

CCSD 89 Superintendent: Referendum is rare opportunity to get more for less

You might not think much about the roof at your neighborhood school or how exactly the furnaces keep classrooms warm. You assume those systems will quietly hum along in the background so students can focus on learning.

It's not until a system fails that we realize how essential these "background" systems are. We have been fortunate in our district; we haven't had those catastrophic failures.

The power stays on, the security systems work, the roofs don't leak, and the schools are warm in winter.

That is possible thanks to CCSD 89 Director of Building and Grounds Tim Tomazin and his team. Every morning, while most of the community is still asleep, Tim is already at work. He begins each work day at 4 a.m. reviewing the security, temperature control, and air circulation systems in all five schools.

Then, hours before any children walk through the door, he heads to the buildings, meticulously searching for anything that might interfere with the learning environment.

Tim is also a master of finding ways to stretch the district's dollars and keep systems running. All of our schools are more than 50 years old. The expertise of Tim's team has coaxed many

of the essential systems beyond their expected lifespan. But avoiding full replacement means old roofs need to be constantly patched and 24-year-old boilers don't have the energy-efficient features that have become standard. The buildings are well-maintained but systems need updates when they reach life expectancy.

Now the district finds itself in a unique situation: residents have the opportunity to vote on a referendum that would protect the community's investment in their schools while also lowering their tax rate.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to place a bond referendum on the ballot in June. This referendum is about repairs, replacement, and maintenance. There are no flashy projects and no additions.

Through multiple community meetings and two district-wide phone surveys, the list of projects was narrowed to essential work that would keep schools functioning. (You can see the full list at www.ccsd89.org/bondprojects)

You're probably wondering how that work can be done and the tax rate would be reduced.

The district recently paid off a set of bonds that were issued in 2008. The Board has already decided not to renew that first set of bonds, so that means the spring taxes for the average homeowner in CCSD 89 will be reduced by \$239

each year. That reduction is locked in.

The referendum is the community's opportunity to decide whether to renew a second set of bonds that were issued in 2009. This second set of bonds will be paid off this year - unless the community decides to renew the bonds via the referendum. If the bonds are renewed, it would reduce taxes for the average CCSD 89 homeowner by an additional \$4, on top of the \$239 from the first set of bonds.

If the bonds are not approved, the projects will still need to be completed. Without the bonds, it will take the district about 20 years to finish the necessary work. During that time, there would be a risk of failure or further repair over those two decades.

Thanks to our Buildings and Grounds team, we have been able to keep the focus in our schools on lifelong learning rather than leaky ceilings or cold classrooms. We want to ensure that our buildings remain safe, healthy, and accessible places where generations of students can reach their full potential.

Your input is essential in our next steps.

Please consider attending one of the information sessions and review the referendum information page at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds

If you have questions, email info@ccsd89.org. And, of course, your voice is critical in June.

These are your schools and we value your input in charting out the future of education in this community.



Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

Board President: Board is committed to protecting community's investment in schools

The members of the Community Consolidated School District 89 Board of Education take pride in our buildings and operations as important elements for student learning and as cornerstones of our communities.

More than two years ago, the Board members began evaluating the district's need for repairs or replacements at each of the five school buildings. The district's Director of Building and Grounds evaluated the critical infrastructure at each school alongside the district's long-time architectural firm.

Throughout the process, the members of the Board of Education agreed that they wanted to protect the community's investment in safe and healthy learning places while also reducing residents' tax rate. Board members take our fiscal responsibility very seriously. We asked for a plan that would focus only on essential infrastructure - no additions or flashy projects.

The district worked to identify community priorities through open house events, com-

munity surveys, and a finance committee. The feedback indicated residents want safe, healthy, and accessible schools for children. The feedback also indicated residents did not want to see an increase in the tax rate.

Given the community feedback, on March 21, the seven members of the Board voted unanimously to place a referendum on the June 28 ballot.

This referendum comes at a unique time. Residents will already see tax relief this spring from one set of bonds that have been completely paid.

