

CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 230  
15100 South 94th Avenue  
Orland Park, IL 60462

**School Board Minutes**

**DATE: September 27, 2018**

**Regular School Board Meeting**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Board President Richard Nogal called to order the Regular Board Meeting of the Consolidated High School District 230 School Board at 7:00 PM on September 27, 2017, in Room 220 at Victor J. Andrew High School, after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following members were physically present and answered roll call: Members Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, O'Sullivan, Murphy Peterson and Nogal. No member was permitted to attend the meeting by video or audio conference.

**Public Hearing on 2018-2019 Budget**

Mr. Lavelle shared that the tentative budget was brought to the Board and the Building and Finance Committee last month and presented the final 2018-2019 budget to the School Board. Mr. Lavelle reported that the District's operating expense per pupil continues to be below average as compared to surrounding districts. The District has enjoyed the highest level of recognition for fiscal stewardship from the State of Illinois and continues to receive a Moody's Aa1 rating. Member Nogal shared that this will be the District's sixteenth consecutive balanced budget.

**President invites questions/comments from Board and General Public.**

Member Serratore complemented Mr. Lavelle and Mr. Hughes and all involved in preparing the District's 25 year plan. This unique plan gives the District a road map and helps plan for needed repairs. Dr. Gay thanked the Board on behalf of the administration and staff on being good stewards of the District's money. Dr. Gay suggested the 25 year plan be the topic of a Tri-Conference presentation noting that it is through collaboration with school administration and community that we can achieve sixteen years of a balanced budget.

Member Serratore Made a motion, seconded by Member Dalton that the School Board adopt the resolution providing for the adoption of the budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Roll call vote: Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O'Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

**Amendments to Agenda. None**

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**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Nogal referred the Board to the Consent Agenda items, all of which were previously provided to the Board and posted on the District 230 website. Member Serratore made a motion, seconded by Member Murphy Peterson that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- Travel
- Travel IHSA Pre-Approved Yearly
- Donations
- Surplus Instructional Materials
- Declaration of Surplus Property
- Routine Business Service Resolution (bill listing enclosed)
- Approval of Minutes from Open/Executive Board & Committee Meetings

Roll call vote: Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O'Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

All Board and committee meeting minutes approved by the Board will be posted on the District website.

**Communications**

**Old Business.** None

**Report on Instruction**

Member O'Sullivan provided information on items discussed at the September 10, 2018 Education Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the 2019 S4 Plan, Institute Day, the start of the 2019 school year and Instructional Coaching which is teacher instructing teachers how to teach. Curriculum updates included the review of summer school enrollment, blended learning and the Seal of Biliteracy. The next Education Meeting is on October 1, 2018.

**Report on Student Services**

Member Gracias shared topics discussed at the September 11, 2018 Student Service Committee Meeting. Those topics, which were also discussed at the

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Education Committee meeting, included a review of the 2019 S4 Plan, Institute Days and the start of the 2019 school year. The committee also review the ten day survey results, safety drill reports and information regarding Instructional Coaching. The next Student Service Committee Meeting is on October 10, 2018.

**Report on Finance and Facilities**

Member Serratore reported on topics that were discussed at the September 17, 2018 Building and Finance Committee Meeting. Topics discussed included the FY'19 Budget Review, the Treasurer and Monthly Financial Reports as well as the resolution to transfer funds and the review of a revised prevailing wage table. The next Building and Finance Committee Meeting is October 11, 2018.

**New Comments**

**Teacher Association.**

Ms. Shelli Thoss shared the Teachers Association have no agenda items.

**Educational Support Professionals' Association.** None

**Public Comments.** None

**Student Board Reports**

The 2018-19 Student Board Representatives, Aristotle Vainikos from Sandburg, Co-President, Gina Canavan from Andrew and Ruaa Elkarim, from Stagg reported on events at their respective buildings. A copy of each student report is included at the conclusion of the open meeting minutes.

**Academic Spotlight**

**Staff Recognition**

Dr. Gay introduced Mr. John Connolly, Chief Technology Officer who introduced the District's Technology Innovation Facilitators (TIF's). Mr. Connolly shared that the District 230's Teacher Technology Facilitator Team has been chosen for a 2018-19 ISBE *Those Who Excel Education Award*. These awards recognize individuals and teams for their invaluable contributions to their schools and communities. The District 230 team was selected for this recognition based on their work with

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teachers and students for our Digital Learning Program. The team, along with the other winners, will be honored at an awards banquet in October. Michael Geraghty and Tracy Sukalo are Andrew TIF's, Christine Borst, Chris Frye, Tom O'Shea and Desi Vuillaume are from Sandburg and Justin Hawker, Kristin Pila and Tony Roditis are from Stagg. Tracy Sukals shared an escape room concept that encourages students to work collaboratively to find clues to unlock the box.

