



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 89

Learning for Life

update

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New Year Brings Schedule and Kindergarten Changes

The beginning of the school year always brings a sense of renewal and excitement. This year, District 89 is proud to offer several changes aimed at better preparing students for learning success.

In grades kindergarten through fifth grade, the school day is 30 minutes longer this year. Elementary schools will use this time to enhance science, writing and social studies instruction and provide additional time for enrichment opportunities.

Full-day kindergarten is being offered to all 5-year-olds for the first time this year. The full day is providing more time to develop language and math skills as well as to expand time for social studies, science, art, music and physical education.

A new writing curriculum will focus on increasing student opportunities for creative, analytic and critical thinking skills to develop strong writers. Students will also benefit from updated science units that align with the Next Generation Science Standards, recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education. The new science standards will bring more hands-on labs and inquiry-based learning using scenarios or questions to explore topics.

District 89 has accomplished these initiatives while still balancing the budget with limited increases in revenues. While the district maintains a conservative approach to spending, resources are being stretched. Possible state funding changes or a property tax freeze would move the district into deficit spending. More details are provided on page 3 and online.

The community has strongly supported quality education for more than 95 years. Below you'll find a photo celebrating the roots of the school district. Our teachers and staff are committed to maintaining the level of excellence the community has come to expect.

Thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89!

Sincerely,

John S. Perdue, Ed. D.
Superintendent

95 Years of Educational Excellence

District 89 is celebrating a significant date of origin and history. Community Consolidated School District was formed in 1920 with the merger of Districts 39 and 40, making 2015 the 95th year as a consolidated school district. Through the 95 years of existence, CCSD89 has prospered and grown to the exceptional level of excellence we appreciate today. Our community can continue to be proud of our dedicated teaching staff and the high level of achievement students have earned.



In 1920, Wagner School became part of Community Consolidated School District 89 school when Districts 39 and 40 merged.

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FALL 2015



PEP Grants: Innovative Learning Opportunities Created With Foundation Funding

The Partnership for Educational Progress has awarded six 2015-2016 grants to District 89 teachers to provide enhanced learning opportunities for students in all five district schools. The grants will provide funding for:

- The Arbors Homework Club led by Briar Glen teacher Mary Krajcir
- “Future Engineers-3D Printing on Earth and in Outer Space” by Westfield teacher Sue Pumo
- “Literacy Connections: Creating an Authentic Home and School” by Briar Glen teacher Kristina Hunecke
- “From Garbage to Garden” a composting project by Arbor View teacher Morgan Aiello
- “Every Drop Counts” Measuring Daily Precipitation as a 6th Grade Class by Glen Crest Middle School teacher Katherine Picicco
- “We Can Wind for Trying,” a turbine project at all four elementary schools by Park View teacher Kerin Motsinger, Briar Glen teacher Derek Desjard in, Westfield teacher Sue Pumo and Arbor View teacher Mary Lou Andacht.

The annual Partnership for Educational Progress Grant Program is supported by tax-deductible gifts contributed by individuals and businesses and through other fund-raising activities. A charitable foundation, the Partnership for Educational Progress works with Glenbard School District 87 and its feeder elementary dis-



Teachers who were awarded PEP Grants include, back row from left, Mary Lou Andacht, Kerin Motsinger, Derek Desjardin, Kristina Hunecke, Sue Pumo, Mary Krajcir, and in front, Katherine Picicco and Morgan Aiello.

tricts to provide enrichment opportunities for all students. Since 1992, the PEP foundation has awarded more than 440 teacher grants worth over \$240,000. Further information about PEP and the PEP Grant program is available by calling the PEP office at 630-942-8605, or by visiting PEP's website: thepepfoundation.org.

Since 1992, the PEP foundation has awarded more than 440 teacher grants worth over \$240,000.

Donate today at
thepepfoundation.org.

Music Grant Connects Students With Professionals

A Young People's Music Initiative Grant will help Glen Crest Middle School band and orchestra students master their instruments with training from professional musicians.

The \$10,000 grant from the JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation will be distributed in \$2,000 installments over the next five years to fund Master Classes.

Led by professionals in their field of expertise, Master Classes help students learn technique specific to their chosen instruments.

“We have seen students become more experimental in their playing performance,” said Kristi Ditsch, instrumental music director. “The Master Class sessions have helped keep students interested in orchestra and our retention rate is increasing from year to year.”

The new grant is an extension of a program started two years ago. The JCS Fund has provided \$50,000 in grants over the past two years, which have funded iPads and ukuleles purchases for elementary schools as well as Master Classes.

“All students in District 89 have benefitted from an enriched music program thanks to the support of the JCS Fund,” said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Emily Tammaru.

