



December 18, 2023

Truth in Taxation Hearing

Finance Liaison Elizabeth Massa called the hearing to order. She opened the hearing by reminding attendees that the 2023 tax levy is the focus of the hearing and provided the public time to comment. A legal hearing notice was published in the Des Plaines Journal December 6.

The proposed levy amounts for all funds, in addition to other annual revenue, are projected to account for the expenditures during the 2024-2025 school year. The total levy request for 2023 is \$87,541,000 which reflects an increase of approximately 2.91% over the 2022 tax extension. The estimated 2023 total tax rate for District 62 is \$4.138 per \$100 of taxable value. The 2022 total tax rate was \$3.499 per \$100 of taxable value.

While the Board of Education recognizes the fact that the district's financial outlook is strong, it should be noted that the tax cap in Cook County, PTAB's (property tax refunds), the state economy, collective bargaining agreements and various pieces of legislation that may or may not be considered, will continue to pose financial challenges in the years ahead. District 62 continues to try to adhere to its Financial Planning Policy, which continues to guide administration related budgeting and expenditures. The Board of Education will continue to strive to provide the best educational programming it can for our children given the resources available and the current economic environment. With the continued support of our community, we hope to maintain high standards, as we continue to prepare our students to become productive and responsible citizens.

There are three main components to calculating tax extension. CPI, which is known, and EAV and new construction, which are not. The 2023 tax levy projects \$30 million in new construction due to the large projects being completed in district and the expiration of a TIF in Rosemont. New construction was \$15.2 million last year. Projections and actuals can vary

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greatly as we don't know when new properties hit the tax rolls, nor do we know their EAV. The district needs to over-estimate to collect all tax dollars available. Given CPI of 6.5%, and the cap of 5.0%, if new construction were the same as a typical year and with the Rosemont TIF expiring, the total extension for 2023 would increase by about 6.25% to approximately \$90.4 million. The 2022 extension was \$85.1million. The Board of Education has decided to intentionally under levy by about \$3 million with the 2.91% estimated levy increase. The Board of Education is also abating the 2023 Debt Service Fund Levy, which is estimated to be \$7.365 million. Moreover, the Board has typically abated the recapture levy, which is \$706,733 this year.

In total the Board will be abating approximately \$11 million to taxpayers.

Student Learning and Support Services Update

Strategic Plan Goal Monitoring: Orchard Place and Plainfield Schools

Principal Jennifer Suárez Bautista shared an update on behalf of [Orchard Place Elementary School](#) while Principal Dr. Lisa Carlos shared an update on behalf of [Plainfield Elementary School](#). Their presentations centered on how their schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan.

Board Development: Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Director of Social Emotional Learning Colin Baer provided the Board of Education with an overview of MTSS in District 62 and the collaborative work that is taking place to support all students. A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Review of School Improvement Plans and Approval of Orchard Place School Improvement Plan

The accompanying School Improvement Plans, prepared by principals, assistant principals and teacher leaders at every school, are in effect for the 2023-2024 school year. Below, please find descriptions of the contents of each school's plan:

- In order to ensure alignment and depth of improvement, the School Improvement Plans align with the district's main areas of focus for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Each plan includes measurable goals in three key areas: Student academic learning in the area of literacy, mathematics and social emotional learning.

District 62 Administration

Dr. Michael Amadei
Superintendent of Schools

Mark Bertolozzi, Assistant
Superintendent of Business Services

Kathleen Kelly Colgan, Assistant
Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Lea Anne Frost, Interim
Assistant Superintendent for
Student Services

Dr. Laura Sangroula, Assistant
Superintendent for Instructional
Services

Adam Denenberg,
Chief Technology Officer

Elizabeth Juskiewicz, Director for
Second Language Learners' Programs

Jennifer Tempest Bova, Director
of Community Relations

Margarite Beniaris, Director of
Student Services

Colin Baer, Director of Social
Emotional Learning

Dr. Julie Fogarty,
Director of Curriculum

Michael Vilendrer, Director
of Operations, Maintenance and
Transportation

Christina Bowman,
Curriculum Coordinator and Data
Specialist

Anel Escamilla, ELL Coordinator

Carlos Rojas, ELL Coordinator

Erica Tae, ELL Coordinator

Jill Dzik, Student Services
Coordinator

Benjamin Keele, Student Services
Coordinator

Kristan Krupinski, Student
Services Coordinator

Margaret Sarti, Student Services
Coordinator

Brandon Schaefer, Student
Services Coordinator

Katerina Vaselopulos, Student
Services Coordinator

- Each goal area includes actionable steps that schools are taking to meet their goals.
- Principals and assistant principals review progress on their goals and action steps with school staff during building meetings with all staff and with their teacher team leader on an ongoing basis.