The board agreed not to renew those bonds, so the average homeowner will see a \$239 reduction in their tax bill this spring, regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

The Board wanted the community to weigh in on whether to renew a second set of bonds that would be used for maintenance and repairs at the schools.

The bonds would provide essential infrastructure work, including: improving security at school entrances, replacing deteriorating roofs, installing permanent wheelchair lifts,

and replacing 20-year-old heating systems. (Full list at: www.ccsd89.org/bondprojects)

In line with the Board's commitment to fiscal responsibility, the bonds would not result in an increased tax rate.

If approved, the bonds would provide additional tax relief to homeowners. In addition to the \$239 already locked in from the first set of bonds, renewing the second set of bonds would reduce taxes by an additional \$4. This would result in an annual tax reduction for the average CCSD 89 homeowner of \$243.

Members of the Board work hard to be good stewards of the community's resources through good governance and fiscal responsibility. We are pleased with the community's support for investing in excellent school facilities that we will be proud of for years to come.

Residents will have the opportunity to guide the district's next steps. I hope you will take the time to learn more about this referendum and vote in the upcoming election.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank you for your participation and support of this community's students.



Haydee Núñez
Board President



BOND REFERENDUM: PROTECT SCHOOLS, ZERO TAX INCREASE

The referendum would allow Community Consolidated School District 89 to issue \$27 million in bonds for necessary infrastructure work at all five schools. The bonds would be used to improve educational environments and safety systems while providing property-tax relief to residents.

Learn more at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds



How can passing a referendum reduce the tax rate?

2008 bonds: already paid off and not renewed

While studying facility needs, the Board was committed to reducing taxes. The district is in a unique situation to invest in school infrastructure while lowering the tax rate. That seems counterintuitive, but here's how it works.

These bonds were paid off in 2021. The Board chose not to renew the bonds, resulting in an 18-cent reduction in the tax rate.

For the average homeowner, this means a \$239 annual reduction in taxes. This reduction stays, whether or not the referendum passes.

2009 bonds: should they be renewed by referendum?

These bonds expire in 2022. Voters will decide whether to renew at a lower rate. If voters approve the referendum, the average homeowner would see an additional \$4 reduction in taxes. If the referendum fails, the rate would go down further but the repairs would still need to be done. The projects would be spread out over 20 years. In the meantime, systems could fail, potentially interrupting school or adding maintenance costs.



When

The work would be completed in the summer 2023 and in the summer 2024.

Where

There would be infrastructure repairs at all five CCSD 89 schools.

Highlights of potential projects

- Replace deteriorating roofs at three schools
 - Relocate entrances at two schools to enhance security
 - Remove and replace boiler systems at two schools
 - Replace rooftop units to improve ventilation at five schools
 - Full or partial replacement of crumbling parking lots at five schools
 - Install permanent wheelchair lifts at two schools
 - Replace obsolete phone system and install fiberoptic lines
 - Remodel kitchens in four schools to provide better serving area
- See the full list of projects at www.ccsd89.org/bondprojects

What is a Bond?

Bonds are issued to fund capital projects and infrastructure. By law, bonds cannot be used for supplies, salaries, or transportation.

Bonds must be paid off in a fixed amount of time.



The roof at Glen Crest Middle School was installed in 1998. It needs frequent patches to keep water from leaking into the building. The coal tar/asphalt roof would be replaced by an energy-efficient rubber roof if the referendum is passed.

Important dates

Noon on Tuesday, April 19, via Zoom
Community information meeting
Link at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds

7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, in person
Community information meeting
at Briar Glen, 1800 Briarcliffe, Wheaton

7 p.m., Monday, June 13, via Zoom
Community information meeting
Link at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds

June 13: In-person voting begins

June 28: Election Day

Eleven students complete Spartacus reading challenge

Eleven Glen Crest students were honored at a Board of Education meeting for reading at least seven of the novels that were chosen for this year's Spartacus Reading Challenge.

Each year, Anderson's Bookshop curates a list of 25 young-adult novels that might be nominated for the annual Newbery Medal for distinguished children's literature.

Glen Crest students are challenged to read the books between November and

January.