Mr. Nolting, introduced Mr. Tim Dalton who shared information regarding Cathy Wojcik from Andrew's Business Department. Ms. Wojcik was selected as a MobileMakersEdu Leader Teacher at the 2018 MobileMakersEdu National Summit.

**Student Recognition**

Mr. Nolting introduced Mr. Iwinski. Andrew High School's Wind Symphony, led by Mr. Iwinski was recognized with the "Mark of Excellence" in the National Wind Band Honors program by The Foundation for Music Education. The VJA Wind Symphony was the only school from the State of Illinois selected and one of 25 wind symphonies from around the United States. Mr. Iwinski introduced Ms. Mary McCarthy who shared that it is under Mr. Iwinski's direction that Andrew's Wind Symphony strive for excellence. Member Serratore shared he is continually proud of Mr. Iwinski and the Wind Symphony students.

Sandburg Principal, Ms. Jen Tyrrell introduced Connor Devlin, Nico Calderon and Peter Demogerontas Sandburg's 4X800 Relay State Champs. Ms. Tyrrell shared that Dylan Jacobs, also a 4X800 State Champ was unable to attend the meeting.

**Curriculum Spotlight**

Dr. Dryier, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services introduced Andrew's Science Division Chair, Mr. Jame Holt. Mr. Holt shared that over the past five years, the Andrew Science department and its Green Team have begun a process to revitalize the VJA campus. With the inception of the Outdoor Learning Center, to the replacement of the tree line on the east campus, and now to the replanting around Lake Andrew, these teachers and students are making VJA an ecologically rich and environmentally responsible campus. Mr. Holt and members of the Green Team shared how they use the Outdoor Learning Center as a living classroom as well as how the team continues to enhance the VJA campus with the vision on

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conservation, beautification and creating an educationally rich learning environment.

Mr. Lavelle reported that the resolution is to authorize the transfer of \$4,458,259 from Operations and Maintenance to the Capital Projects fund for the purpose of completing projects in the 2018-19 school year. This will complete the transfer of the rest of the bond funds. The President announced that in view of the current financial condition of the District, the Board of Education would consider the adoption of a resolution transferring funds from the operations and maintenance fund to the capital projects fund of the district. Whereupon Member Nogal presented and the Secretary read by title a resolution as follows, a copy of which was provided to each member of the Board of Education prior to said meeting and to everyone in attendance at said meeting who requested a copy. A motion was made by Member O'Sullivan seconded by Member Murphy-Peterson to authorize the transfer of \$4,458,259 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for the purpose of completing projects in the 2018-2019 school year. Roll call vote: Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O'Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

Resolution to  
Transfer Funds

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Gay referred the Board to Board Policies presented for first reading for which he requested Board approval. Member O'Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Member Dalton that the School Board approve the First Reading and Public Display of Board Policies 6:120, 6:250, 6:135 and 7.50. Voice Vote Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O'Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

1st Reading

Dr. Gay referred the Board to Board Policy 4:30 as presented for adoption for which he requested Board approval. Member O'Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Member Gracias that the School Board adopt Board Policy 4:30. Roll call vote: Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O'Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

Board Policy  
for Adoption

Mrs. Carla Erdey provided a District 230 Foundation Board update thanking the Board for the invitation to the Combined Parent Organization meeting held

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on September 24, 2018. Mrs. Erdey reported the Foundation Board is accepting nominations until December for this years Legacy Hall and preparing for the “Whoop it Up” event in the Spring.

Dr. Gay reviewed the District’s FY’19 S4 Plan and shared that the District has applied for the Seal of Biliteracy and is working on the policy and internal processes to have the seal appear on student’s transcripts. As part of the #D230GoGlobal, the District is featuring students who have studied abroad this summer. Dr. Gonzales is working with media staff on social justice. Since the District was awarded a grant this year, we are reading case studies on social justice and having professional dialogue. The District is working on a new policy to open AP classes and decrease barriers that restrict students from taking challenging courses.

