

Board President: Get involved and stay informed about the CCSD 89 referendum

In 2011, Community Consolidated School District 89 was facing a structural deficit. The Board needed to make significant decisions about the next steps. The district began an extensive conversation with the community and residents said quite clearly: it was not the time for a referendum. They asked the district to make cuts.

At the time, I was co-president of the Parent-Teacher Council at Park View Elementary School. I watched as the district strategically worked to make cuts that would minimize the impact on the opportunities available to students.

The district cut administrative positions and eliminated overtime. The district reduced vacation and retirement benefits. The district went out and re-bid contracts, then partnered with neighboring districts to share costs on insurance, transportation and other services.

Over nine years, the cuts and reductions totaled nearly \$3 million dollars.

Throughout that time, the district maintained an elite educational status. CCSD 89 is still in the top 10 percent of districts in the nation.



Now, the district is again facing a structural deficit and the board is faced with critical decisions. But, this time, the circumstances are much different.

In 2011, enrollment was falling. At that time, the district was able to leave positions unfilled because there were fewer students.

Today, the district is in the middle of a dramatic enrollment increase. CCSD 89 has 16.9 percent more students than it had in 2012. Projections show it growing an additional 12 percent in the next four years. That's nearly 600 students added in a decade.

Those students need more teachers and resources. When you pair that with the increasing costs of services such as transportation and insurance, the district is facing a structural deficit.

The members of the board of education take our financial responsibility very seriously. In order to balance the budget and meet the needs of students, we either need to bring in additional revenue through a referendum or make cuts to school programs.

Without a change, the district would be facing deficits of more than \$1.3 million in each of the next five years.

There are no more places to cut that will not affect programming and services to students. The next changes would come in the classroom. You

can read more about the potential cuts on the next two pages.

After months of community engagement, residents told us they do not want program cuts that would decrease our students' opportunities, the quality of our schools, or the value of our homes. On August 20, the seven members of the Board voted unanimously to place a referendum on the November 6 ballot.

The board does make that decision lightly: It has been 32 years since the district asked for an operating-rate increase.

We are aware that the impact of a referendum will be significant no matter the outcome, so it is essential you stay informed. There is a lot of in-depth information at www.ccsd89.org/our89, including a frequently asked questions document that addresses some of the questions you might have.

Over the past seven years, the district has been working to ensure a high-quality education for kids while being fiscally responsible. Now, we need you to weigh in on the next steps.

Thank you for always staying engaged with the important issues in Community Consolidated School District 89.

Beth Powers

CCSD 89 Board President

Superintendent: Community leads discussion on district's educational future

On August 20, the Board of Education voted unanimously to put a referendum on the November 6 ballot. It was not a step that was taken lightly. It is very difficult to ask residents to contribute more to schools, although it is equally difficult to cut programs that help students become lifelong learners.

The board was able to take this step for two reasons. The first was the circumstances the district faces. Enrollment is up 16.9 percent over the last seven years and expected to grow another 12 percent in the next four years. This enrollment surge and increased prices mean that, without a change, the district will have deficit budgets for the foreseeable future.

The second reason the Board and the district chose to put a referendum to voters is because of the remarkable community engagement we have seen.

In January, I convened a Superintendent's Finance Committee, made up of volunteers from our staff and the community.

The district had made \$3 million in cuts and reductions since 2009 but there was still a structural deficit. We wanted a fresh look, and I was

pleased that our committee members brought a critical eye. They examined our budgets line by line, looking for areas to be trimmed. Some started the process prepared to cut programs they didn't see as valuable. They were skeptics, but not cynics.

Along the way, committee members learned that a program which didn't mean much to them was the reason another child stayed in school. They listened to each other and worked to understand.

In the end, the committee confirmed that they did not see other places that could be trimmed without affecting programs that students were benefitting from. The next step was widening our reach and, once again, our community stepped forward. Our Finance Committee members walked door to door throughout the district, inviting people to attend meetings where they could learn more about our students and our fiscal responsibility.

This resulted in hundreds of people coming to



our three community meetings and participating in deep, passionate conversations about the issues that mattered to them in our schools and our community.

The people who organized the meetings were volunteers, motivated by making a difference. The hundreds of people who shared their time and thoughts were generous with both.

I cannot thank enough everyone who was involved in this community engagement process. I am continually amazed by volunteerism on display by the residents of Community Consolidated School District 89.

