

27 BOARD BRIEFS

Northbrook School District 27 Board of Education Meeting
January and February, 2017

Federal, State Issues Highlight Environmental Scan

At the February 9th Board Working Session, the Board reviewed the 2017 Environmental Scan of the District. The purpose of the Scan is to identify key factors that could impact the District's future success. These factors can be external, such as Federal, State and Local issues and mandates; or they can be internal factors emerging from within the District.

Superintendent David Kroeze highlighted the following key factors that will impact our District:

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Accountability, including testing through the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC); and the agenda of the new Secretary of Education;
- Evolving technologies, and continuing emphasis on STEAM and Applied Technology initiatives;
- The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) requirements. Also, growing shortages of substitute teachers, teachers, principals and aides; special education students, and English Language Learners (ELL);
- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA);
- Legislation from the State and Federal governments, that could include potential loss of revenue or added costs; and
- Our revised Emergency Preparedness Plan, including working with Northfield Township agencies to develop a standard protocol for emergency responses and unified command structure.

The Board of Education will vote on the Strategic Plan at the April 27th meeting.

Other Updates

In other action:

- The Board awarded a bid for student transportation services from First Student. The contract is for three years.
- The Board also approved the resignation of second grade teacher Alison Kropf, and the hiring of Amanda Ciss as an aide at Wood Oaks.

Board Receives Update on STEAM



Board President Mrs. Helen Melnick tries her hand at driving a robot as part of a presentation on the Wood Oaks STEAM program.

At the February 23rd meeting, the Board of Education received an update on the STEAM program at Wood Oaks.

The presentation provided the Board with an overview of the five courses currently offered as electives to seventh and eighth graders: Engineering and Construction, Creative Design, 3-D Modeling and Design, Robo Rovers I, and Robo Rovers II.

Board members also were able to see robots built in the Robo Rovers II class, observe the 3-D printer in action, and learn about the enrollment trends and future plans for the STEAM program.