

# NewsBits

# 62

## Fall 2023

### District 62 begins its focus on a new strategic plan

This fall, the district began the process of developing a new multi-year strategic plan with support from students, staff, parents and stakeholders.

The current process is designed to empower stakeholders to collaborate and create a shared vision and goals for the future of the district and strategies to achieve them.

“I am excited to begin this process with our stakeholders this fall,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “Our strategic plan team will include approximately 50 individuals who are working with the Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) throughout this process. This team will play a critical role as we shape the future of our school district over the next three to five years.”

A successful strategic plan will serve as a guide to help achieve the district’s mission, vision, and values. It will also build a shared vision for all district stakeholders, and establish a means of tracking progress to ensure a high-quality education for all District 62 students.

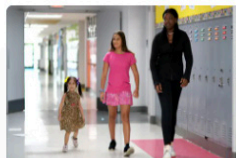


#### INTRODUCTION

Invitation, roster, schedule & process

A review of the upcoming strategic plan process and our roles and responsibilities.

[LEARN MORE](#)



#### ORIENTATION

Who is in the room?

The Orientation is an opportunity for the strategic plan team to learn of their roles and responsibilities.

[LEARN MORE](#)



#### DATA RETREAT

Where are we now?

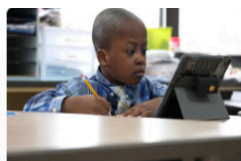
The Data Retreat provides an opportunity for the Strategic Plan Team to review the data sources.

[LEARN MORE](#)



For more information about our strategic plan and our process to date, we invite you to visit our website:

[Developing our Next Strategic Plan.](#)

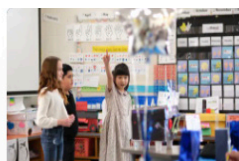


#### VISION RETREAT

Where are we headed?

The Vision Retreat provides an opportunity for the strategic plan team to develop a shared understanding of the current mission, vision, core values and strategic themes and build upon those ideas to move the district forward.

[LEARN MORE](#)



#### SETTING DIRECTION

How will we get there?

The Setting Direction Retreat provides an opportunity for the Strategic Plan Team to make a decision related to the goals and high-leverage strategies.

[COMING SOON](#)



#### FINAL MEETING

What's the final developed plan?

The Final Meeting is an opportunity to make revisions to the plan based on data and evidence before it is formally presented to the Board of Education for review.

[COMING SOON](#)



## 2023 Winter Card Contest winners announced

Community Consolidated School District 62 would like to recognize the winners of its 2023 Winter Card Contest:

1st Place: **Lily Lawpattanapong**, Grade 7, Chippewa Middle School

2nd Place: **Zayuri Medina**, Grade 5, Orchard Place Elementary School

3rd Place: **Mahi Shah**, Grade 6, Chippewa Middle School

Nearly 40 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 in December to the community.

# D62 WINTER CARD CONTEST

Celebrating the students of Community Consolidated School District 62 and their artistic talents.

[www.d62.org](http://www.d62.org)





Third Place: **Mahi Shah**  
Chippewa Middle School  
Grade 6



First Place: **Lily Lawpattanapong**  
Chippewa Middle School  
Grade 7



Second Place: **Zayuri Medina**  
Orchard Place Elementary School  
Grade 5

## FinanceBits

At its September meeting, the Board of Education approved the Fiscal Year 2024 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 \$114.9 million and expenses are estimated at \$117.6 million, creating a budgeted deficit of \$2.7 million.

## Celebrating our Board Members

District 62 would like to formally recognize the seven members of its Board of Education for their service and commitment to the district as part of School Board Members Day on November 15.

As community trustees for the schools, school board members have oversight in District 62 for approximately 4,700 students in grades Pre-K through 8; more than 835 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 \$117 million in expenses and continues to maintain a Standard & Poor's Bond Rating of AA+.

Thank you 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
- **Gene Haring**, term began 2023
- **Elizabeth Massa**, term began 2021
- **Jeanette Weller**, term began 2021



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

## District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

Each school year, the [District 62 Education Foundation](#) awards grants to teachers within the district to help fund individual projects for their students. This year, we were able to award just over \$48,000 in grants. Our work is not possible without the generous support we receive from the school community and community members. Thank you for your belief in our mission and donations to our organization.

The Foundation members are so grateful for the relationship we have and the support we receive from all the wonderful people that comprise the District 62 community. The Board of Education members, teachers and staff, and administrators are extremely dedicated and professional. Included in that amazing group of dedicated individuals are some people that don't always get the recognition and appreciation they deserve. There are crossing guards, bus drivers, and PTO Board members that are also working hard on a daily basis to ensure that the students and families of District 62 receive the very best educational experience available. We are thankful and grateful for their hard work and show our appreciation for what they do.

The Foundation Board hopes to continue to provide support for students and staff in District 62. If you have ideas or suggestions please email us at [d62foundation@gmail.com](mailto:d62foundation@gmail.com). If you would like to support our current fundraiser, visit [lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/301538](https://lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/301538). The holiday greenery offered is of exceptional quality. Donations can also be made by visiting our [District 62 Education Foundation](#). We wish you a wonderful holiday season of appreciation and gratitude.



## District 62 recognizes its Difference Makers

In 2020, District 62 began a formal recognition program to honor those staff members considered “Difference Makers” who are a defining example for the learning community of District 62. We thank our Difference Makers for doing a great deal for others without seeking recognition or acknowledgment. They make this learning community a better place through their dedication, commitment and support of public education. Congratulations to our fall **District 62 Difference Makers**:



### **Gloria Smeya, Jacob Bultema, Katherine Kim, Margarita Martinez, Michael Santopalo, Orchard Place Elementary School**

The second grade team makes a difference at Orchard Place Elementary School by collaborating together in order to implement positive learning strategies and creating a supportive and responsive learning environment for all their students.

### **Pam Dobrowski, Orchard Place Elementary School**

Pam has taken on a leadership role at Orchard Place Elementary School and across the district as a PD facilitator, team leader, literacy committee member, and Infinite Campus educator trainer. Pam can frequently be counted on to support various initiatives and continues to support her fellow teachers at Orchard Place.

### **Laura Knotts and Kim McGing, Orchard Place Elementary School**

Parents are grateful for the warm and welcoming environment that Laura and Kim have been able to foster as their children have transitioned to Orchard Place. Students in Laura and Kim’s class are often excited to come to school and feel safe and cared for.

# WE ARE HIRING

## Paraeducators

Fantastic opportunity to work school days Monday - Friday  
Hours:  
Elementary 8:40 am - 3:40 pm  
Middle 8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Salaries start at \$17.00 an hour  
Includes 100% paid Blue Cross Blue Shield  
PPO or HMO for employee can purchase for family

### RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE

- Supporting students in a variety of environments throughout the day with academic instruction, behavior support, and functional skills( ie. Feeding, self-help)
- Helping teachers with different tasks (ie. making copies, laminating, preparing materials)
- Being flexible with your assignment based on the needs of the building
- Ensure the safety and security of students throughout the day
- Supervising children while teacher is remotely teaching
- Maintaining confidentiality of student information

[Click here to start!](#)