Superintendent's  
report

**Executive Session**

Upon motion by Member Serratore, seconded by Member O’Sullivan and unanimously voted, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:29 PM to (1) To consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of or legal counsel for the public body; (2) To discuss student disciplinary cases; (3) to discuss matters relating to placement of individual students in Special Education programs, and to consider other matters relating to individual students; (4) to discuss pending or probable litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the public body.

Member Serratore made a motion, seconded by Member Dalton, to return to Open Session at 10:08 PM. Roll call vote: Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O’Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

Member Serratore made a motion, seconded by Member Gracias that the School Board approve the Personnel Action including staff co curriculans; licensed staff leaves of absences; support staff employment, leave of absence, change of position, resignation and retirement as amended. Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O’Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

Personnel

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**STAFF – CO-CURRICULARS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Ciccarelli, Kara	CS	Wellness Coordinator (.5)	\$1,980.00
Holder, Timothy	AAS	Football Asst. (.5)	\$3,036.00
Leffler, William	CS	Baseball Asst (.5)	\$3,036.00
McKissic, Louis	AAS	Football Asst. (.5)	\$3,931.00
Moylan, Kevin	AAS	Wrestling Asst.	\$6,072.00
*Munson, Jennifer	VJA	Cheerleading Asst. Fall	\$5,544.00
*Munson, Jennifer	VJA	Cheerleading Asst. Winter	\$5,544.00
Wilkins, Janine	CS	Wellness Coordinator (.5)	\$1,980.00

**LICENSED STAFF – LEAVE OF ABSENCES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Herman, Donna	AAS	Literacy Specialist	INTERMITTENT
Kaffel, Jessica	AAS/CS	Student Assistance Coordinator	11/9/18-2/21/19 2/22/19-3/22/19
Mattera, James	CS	Social Studies Teacher	9/10/18-9/19/2018 EXTENSION REQUEST
Murray, Michael	AAS	English Teacher	INTERMITTENT
Urso, Barb	AAS	Art Teacher	1/17/19-4/5/19
Weis, Adam	VJA	Applied Technology Teacher	11/15/18-11/30/18

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**SUPPORT STAFF – EMPLOYMENT**

Name	School	Position	Effective
Gbur, Wanda	AAS	Technology Support Assistant	9/12/2018
*Gray, Maura	VJA	Alt Ed Night Aide	10/1/2018
*Maza, Susan	VJA	School Receptionist	10/1/2018

\*Pending Drug and/or CI

**SUPPORT STAFF – LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Name	School	Position	Effective
Walters, Kimberly	CS	Food Service Asst. Cook	8/27-11/26/2018

**SUPPORT STAFF – CHANGE OF POSITION**

Name	School	From	To	Effective
Zorich, Dina	VJA	Receptionist	Athletic Director Secretary	9/10/2018

**SUPPORT STAFF – RESIGNATION**

Name	School	Position	Effective
McCrea, Eleanor	VJA	Special Services Program Aide	11/9/2018

**SUPPORT STAFF – RETIREMENT**

Name	School	Position	Effective
Baker, Phyllis	CS	Science Lab Aide	12/31/2018

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Member Serratore made a motion seconded by Member Gracias that the School Board approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of a Notice of Remedial Warning to Mike Fahey, as presented. Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O’Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

Notice of  
Remedial  
Warning

Member Ryan made a motion, seconded by Member Serratore that the School Board approve the out of school suspension for the period of August 13, 2018 through September 14, 2018. Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O’Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

Out of School  
Suspensions

**Board Comments**

Member Nogal shared that a copy of the the Board self-evaluation was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. The summary shows the Board receiving high scores of 4’s and 5 along with positive comments. Any questions regarding the Board self evaluation should be directed to Member Nogal. Member Gracias shared she is amazed at all the beginning of the year activities. Member Serratore shared a conversation he had with Peter Gordon’s father. Member Serratore reminded the Board that Peter Gordon was recognized at last month’s Board meeting for his butterfly project. Mr. Gordon shared was he is very pleased with the experiences and opportunities Peter is receiving at Stagg. Member Ryan congratulated Board members who attained Board Member Status and those who have maintained Master Board Status. Member Dalton reported hearing positive comments from the community as it relates to the collaboration of Board members. Member Nogal shared he has been very busy attending events and is also hearing positive feedback.

