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.

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 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.

Dr. Emily K. Tammaru
CCSD 89 Superintendent

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.

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

Note: A previous edition of this newsletter included an error regarding the enrollment percentage increase.
The referendum would secure a better educational future for our kids and protect our property values.

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

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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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low tax rates</th>
<th>2017 rate</th>
<th>Operational spending per student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marquardt 15</td>
<td>5.9351%</td>
<td>Lombard 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Bee 16</td>
<td>5.8798%</td>
<td>$14,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Stream 93</td>
<td>4.6931%</td>
<td>Marquardt 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lombard 44</td>
<td>3.9701%</td>
<td>$14,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Ellyn 41</td>
<td>3.4080%</td>
<td>Carol Stream 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSD 89</td>
<td><strong>3.3184%</strong></td>
<td>Glen Ellyn 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Queen Bee 16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CCSD 89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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