

NewsBits



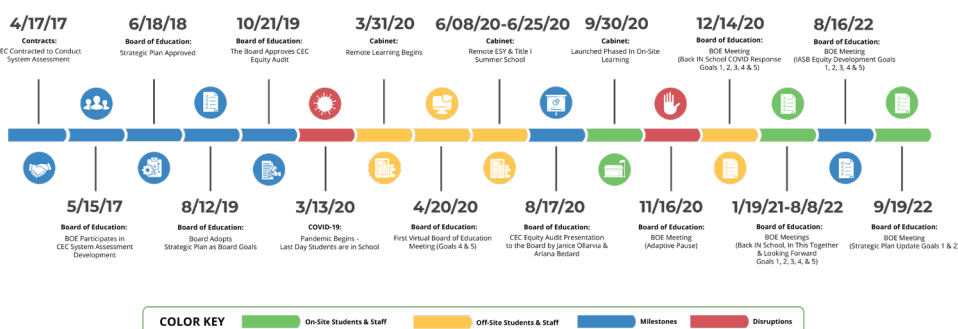
Fall 2022

District 62 continues its focus on strategic plan

As the district officially enters Year 5 of its five-year strategic plan, updates were shared this fall regarding *where we've been* and *where we're headed* within the areas of Student Growth and Achievement, Learning Environment, Work Environment, Family and Community Connections and Resources. This school year, the district has emphasized the importance of enhancing safety and security measures to support our learning environment. The journey to develop the five-year plan began in the spring of 2017 and involved feedback from students, families, staff and community members.

Despite the fact that the first year of the strategic plan was the only year unaffected by COVID-19, the district is very proud of the work that's been accomplished and of the initiatives in place this school year. To view the latest progress on the strategic plan, we invite you to visit our [website](#).

D62 STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE 2017-2022



District 62 Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1: Student Growth and Achievement

Engage all students in learning that leads to academic growth, achievement, and readiness for high school, college, career, and life.

Goal 2: Learning Environment

Provide personal support to each student to develop the skills and confidence to be self-sufficient learners.

Goal 3: Work Environment

Provide personal support to each staff member to develop the skills and confidence to be innovative, exemplary, and visionary leaders of the district and their profession.

Goal 4: Family and Community Connections

Engage families and the community as partners to support student success.

Goal 5: Resources

Effectively, efficiently, and equitably manage the district's facilities and financial resources.

District 62 celebrates Principal Appreciation Month

District 62 recognized its principals during the month of October.

“District 62 is privileged to have strong, dedicated instructional leaders at each of our school sites,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “Their roles have changed dramatically over the last several years but they have continued to support students, staff and families each and every day. Their positions are extremely challenging. Our principals are deeply valued in our district and I am honored to celebrate them this month.”

District 62’s school principals include:

- **Donald Jones**, Algonquin Middle School Principal
- **Panagiota “Patty” Tzortzis**, Algonquin Middle School Assistant Principal
- **Juliana Vissering**, Chippewa Middle School Principal
- **Gary Wheaton**, Chippewa Middle School Assistant Principal
- **Erica Cupuro**, Central Elementary School Principal
- **Marc Infante**, Cumberland Elementary School Principal
- **Costantina Mazzone**, Cumberland Elementary School Assistant Principal of Special Education
- **Amy Cengel**, Forest Elementary School Principal
- **Kelly Krueger**, Iroquois Community School Principal
- **John Rey**, Iroquois Community School Assistant Principal of Special Education
- **Carolyn Allar**, North Elementary School Principal
- **Heather Cassidy**, North Elementary School Assistant Principal
- **Jennifer Suarez Bautista**, Orchard Place Elementary School Principal
- **Dr. Lisa Carlos**, Plainfield Elementary School Principal
- **Kristin Jares**, South Elementary School Principal
- **Dr. Bradley Stein**, Terrace Elementary School Principal



2022 Winter Card Contest winners announced

Community Consolidated School District 62 would like to recognize the winners of its 2022 Winter Card Contest:

- 1st Place: **Dana Um**, Grade 8, Iroquois Community School
2nd Place: **Emma Stefanache**, Grade 3, Plainfield Elementary School
3rd Place: **Ashir Arsalan**, Grade 7, Chippewa Middle School

Over 30 entries were submitted this year. The winter card submissions were judged by a panel of community volunteers from surrounding community agencies as well as volunteers from the Frisbie Senior Center.