While all school's School Improvement Plans are included for the Board of Education's review, as a requirement of the Title I 1003(e) school improvement grant that Orchard Place Elementary School will be applying for due to its status as a "targeted support school" it is requested that the Board of Education approve Orchard Place Elementary School's 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan as such.

Adoption of Levy Resolutions for 2023 Tax Year

The Board of Education adopted levy resolutions for the 2023 tax year. The amount of taxes to be levied for the year 2023, to be levied against estimated 2024-2025 fund budget totals as represented during the Truth in Taxation hearing, is as follows:

- Educational Purposes: \$65,100,000
- Special Education Purposes: \$4,300,000
- Tort Immunity Purposes: \$1,050,000
- Operations & Maintenance Purposes: \$9,700,000
- Transportation Purposes: \$3,500,000
- IMRF Purposes: \$1,000,000
- Social Security Purposes: \$1,900,000
- Life Safety Purposes: \$1,000
- Working Cash Purposes: \$990,000
- Bond & Interest Purposes: 0
- Total: **\$87,541,000**

Approve Resolution Regarding Participation in Social Media Litigation

The Board of Education took action to approve its participation in social media litigation with attorney representatives James Frantz, William Shinoff, and Regina Bagdasarian of Frantz Law Group, APLC. In recent years the proliferation of and widespread access to and use of social media among public school students has expanded dramatically, leading to significant risks of anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm, and suicidal ideation among students. The social media litigation is against Meta Platforms, Inc. Facebook Holdings LLC, Snap Inc, TikTok Inc., Alphabet Inc. and other parties responsible for the creation, design, marketing, and proliferation of social media platforms, with this litigation now involving more than 335 U.S. public school districts across more than 11 states. A copy of the resolution can be accessed [here](#).

Consent Agenda

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Ramona "Romy" DeCristofaro was named the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services at the December 18 Board of Education Meeting.

DeCristofaro comes to the district with two decades of experience in special education, having most recently served as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services in Evanston/Skokie School District 65 for the last five years.

“I’m excited to welcome Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro to our administrative team,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “Dr. DeCristofaro has extensive experience within the field of special education as well as teaching and learning. I look forward to supporting her as she focuses on continuing the critical work ahead of us to prioritize student needs, support the whole child and foster genuine relationships with the families of Community Consolidated School District 62.”

DeCristofaro is set to begin July 1, 2024.



Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Massa reminded the Board that ED-RED is holding their Legislative Dinner on January 29 at 5 p.m. Member Haring provided the Board with an update regarding the hiring of the next Executive Director of the Des Plaines History Center. Member Duckmann reminded the Board that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) North Cook Winter Meeting is February 28.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei shared that the Board will hear the recommendations from the Strategic Plan at the February meeting. Dr. Amadei anticipates that the Board will receive a formal presentation regarding Full Day Kindergarten in February as well. Dr. Amadei shared this month’s [D62 story](#) highlighting the Plainfield Kindness Ambassadors.

Tax Levy Comparison 2018-2023 Dashboard Report

The district benefits from having a large EAV base, which in recent years has seen a shift of more tax burden to the residential properties from the commercial/industrial properties. This shift was even greater this year with the triennial reassessment. Over the past six years, CPI has averaged 3.5%, which is higher than the 2.5% thirty-year average. The district is capped at 5% levy growth with 2022 CPI at 6.5%. In 2023, CPI is trending just under 4%. The base EAV was higher in 2022 as Cook County performed its triennial reassessment for suburban properties located in the northern half of the county. The EAV for District 62 has been approximately \$2 billion during the last assessment period from 2019-2021. With the 2022 reassessment, EAV in District 62 went up 22.7% to over \$2.4 billion, this had the effect of reducing the tax rate from about \$4.00 per \$100 of taxable value to approximately \$3.50 per \$100 of taxable value. While CY2022 CPI remains high, the district will need to continue monitoring its revenues. There is still a possibility of a levy freeze would limit the district’s ability to raise revenues in the coming years. Developments on any reduction in state funding or levy freeze will need to be closely monitored and the district will manage its resources to ensure that spending stays in-line with the projected revenue increases.

To view a copy of the dashboard report, click [here](#).