Upon motion by Member Dalton seconded by Member Murphy Peterson and unanimously voted, to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 PM. Yea— Ryan, Serratore, Dalton, Gracias, Murphy-Peterson, O’Sullivan and Nogal. Nay—0 Motion carried.

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President

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Secretary

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**Student Reports**

**Andrew's Gina Canavan**

As fall finally begins, the Thunderbolts continue to build relationships between themselves and the community in order to "Form the Storm."

Andrew Athletics are in full swing and doing better than ever. Varsity Boys golf took third at the SWSC Red Division Tournament, Bri Haggerty made the all tournament team for girls volleyball at the Rich East tournament, and the Marching Thunderbolts were the Grand Champions at the Stagg Invitational. These are just a few examples of how Andrew Athletes continue to impress us and make our community proud.

As a student, I am proud to talk about VJA's very own Project SAVE club. During the second semester of last year, Andrew students worked hard to bring the Students Against Violence Everywhere organization to our school. The organization aims to prevent gun violence and other forms of violence in schools by recognizing the unique role that young people play in making their schools and communities safer. This past Monday, Mayor Hastings came to help kick off Start With Hello Week. This week aims to help form connections between peers in our school and even offered a gift card prize to the winning "Start With Hello" twitter post.

Andrew's theatre department has been working tremendously hard on all of their first semester performances, but most currently is their freshmen show entitled "Imagine If..." which is being performed as I speak. Upperclassmen applied October of last year to be a mentor to the freshmen. Then in the spring and summer these students wrote and perfected a script for the incoming freshmen to memorize and perform. This show has comedy, romance, and tragedy all in a show so good you can only IMAGINE. I would definitely recommend getting tickets to see tomorrow night's performance of this student led show.

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Andrew was happy to welcome students from Budingem, Germany this September as part of our German Exchange trip program. These students from Germany live with Andrew students for two weeks and get to learn about life as an American teenager. They even were able to attend our homecoming!

Last, but definitely not least, students and staff participated in the numerous Homecoming festivities following the theme, "There's No Place Like Homecoming". Our homecoming week started Sunday, September 16th with our 3rd annual Homecoming olympics. We had over 30 teams come out to participate in activities such as a slip and slide relay race and hot wing eating contest. With the money raised from the event, we were able to donate almost \$1,000 to our needy student fund. After Olympics, we had students from almost every club and activity at Andrew come to paint our windows, add streamers to decorate the school, and enjoy some pizza. During the week, students and staff dressed up for spirit week. Whether they rolled out of bed, or came as a much, much older version of themselves, we all enjoyed the festive spirit and laughs from looking at all the great apparel. On Tuesday night, there was the showing of The Wizard of Oz on the football field. The following night fans came out to support our female football players and male cheerleaders at the Powderpuff game. Coming into school on Friday, it looked like a scene from a movie. The band, cheer squad, and poms team all welcomed in students at our main entrance. Black and gold beads were handed out and the "high five friday" tradition continued. All T-bolts had their spirits high for the Pep assembly where athletes and leaders were recognized and brought the T-bolt family together. That night over 4,000 T-Bolt fans came to watch as Andrew's Varsity football team was victorious against Lockport with a score of 15-7 - the team is now 4-1 and ready to qualify for the postseason for the second year in a row As a perfect way to end the night, many fans stayed to watch the firework show. The next morning our school was transformed into a picture perfect scene from the Wizard of Oz and that night over 1400 students came to dance the night away.

September was truly a month to remember for all T-Bolts.

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**Sandburg's Aristotle Vainikos**

Good evening!

If you--right now--asked any Sandburg student what they are most excited for at school, they would no doubt say Homecoming. Coming up this Saturday night, Homecoming and all of its festivities have been the focus of much of the student body this past month. Our theme this year is "Welcome to the Emerald City!", and it will be the BEST Wizard of Oz themed dance in the southwest suburbs! Our Homecoming week has included some amazing themes: Grout-fit on Monday, Tie-Dye-Tuesday, Suburban Parent Day on Wednesday, Meme Day--a first time theme--today, and Color Wars tomorrow, where each class will be decked out in white, black, gold, or blue. We have had a slide and teacher dunk tank in the courtyard during lunch, as well as a Movie in the Gym on Tuesday, "Black Panther" to be specific. Yesterday was also our annual Powderpuff football game; the Senior/Freshman team won in front of an electric crowd. NHS hosted a pre-Powderpuff "tailgate" of sorts, with its first-ever "Carl's Pizza Wars!", in which local pizzerias gave out samples of pizza for students to vote on their favorite. Almost 200 students made their way out to Seliga Field to take part in the tasting, and "Papa Joe's" was voted "Best Pizza" by Sandburg. In fact, participation has been stellar all week, and Student Council is extremely pleased with the amount of school spirit the last few days have held.