All entries will be on display at the Des Plaines Public Library through the month of December.

The winning design will become District 62's official winter card that will be mailed out to the community.



FinanceBits

At its September meeting, the Board of Education approved the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. District 62 has the practice of budgeting conservatively with actual revenues likely to be higher, and actual expenses lower, than budgeted.

Revenues are projected to be \$106.3 million and expenses are estimated at \$115.2 million, creating a budgeted deficit of \$8.9 million.



District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

As the seasons change, so come changes to the District 62 Foundation. We are growing our board by adding members in an effort to refresh and rebuild our programs and perspective. We need enthusiastic community members that would like to continue the dynamic mission embraced by this organization; supporting the educational experiences of District 62 students.

Over the years we have supported the staff and students of District 62 by raising and awarding more than \$700,000 in grants to District 62 staff members. We support youth centered events within the schools as well as the community such as Trunk and Treat, soccer tournaments, nursing home musical performances by students, and student days of service. Planning and participating in those events is crucial to the profile of a District 62 Foundation Board member.

We support community organizations such as the [Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce](#), [Des Plaines Theater](#), and the [Des Plaines Park District](#) whenever possible. Partnerships within the community are becoming a priority and a prospective Board member that thrives on community involvement would be a tremendous asset.

This is all leading up to a call for new members to join our organization and support our efforts. If you are interested in becoming a Board member or supporting the Foundation we would love to hear from you. Contact us at d62foundation@gmail.com

As the holiday season approaches, we invite you to take a look at our latest fundraiser with Lynch Creek Farms holiday greenery at <https://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/299734>

We thank our community for their continued support of our Foundation and invite you to become part of our team. Again, please contact us at d62foundation@gmail.com.

One Tree Planted donates this fall, spring

District 62 was fortunate to receive 15 trees from The Morton Arboretum this fall. Representatives from the Arboretum were on-site at Algonquin Middle School receiving 15 trees donated through One Tree Planted. We were fortunate to have Algonquin students who gave their time to help plant. With so many maturing trees on our grounds, the district has had to cut down and/or remove trees and welcome these new trees to our district. The district expects more trees in the spring.

District 62 honors its Board of Education for its time, service

Community Consolidated School District 62 would like to formally recognize the seven members of its Board of Education for their service and commitment to the district.

November 15 has been officially designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois to recognize these public servants for their commitment and contributions to our public schools.

As community trustees for the schools, school board members have oversight in District 62 for approximately 4,500 students in grades Pre-K through 8; more than 830 employees; 11 school buildings and one Early Learning Center.

The oversight of district finances is a key responsibility of Board members. The District 62 Board of Education manages a projected budget of \$115 million in expenses and continues to maintain a Standard & Poor's Bond Rating of AA+.



District 62 Board of Education. From left to right: Stephanie Duckmann, Dr. Kelly Morrissey, Jeanette Weller, President Ronald Burton, Tina Garrett, Vice President Beth Morley and Elizabeth Massa.



Thank you to the members of the District 62 Board of Education:

- **Ronald Burton**, President, term began 2012
- **Beth Morley**, Vice President, term began 2015
- **Stephanie Duckmann**, term began 2004
- **Tina Garrett**, term began 2017
- **Elizabeth Massa**, term began 2021
- **Kelly Morrissey**, term began 2019
- **Jeanette Weller**, term began 2021