

Rogus students act out the turkey's perspective during Thanksgiving play

SUBMITTED BY SUMMIT HILL DISTRICT 161

Second-graders told the story of the first Thanksgiving from all different perspectives during a unique play at Dr. Julian Rogus Elementary School.

Students in Lori Coverick's class acted out the parts of Native Americans, Pilgrims and

even turkeys during "The Turkeys Go On Strike," which was performed for parents.

From the Native Americans to the New World and even the turkeys who did not want to be eaten, the second-graders sang about gratefulness and giving thanks with silly songs.



Second-graders (left to right) Sydney Vieth, Allen Liu, Bella Martello Will Hicks and Gianna Rizd perform a Thanksgiving play at Dr. Julian Rogus Elementary. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Second-graders (left to right) Drew Uloswech, Alexa Limas and Josue Arias perform in a Thanksgiving play.



"Fourth grade students from Indian Trail School visited the Field Museum in downtown Chicago. The purpose of this trip was for students to see firsthand what scientists have discovered about this colossal T. Rex's life story. We were able to follow SUE as it grew from a hatching to a 7-ton ferocious beast."
— Summit Hill School District 161 from Nov. 29

SUMMIT HILL D161 BOARD OF EDUCATION

D161 board approves 2016 property tax levy

Principal provides update on tech initiatives at Frankfort Square School

MEREDITH DOBES
Freelance Reporter

A stable 2016 property tax levy for Summit Hill School District 161 received unanimous approval from the Board of Education at its Dec. 14 regular meeting following a public hearing.

The board put the item to a vote with all members present — Board President Rich Maron by phone. The district is levying a total of approximately \$29,729,000, Maron said. The 2015 levy

was slightly lower, at \$29.2 million.

He also provided a breakdown of how the total would be divided between each fund: roughly \$23 million for Education, roughly \$3 million for Operations and Maintenance, roughly \$1 million for Transportation, approximately \$310,000 for Working Cash, approximately \$300,000 for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, roughly \$243,000 for Social Security, roughly \$225,000 for Tort and approximately \$450,000 for Special Education.

There was no discussion on the levy prior to the vote at the meeting.

At the meeting's start, Principal Jason Isdonas, of

Frankfort Square School, introduced the board members to ongoing technology efforts at the school through a presentation of the Think-Central testing application. He said when the school began its technology plan, its current first-graders were just 1 year old.

Several first-graders were in attendance at the meeting to show each board member — through use of a tablet — how he or she uses Think-Central to complete an English Language Arts test.

Isdonas explained that students are able to receive their results immediately after completing the test, and if a student forgets to answer a question, the test prompts him or her to return to the

incomplete question before scoring the test.

"For some adults, this might seem scary, but for these kids, technology is all they know," he said.

Other matters of business

The School Board gave recognition for exemplary performance to 40 different staff members, with special recognition given to physical education teacher Chris Mena of Dr. Julian Rogus School.

Superintendent Barb Rains said a parent contacted the district to praise Mena. She said Mena took time to contact the parent about the student's grade in his class to say that the student's current grade did not reflect the sub-

stantial effort the student was putting into the class. Rains said the effort was an example of Mena going above and

beyond in his duties.

Board members also gave approval for two

Please see **D161, 12**

D161

From Page 9

items related to staff compensation following a brief closed session meeting.

The items were: an agreement between the School Board and the Summit Hill Council of the American Federation of Teachers Local 604, the AFT Illinois Federation of Teachers, and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations for school years 2016-2017 through 2019-2020; and the non-certified fiscal year 2017 hourly rate.

Board Secretary David Faber abstained from voting on the agreement with the teachers union to avoid a potential conflict of interest with his employer. All other board members voted "yes." The vote for the non-certified staff hourly rate was unanimously "yes."

Board Vice President Stacey Borgens said she was happy the district came to a

suitable agreement with the teachers union for the contract and that negotiation came to a pleasant close.

Director of Business and Transportation Doug Wiley later presented information to the board about the district's agreement with Lincoln-Way Transportation for busing services. He said the board signed an agreement in the summer to renew its contract with Lincoln-Way, and D161 has a one-time chance to opt out of the agreement if it submits notice by 2017.

He recommended the district continue receiving busing services from Lincoln-Way as it has provided safe and reliable transport.

Wiley said the only issue D161 has had with the services are some late buses but there have been rece-