Student Council is also eager to host the Homecoming Assembly tomorrow; we have an incredible obstacle course and variety of competitions in store--if I do say so myself--and the Class Dance Battle that ends the assembly is always a great time. Students will begin returning to Sandburg at 5 PM for the Buffalo Wild Wings tailgate, and of course, for the big game at night.

The student body has been channeling this Homecoming enthusiasm into service and charity work as well. On September 9th, numerous Sandburg organizations showed their support for teacher and coach Jane Caliendo by participating in the Jane's Warriors 5K Walk/Run. Our very own Sandburg Girls Volleyball team came away with the award for the most spirited team at the event. On Saturday, September 22, Key Club held their annual Day of Service: dozens of students

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completed community service work with organizations such as All God's People in Chicago, Peace Village Senior Home, and the Little Red Schoolhouse. Even the events of Homecoming week have had a charitable spin on them; proceeds from Carl's Pizza Wars went to Lurie Children's Hospital and Student Council profits will go to V.E.T. Service Dogs, a non-for-profit which trains service animals.

Sandburg students also participated in the first Lockdown Drill of the year on September 14th, and on September 13th, the Guidance Office collaborated with PE and Health classes to deliver a Mental Health presentation aimed at maintaining positive mentality and on reinforcing how Sandburg students can seek help.

In the arena of athletics, Sandburg sports have continued their strong performances throughout September. Volleyball swept Richards in their Pack the Place Game on Monday Night, moving to 17-3 this month. Boys Cross Country outpaced the competition at Reavis on the 8th, taking first, and placed 5th at the Richard Spring Invite. I'm proud to announce that the Swim team knocked off Stagg at their meet yesterday night at Sandburg. Soccer has been exceptional this month too, recording a 6 win, 1 loss, and 1 tie record; they play tonight at home against Bolingbrook. Our golf teams are gearing up for Regionals on October 2nd and 3rd, and they look very prepared to do well: boys and girls both placed 2nd at Conference on Tuesday. Tennis looks to go 2-0 against district competition tonight, as they face Andrew away. Lastly, our football team *has* struggled, going 0-3 in the last few weeks, but that is not going to stop fans from running into the Homecoming game against LWW tomorrow night dressed head to toe in the "White out Theme".

Off the field, there has been much preparation for some big events hosted by Sandburg's co-curricular organizations. Our Model UN is hosting its annual CSMUN conference in just over a week; they are expecting almost a thousand students to compete at Sandburg that day. The Music program will be hosting ILMEA district auditions next Tuesday night; again, almost every room in the school will be used. The marching band claimed second at the Stagg Jamboree on September 8th, marched in the Palos Park Parade on the 15th, and made an

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appearance at the grand opening of PDQ chicken, the newest restaurant on Lagrange Road.

But PDQ chicken wasn't the only establishment to feature a grand opening: Sandburg's Steaming Eagle Cafe received an extremely generous gift from the Class of 1982...a set of chairs, couches, and tables to truly emulate the atmosphere of a outdoor coffee Shoppe right in the Commons. The student-run Steaming Eagle was extremely excited to roll out its new setup, and many students--myself included--have already taken advantage of this cozy area.

Sandburg Guidance has been busy this September making available as many college resources as possible to Senior students. College visits began on September 10th, and will continue well into October and even November. Schools ranging from Alabama to UIC to Johns Hopkins have come to Sandburg to speak to students about the admissions process. Some of these visits have taken place in Guidance's new, multipurpose College and Career Resource center. Aside from hosting college visits, the Resource Center is open during Intervention on Tuesdays and Thursdays to all students who have questions on filling out applications; guidance counselors are there to help. The Lit Lab at Sandburg is also getting ready to assist Seniors in their application process: next week, the Lab will hold its second annual College Essay Boot Camp, where admissions counselors from schools such as Marquette, Depaul, and University of Chicago will be able to read personal statements and offer essay advice to seniors.

