been received. Immediately following the election districts would then receive 2-3 MCAT payments. Therefore in FY19 I plan to budget for only 2 MCAT payments.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance Premiums

Health Insurance premiums have been finalized and I am pleased to report that the final premiums are lower than what were presented in May for approval as shown below.

Medical Rates	Aetna Current/Expiring	Aetna Renewal	BCBS – Original Est.	BCBS – Final Premium
Employee	\$471.73	\$633.99	\$454.67	\$433.45
Employee + Spouse	\$1,025.82	\$1,378.68	\$1,000.76	\$980.51
Employee + Child(ren)	\$757.39	\$1,017.92	\$871.99	\$852.93
Family	\$1,388.45	\$1,866.05	\$1,418.09	\$1,400.00

Professional Learning

ISTE Conference

The district's technology strategic planning team comprised of Brian Coalson, Ed Hirschl, Jeanne Lucykow, Stacy Shelton, Sarah Schulte, Janna Spikerman, and Nancy Werden and I attended the International Society for Technology in Education Conference (ISTE) to be held in Chicago. The ISTE Conference & Expo is recognized globally as the most comprehensive educational technology conference in the world where educators gather to engage in hands-on learning, exchange ideas and network with others to transform teaching and learning within their schools. Over 21,000 attendees were present at this year's conference including teachers, technology coordinators, administrators, and policy makers. Strategies to apply to the District's Future Ready Plan were learned as well as best practices for student learning through educational technology.

School Safety

All-agency wide school shooter crisis response drill: Administration is collaborating with area first responders to conduct an all-agency wide school shooter crises response drill. This

drill will be held during the evening of August 7th. The District will have volunteers who will participate, several police and emergency personnel, two arch helicopters and more. Communications will be sent to the public prior to the drill.

Safe Schools Help Line

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force School Safety Working Group has released a list of recommendations schools can use to improve student safety. Among those recommendations is to have a student school safety tip line that is monitored and has the capability for anonymous reporting. This same recommendation is supported by the US Dept of Education and the Secret Service. Over the course of the year the District is now partnered with Safe Schools Help Line as a way for students and families to report bullying, violence, or suicide in an anonymous manner, with the help of trained professionals through a program that is monitored, promoted and with follow-up procedures.

The 24/7 Safe School Helpline service is an inexpensive service (.70c/student or \$907 annually) that will be a benefit to our District by allowing our school community to anonymously report wrongdoing via web, text or phone. There is also a mobile application for Apple and Android phones. SSHL will monitor 24/7, transcribe, evaluate, translate and send the verbatim reports back to the district. They will transcribe the tips as they come in and follow up immediately in emergency situations.

The SSHL has 24/7 accredited mental health counselors to help troubled students who are suicidal, bullied or simply having a tough time. Importantly members of the counseling staff meet the two major suicide counseling qualifications QPR <https://qprinstitute.com/research-theory> and ASIST Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is an intensive, interactive, and practice-dominated course designed to help caregivers recognize and review risk, and intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. It is by far the most widely used, acclaimed and researched suicide intervention training workshop in the world. The SSHL counseling organization itself is also CARF accredited which is the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities. <http://www.carf.org/Accreditation/>.

Assessments

Students statewide to take PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT beginning spring 2019

The Illinois State Board of Education announced the state's procurement for aligned assessments in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. ISBE will provide the College Board's PSAT 8/9 to all students in the ninth grade, PSAT 10 to all students in the 10th grade, and SAT to all students in the 11th grade for free beginning spring 2019. Offering these assessments will allow us to measure and support students' growth in high school and to continue offering all students a free college entrance exam administered during the school day.