No matter your opinion on the referendum, I hope that you are inspired by these residents to stay informed and involved in this process.

Dr. Emily K. Tammaru

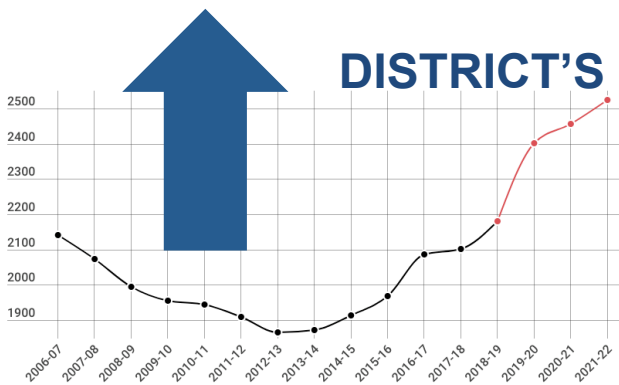
CCSD 89 Superintendent

Note: A previous edition of this newsletter included an error regarding the enrollment percentage increase.

ABOUT THE CCSD 89 REFERENDUM

TOP 10 PERCENT IN NATION FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Community Consolidated School District 89 has maintained high educational standards. Students have scored in the top percentiles in math and reading at all grade levels. **Great schools make our community a great place to live.**



DISTRICT'S ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO RISE

Good schools attract residents and are a key part of strong neighborhoods. CCSD 89 enrollment has increased by 16.9 percent since 2012 and it is projected to grow another 12 percent in the next four years. **That's an increase of nearly 600 students in 11 years.** There are increased costs to educating that many additional students.

Note: A previous edition of this sheet included an error when comparing enrollment data. We apologize for the error.

CUTS OUTSIDE CLASSROOM CAN'T KEEP UP WITH INCREASED COSTS

CCSD 89 made nearly \$3 million in cuts and reductions over the past 10 years:

- Reduced number of administrators
- Cut support staff positions
- Eliminated overtime
- Reduced vacation, retirement benefits
- Pooled purchasing to share costs
- Reduced salary increases
- Re-bid contracts
- Reduced budget for supplies, field trips, software, professional development

Annual deficits

2018	- \$1.4 million
2019	- \$1.4 million
2020	- \$1.3 million
2021	- \$1.4 million
2022	- \$1.8 million
2023	- \$2.2 million

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a high-quality education while also eliminating the district's structural deficit.

What if the referendum doesn't pass?

Without additional revenues, the next cuts will come from the classroom:

- Increased class sizes
- Eliminate elementary band for fifth-grade
- Eliminate Challenge (gifted) program from second, third grades
- Reduce social worker, counseling programs
- Eliminate elementary and middle school sports and clubs
- Change full-day kindergarten to half day
- Reduce library/media center staff from full to half time
- Eliminate elementary orchestra from fourth and fifth grades
- Change physical education classes from five days to four
- Reduce intervention supports

The referendum would secure a better educational future for our kids and protect our property values.

CCSD 89 referendum facts

On November 6, registered voters in Community Consolidated School District 89 will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum that would increase property taxes to support students.

How much will it cost?

The cost to the average CCSD 89 homeowner (with a home valued at \$300,000) will be \$396 annually, or about \$33 per month.

When will the referendum be on the ballot?

The referendum will be on the ballot November 6, 2018. Early voting starts September 27.

Voting 'yes' = Voting for the referendum Voting 'no' = Voting against the referendum

To register to vote in DuPage County: www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/

Why is the district going for a referendum now?

The district is operating a deficit budget, and the district will have deficit budgets for the next five fiscal years, and beyond. After five years of cuts, the district's rising enrollment means the district must make critical decisions.

How does CCSD 89 compare to other districts?