But don't worry, the attention isn't all on seniors at Sandburg: Freshman/Sophomore Parent Night occurred on Monday with the purpose of reinforcing the idea of a strong growth mindset that will be invaluable throughout High School. Annual speaker Eddie Slowikowski prepared an outstanding presentation for the parents.

And finally, Sandburg is proud to have 4 National Merit Scholarship Competition Semifinalists and 14 National Merit Commended Scholars in its senior class this

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year. You'll be meeting all of them next month; it is truly an elite group of students.

With all of this academic success, community involvement, and Homecoming spirit, I think it's easy to understand why September has been not only a very busy month, but also a GREAT month to be an Eagle!

**Stagg's Ruaa Elkarim**

Good evening everyone,

It's nice to meet you all! My name is Ruaa Elkarim, Stagg's Executive Board President for the 2018-2019 school year. I unfortunately could not make it to last month's meeting, but Sylvia did a wonderful job stepping in for me! With that said, allow me to provide a few highlights from this past month.

Starting off, let's applaud the Drama Club on their wonderful freshman show "What Lies Ahead" yesterday, and wish them luck for tonight! All those taking part— mentors, actors and crew alike— are excited to present the results of all their hard work!

I'm also excited to say that some of our students are continuing the Early Late Show this year! Their first episode is expected to come out sometime in October, so make sure to be on the lookout for that!

The Marching Chargers started the month off with the Stagg Jamboree, which hosted nearly 15 teams! They also happened to participate at the VJA contest, ranking 3rd of the 8 teams in their class! The Color Guard, as usual, absolutely crushed it by taking 1st of not only their class, but of all 22 teams at the competition! Don't take just my word for it, but I'd say that's a major success! With October and the end of the Marching Band season approaching, let's wish our marching chargers the best of luck.

Boys Soccer, as Mr. Seibt so eloquently put it, "is going really well." While the team struggled with a slow start at first, they are finally starting to come together! They are heading into conference play and looking forward to a strong finish to playoffs!

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Our Girls Golf Team was very successful at the SWSC Conference Tournament. The Charger team took 3rd place overall!

The Mathletes team was also off to a slow start, but they are working hard and preparing for competitions! They still need some new members, so if you know of anyone wanting to join, send them over!

The Debate team successfully recruited some new members and participated in their first event of the year at Sandburg's Public Forum Workshop. They are now pushing into their competition season, so everyone is working very hard! Their first competition is this Saturday at Homewood-Flossmoor. I personally have no doubt in my mind that they will carry over the team's legacy from previous years!

Poms has been preparing for performances and conditioning for their competition season. They tried something different and did a hip hop routine this year, and blew the roof off the house at the Homecoming game! They are now planning their annual K-8 Clinic, which is their biggest fundraiser yet!

Speaking of Homecoming...

Our Football team crushed it at Homecoming against Thornridge! Not only did the Varsity team win with a strong 46 to 6 finish, but our Freshman and Sophomore teams also won! In fact, our Football team has been pretty successful this past month, winning left and right! Hopefully this pattern will go on! Now let's move on before we jinx it.

Student Council has been working very hard with planning for Homecoming this past month, sacrificing sleeping in on Saturdays in order to come to their favorite place, Stagg, and paint windows and decorate the school for Homecoming! Not to toot my own horn, but I'd personally say that the decorations were a great success this year, paying homage to the theme "Under the Sea."

Now, as for Homecoming itself. The assembly was a great success! The crowd, a sea of orange and blue, showed a lot of enthusiasm and school spirit, cheering

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and participating whenever it was possible! We had a lot of silly games, which students and teachers loved!

As for the game, our performers wowed the crowd during the halftime show! The poms team impressed everyone, and our marching band performed their show "The Road Not Taken," entrancing everyone in the bleachers. The Color Guard, even as they struggled with the strong winds that night, gave it their all and were exceptional!

The Homecoming dance was the perfect end to the Homecoming week. With just about 1,500 students, the energy was high and exciting! With groups of people trying to all fit into the photobooth to take silly pictures, people admiring the thematic decorations, and people having the time of their life on the dance floor, it was definitely a night to remember!

There's much, much, more to tell you, but there isn't enough time in the day! Stagg always has so much going on and now that everyone is truly used to being back at school, there is bound to be more! It's always exciting to see the changes at Stagg and the differences our students make every year, and I can't wait to report them all! Go Chargers!