District Finances: 2015-16 Budget Continues On Conservative Path

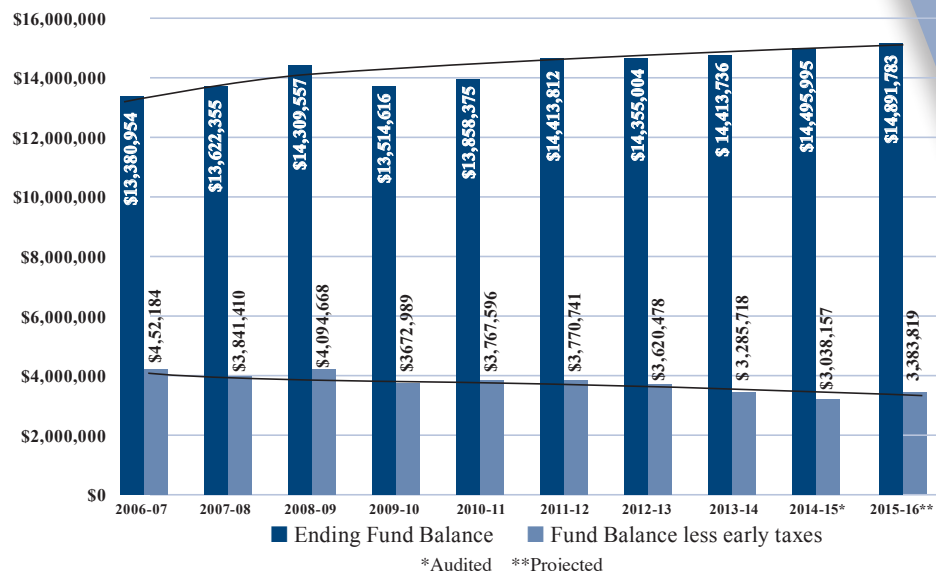
The District 89 2015-16 tentative budget continues on a path of conservative spending while achieving strategic planning goals. The \$30 million tentative budget shows a 1 percent surplus while adding full day kindergarten, extending the school day for elementary grades by 30 minutes and technology purchases.

Proposed changes in state funding and a proposed two-year property tax freeze, however, threaten the district's financial stability. On the current expense and revenue trend, the District's fund balance is projected at 12 percent at the end of 2015-16 and falling.

The 2015-16 tentative budget shows expenditures of 55 percent for salaries, 13 percent for benefits, 10 percent for purchased services, such as transportation and food service, 14 percent to other expenses including tuition for students placed outside the district for special needs, and 3 percent in smaller line items.

Local property taxes provide 91 percent of total revenues while state funding provides 7 percent, and federal funds cover 2 percent.

The District has kept on a steady spending plan for the last ten years. The



The chart shows the fund balance for District 89 over the past 11 years. The light bar represents the actual fund balance at the end of the fiscal year, June 30. This figure includes revenues earmarked for the following fiscal year. The darker, shorter bar represents actual funds left based on current year revenues and expenditures.

district last approved an education fund tax rate increase nearly 30 years ago.

"We've managed (our budget) very carefully and saved everything we could," said Board President Mike Nelson. "If we get hit with property tax freeze or something else, it will hit us quickly."

The Board will hold a public hearing and a vote on the final budget Sept. 21.

Michael's Place Gets A New Home

There is a special place in Park View School where children can cultivate a lifelong love of reading. It offers a quiet place where grown-ups read them stories or help them improve their fluency.

This special place is known as Michael's Place, created in 2001 by the Pihos family in memory of their son. Michael's parents, former state Rep. Sandy Pihos and her husband, Bill, are champions of public education and literacy. They felt a literacy center benefitting children in the community was a fitting tribute to their son. Michael attended Park View and graduated from Glenbard South before he was killed in an accident in 1999 at the age of 19.

A mural created for the space has been restored and reinstalled in the central hallway for all children to enjoy. A photo collage and article describing Michael Pihos and his achievements hang above a bookcase containing a special collection of books.

Along with the reading space, Michael's Place is the home of a volunteer reading program to help students improve their reading skills.

Principal Barb Petersen hopes the new visibility helps recruit more volunteers to participate in the program.



Local artist Steve Brenner returned to Park View School to re-install and restore the mural in the main hallway of the school.

Michael's Place is being rededicated at 6 p.m. Sept. 10 at Park View School.

Residents interested in volunteering for the reading program may contact Mrs. Peterson at the school, 630-858-1600 ext. 3182 or via email at bpeterson@ccsd89.org



Welcome New Teachers!

Seven teachers joined District 89 for the 2015-16 school year. They attended orientation and are supported with a mentor teacher to ensure their success. From left, is Nicole Buettner (Briar Glen), Erin Quaid (Westfield), Rachel Rivera (Briar Glen), Grace Carey (Westfield), Rosemary O'Connell (Glen Crest), Courtney Hargreaves (Westfield and Park View) and Krissy Hunecke (Briar Glen).

Park View Prepares for 50th Anniversary

Park View School will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in the 2016-17 school year. We are looking for alumni and volunteers to assist in planning for the anniversary. If you are interested in attending a school reunion next year or volunteering, please contact Terry Ryan at tryan@ccsd89.org or by calling 630-469-8900 ext 3581.

Nelson Takes Seat As Board President

After a 10-year tenure on the Board of Education, Board President Frank Zak resigned from his seat effective Aug. 1, citing personal and professional reasons.

"This was a hard decision for me. Serving on the Board of Education has been my passion for the past ten years," Zak said. "Looking back at our accomplishments, I am happy with the legacy I am leaving and I know the district is in good hands."

Vice President Mike Nelson assumed the post of President per board policy upon Mr. Zak's resignation. Board Member Beth Powers was elected Vice President and Board Member Dr. Sandi-Tapia was elected Secretary Pro Tem. The board is interviewing candidates and is expected to appoint a member to fill Mr. Zak's seat in September.

The appointee will serve until the term for the seat expires in April 2017. Mr. Zak led the board and the district through many accomplishments during his tenure, including a successful bond referendum to modernize schools, recovering from a fire at Briar Glen School and hiring a new superintendent.

Mr. Nelson is currently the longest serving member of the board, serving since 2004.

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630-545-3300
Park View School
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630-858-1600
Westfield School
25125 Mayfield Lane,
Glen Ellyn, IL 630-858-2770
Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
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