The Spartans who finished seven or more books are: Emma Cernauske, Charlotte Edwards, Emily Goodin, Sean Jang, Nora Martinez, Lizzie Pekkarinen, Prisha Raheja, Krisha Rathish, Mia Siguenza, and Maddie Sobecki.

Special mention to Kavya Uppal, who finished all 25 Spartacus Reading Challenge books!

Glen Crest librarian Rose O'Connell organizes the annual event.



Community is invited to donate blood May 11

Community members are invited to support the urgent need for blood by donating between 2 and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, at Glen Crest Middle School, 725 Sheehan Avenue, Glen Ellyn. You can register and learn more about the process of donating blood at www.ccsd89.org/blood

Future blood drives are scheduled for Glen Crest on August 24 and November 2.

Basketball teams earn regular season, conference titles

It was a successful season for Glen Crest girls basketball as both the seventh- and eighth-grade teams earned regular season and conference-tournament championships.

The eighth-grade team finished the season 15-0 overall and 12-0 in conference games. Coach Danny Sheridan said that after the undefeated regular season, there was pressure going into the tournament. It was tied at halftime of the championship game, but Jamie Mizwicki's four three-pointers helped the Spartans pull away.

The seventh-grade girls entered the conference tournament as co-regular season champions. The team finished the year 11-2, with their only losses both coming by five points.

Eighth-grade team members were: Abby Baygood, Emma Briggs, Kate Bruhl, Olivia Cernauske, Teagan Cloutier, Genevieve Corbin, Jillian DeMayo, Gabia Judikas, Kylie LaBarbera, Anesa Maloku, Kylie Maline, Jamie Mizwicki, and Molly Purse.

Seventh-grade team members were: Kylan Anderson, Isabella Breault, Isabella Beltran, Alaina Burke, Kaitlin Erickson, Emily Everett, Emma Full, Savannah Hagedorn, Nina Hendricksen, Marlena Kendra, Addison Kite, Gianna Langert, and DJ Sargent-Penna.

Read more about the teams at www.ccsd89.org/bball

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL
6

Registration opens

Registration opens for all students. Families will use the SnapCode they received in the mail to register

APRIL
14

HALF DAY

Morning attendance at all CCSD 89 schools

APRIL
15

NO SCHOOL

All CCSD 89 schools closed

APRIL
18

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

APRIL
19

Referendum informational meeting

Online meeting via Zoom
Link at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds
Noon

APRIL
27

Referendum info meeting

Informational presentation
At Briar Glen Elementary
7 p.m.

MAY
11

Blood drive at Glen Crest

2-6:30 p.m. at Glen Crest
Open to community
www.ccsd89.org/blood

MAY
16

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

MAY
25

Last day of school

Morning attendance for all students

JUNE
13

Referendum informational meeting

Online meeting via Zoom
Link at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds
Noon

Spotlight on learning in CCSD 89: reading, writing, service to others

YouTube

You can get a peek inside CCSD 89 classrooms on the district's YouTube channel.

Search "Community Consolidated School District 89" to see these videos and more!



How Schoolwide Writing helps build better writers



Students learn to help others in Junior Leaders



Morning meetings prepare students for the day



IMPORTANT REFERENDUM DATES

Community information meeting

Noon on Tuesday, April 19, via Zoom

Link will be available at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds

Open to the community

Community information meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, at Briar Glen Elementary

Briar Glen, 1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton

Open to the community

Community information meeting

7 p.m. Monday, June 13, via Zoom

Link will be available at www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds

Open to the community

In-person voting begins

June 13

Find your polling place at www.dupagecounty.gov/VoterLookup/

Election Day

June 28

You can find more information about the referendum at

www.ccsd89.org/schoolbonds

Video showing areas that would be replaced and repaired

Complete list of projects that would be included in referendum

Frequently asked questions document

Previous presentations, slides, public surveys

Stay connected with CCSD 89!



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facebook.com/CCSD89



Search “CCSD 89” on YouTube

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.

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

www.ccsd89.org
22W600 Butterfield Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 469-8900
CCSD 89 Schools
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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