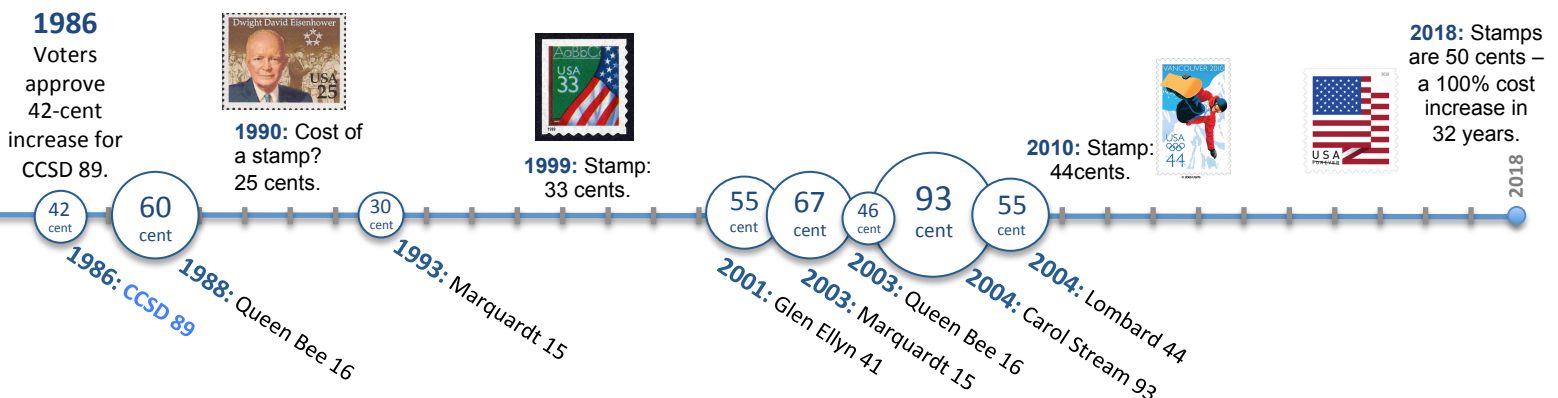
Low tax rates		2017 rate	Operational spending per student	
Marquardt 15		5.9351%	Lombard 44	\$15,111
Queen Bee 16		5.8798%	Marquardt 15	\$14,692
Carol Stream 93		4.6931%	Carol Stream 93	\$14,457
Lombard 44		3.9701%	Glen Ellyn 41	\$13,954
Glen Ellyn 41		3.4080%	State average	\$12,973
CCSD 89		3.3184%	Queen Bee 16	\$12,386
			CCSD 89	\$12,340



When did CCSD 89 last go for a tax-rate increase?

It has been 32 years since CCSD 89 asked residents for a tax-rate increase.

All other Glenbard feeder districts have passed at least one referendum since 1986.



CCSD 89's rank among six Glenbard feeder districts

- Lowest tax rate
- Lowest operational spending per students
- Fifth of six in starting teacher salary
- Fourth of six in salary of 15-year teacher with Master's Degree
- Fewest administrators per student

**Learn more about
referendum issues:**
www.ccsd89.org/our89

Have questions about the CCSD 89 referendum?

Fact sheets, frequently-asked questions, videos, presentations, and more: www.ccsd89.org/our89

Come to a referendum informational meeting:
6 to 7 p.m., September 17

at Park View Elementary, 250 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn

9 to 10 a.m., October 23

at the District Office, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

Connect with your school district!

www.ccsd89.org

info@ccsd89.org



Twitter: @CCSD89



facebook.com/CCSD89



Search "CCSD 89"

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPT
17**

Referendum information session
Park View Elementary School
250 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn
6 to 7 p.m.

**SEPT
24**

Board of Education meeting
CCSD 89 District office
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

**OCT
15**

Board of Education meeting
CCSD 89 District office
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

**Oct
23**

Referendum information session
CCSD 89 district office
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
9 to 10 a.m.

**NOV
1**

Blood drive at Glen Crest
2-6 p.m. at Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Avenue, Glen Ellyn
More info: www.ccsd89.org/blood

Note: In order to reduce costs, CCSD 89 mails its publications by postal routes. This means a few individuals who are not in the District's attendance areas may receive this newsletter.

Keep up with all CCSD 89 news!
www.ccsd89.org
Twitter: @CCSD89
Facebook: facebook.com/CCSD89
YouTube: search "CCSD 89"

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

CCSD 89 Schools
(630) 469-8900
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
22W600 Butterfield Road
www.ccsd89.org
Learning for Life
Arbor View School
22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5505 www.ccsd89.org/arborview
Briar Glen School
1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL
(630) 545-3300 www.ccsd89.org/briarglen
Park View School
250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-1600 www.ccsd89.org/parkview
Westfield School
25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-2770 www.ccsd89.org/westfield
Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5220 www.ccsd89.org/glencrest

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**COMMUNITY
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SCHOOL DISTRICT
89**