

BOARD BULLETIN

Superintendent Joyce Carmine, Ed.D.

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

November 2017

MUSIC LAB HIGHLIGHTS FROM MICHELLE OBAMA SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

During tonight's Finance Committee meeting, Stephen Lopez, who has been working with the show choir for several years and, more recently, teaching and facilitating a full implementation of the new music lab, presented a video of students participating in the program. He invited Shelby Mitchell and Yasmin Glasper, students at Michelle Obama, to attend the meeting. He stated that they exemplified the talent needed in the digital media industry and said that they "are awesome at what they do."

Mr. Lopez noted that the District offers several media arts classes: students in band and orchestra in the fourth and fifth grades receive instruction in digital theory while students in grades six through eight receive ongoing instruction in digital media classes that encompass digital theory, digital music composition, mixing, theater tech and broadcasting.



Shelby, eighth grade, (pictured left), presented a video in which she could be seen creating a composition with the music software while one of her first completed compositions played in the background. She explained the different steps she took creating the composition, from selecting the instruments to arranging the layers.



Yasmin, sixth grade, (pictured right), stated that she frequently anchors the school news broadcast. She detailed the different roles students assume in broadcast, including script writing, special effects, writing music (beats and sounds) and editing.

Meeting attendees viewed a clip of student, Reggie Allen Foster, building a vocal composition. Mr. Lopez noted that Reggie was also invited this evening but was unable to attend. Mr. Lopez said the song written by Reggie would be used in school broadcasts and added that he would work with Reggie to expand it and eventually make it into a school song.

Other videos highlighted the progress of the string orchestra and included commentary from students in the program who thanked the Board and District 163 saying, "We love our string program," as well as a clip of a morning broadcast. Mr. Lopez noted that the students helped create the video presentation. He said he was "very proud of them" and said he felt "they put together a fabulous product." Ms. McDannel thanked everyone for the "great presentation" and said, "The performance just blew me away."

(continued...)

Board of Education

Lance L. Jefferson, President

Allison R. McCray, Vice President

Walter Mosby, Secretary Tammi Davis, Assistant Secretary

Judy Hawthorne Jacqueline Jordan Margaret McDannel

ATTENDANCE

Dr. Carmine noted attendance reports for October:

- 21st Century – 94.49%, Algonquin – 89.61%, Barack Obama – 92.08%, Blackhawk – 92.27%, Michelle Obama – 93.88% and **Mohawk – 94.96%**

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

In additional business, the Board approved:

- the consultant agreement for Kimberly Kidd - math intervention teacher at Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts
- the one year contract between School District 163 and Blue Cross Blue Shield as the provider for medical insurance with a 4.5% increase in monthly rates effective December 1, 2017, through November 30, 2018
- the one year contract between School District 163 and Ameritas Insurance as the provider for dental insurance with a 0% increase in monthly rates effective December 1, 2017, through November 30, 2018
- the two year contract between School District 163 and MetLife for life insurance with a 14% decrease in monthly rates effective December 1, 2017, through November 30, 2019
- the two year contract between School District 163 and MetLife for long-term disability insurance with a 71% decrease in monthly rates effective December 1, 2017, through November 30, 2019

WHAT'S NEXT

Regular Session, 7 p.m., Monday, December 18, Virginia Ford Media Center/Board Room, 21st Century

Approved meeting minutes are available for view within seven days following Board approval by accessing www.sd163.com and clicking on Board of Education.