



February 20, 2024

Presentation/Recognition

Rivers Casino Check Presentation

District 62 was the recipient of a \$65,000 grant from Rivers Casino. The grant will go toward the implementation of a U.S. Drone Soccer program at each of the three middle schools: Algonquin Middle School, Chippewa Middle School and Iroquois Community School. Each school will support multiple co-ed teams of students in grades 6-8. Each building will run ongoing programs that include instruction/background information on drone construction and piloting, teambuilding, gameplay/rules, practice/mastery opportunities as well as career readiness skillbuilding.

The grant was submitted by Iroquois Community School Library Media Specialist Cathy Borge.

I'm very excited to bring this grant to life," said Borge. "This grant will allow our students to participate in a competitive e-sport while embracing new skills as they learn how to build and fly drones. These skills will provide opportunities for them as they learn about future career options in the aviation and robotics fields."



District 62 Board of Education

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Margaret Goodchild
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Student Learning and Support Services

Full Day Kindergarten Facilities Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei and Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Mark Bertolozzi provided the Board of an Education with a facilities report as the district begins exploring the implementation for Full Day Kindergarten for the 2027-2028 school year. This process has involved detailed studies, visits to neighboring school districts and conversations with each school principal to understand the needs of their respective learning communities. The administration expects to have a full report for the Board of Education this spring.

Review of Proposed 2024/2025 Staffing

The administrative staff annually reviews district programming needs and projected enrollment for the upcoming school year. The expected outcome from this review is to make a staffing recommendation to the Board of Education for the new school year. During the month of January, the administration began the staffing plan process.

Staffing Proposal

At this time the administration recommends an increase of six (6) total FTE change in order to address the educational needs of students amid an enrollment increase particularly in our EL student population and programmatic shifts in EL and special education throughout the district, as well as changes in administrative structures to more effectively and efficiently meet student and staff needs.

The staffing plan is based on current student enrollment projections and needs. As consistent with past practice, dollars will be budgeted for teacher and paraprofessional salaries in the event there is a need for additional positions. In the spring, the administration will be reviewing student assessment data to assist in refining staffing assignments. In addition, special education and EL staffing needs are driven by annual student reviews and increased student enrollment. The administration may need to make staffing changes as these reviews are completed. The administration will continue to collect data and evaluate staffing needs and bring a formal staffing request to the Board of Education in March.

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

Review of Budget Assumptions

As in past years, the Administration shares with the Board of Education the tentative budget assumptions that will be used to develop the budget for the next fiscal year. School district budget assumptions concern one of four categories: revenue, expenditure, enrollment and staffing.

Enrollment: It appears that total enrollment will be up over this year with our new arrival students. However, overall enrollment is down from ten years ago.

Staffing: An overall increase 6.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions are being recommended at this time. However, the staffing needs may change once spring assessments are analyzed and registrations have been collected.

The Pension Cost Shift & Property Tax “Freeze”: A major factor influencing the FY2025 budget, and the budgets in later years, is the possibility of a tax levy freeze and a pension cost shift. The general consensus is that a pension cost shift is unlikely to occur in the next two years, however, there is a good chance one will be gradually implemented in later years. The state may also try to pass a tax levy freeze to offset other tax increases. While the levy freeze and pension cost shift are unlikely to occur in the next two years, the chance of those proposals passing legislatively increases in the longer-term.

First Student Transportation Contract Extension

The district has been renewing its transportation contract with First Student on a yearly basis since the expiration of the three-year contract in 2020 as previously allowed by school code. On January 1, 2024, a new law went into effect allowing for school districts to enter into longer term contracts, including the length of renewals. The district has been working with First Student on a three-year contract extension that will increase safety, security, and service. Starting next year, the fleet of new buses will include air conditioning, real-time cameras, an application for parents to see the location of the buses in route, and scanning equipment to allow students to swipe onto the bus for better student location management. The Board of Education is expected to take action at the March meeting.

Consent Agenda

Proposed 2024-2025 Calendars for 10-month and Iroquois Community School

The Board of Education approved the 2024-2025 school calendars for our 10-month schools and Iroquois Community School. Below are key dates for the 2024-2025 school year:

10-month Schools

Beginning of the School Year: First day of student attendance, grades 1-8 on August 20, 2024. Preschool and kindergarten on August 21, 2024

Parent Teacher Conferences: October 10 and 11, 2024.

Fall Break: November 25-29, 2024.

Winter Break: December 23, 2024 through January 6, 2025.

Spring Break: March 24-April 1, 2025.

End of the School Year: June 5, 2025.

Iroquois Community School

Beginning of the School Year: First day of student attendance, grades 1-8 on July 17, 2024. Kindergarten on July 18, 2024.

Intersession: September 16, 2024 through October 4, 2024.

Fall break: November 27-29, 2024.

Winter Break: December 16, 2024 through January 6, 2025.

Intersession: March 10-21, 2025.

Spring Break: March 24, 2025 through April 1, 2025.

End of the School Year: June 11, 2025.

The 2024-2025 10-month schools calendar can be viewed [here](#).

The 2024-2025 Iroquois Community School calendar can be viewed [here](#).

Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Duckmann reminded the Board that the North Cook Division meeting is February 28. Member Massa discussed the ED-RED Legislative Dinner that was held on January 29 and featured a legislative panel. ED-RED held a member meeting on February 9 featuring the Cook County Assessor. Vice President Beth Morley announced the Foundation's upcoming "Pizza Wars" event to be held at 2 p.m., February 25 at the Danube Swabian Center in Des Plaines. To register, click [here](#).

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Amadei also highlighted the district's recent safety training that took place for all administrators on February 16. Safety protocols were introduced as well as the introduction to the district's reunification method which will be an elaborate process. The Standard Response Protocol safety training was facilitated by the ["I Love U Guys" Foundation](#). In addition, Dr. Amadei recognized our partnership with the Des Plaines Police Department as we continue to focus on safety protocols in our schools. Dr. Amadei recognized our incoming Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro for winning the 2024 Women in Leadership award. Dr. Amadei invited Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Mark Bertolozzi to provide a few updates that included the upcoming modular classroom installation at North Elementary School next month (weather permitting). While all playgrounds in the district are ADA Compliant, there is an awareness for inclusivity and as such, the district will explore the expansion of inclusive playgrounds. Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei shared this month's [D62 Story](#) highlighting the various centers that support the children of the Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center.





Dashboard: District Financial Profile 2019-2023

The district has maintained recognition status for the past 18 years. With the debt retirement in FY2020, the percentage of long-term debt capacity increase enough to give District 62 a perfect 4.0 Financial Profile Score. The district should be able to maintain this score for many years provided that it reduces expenses presently paid for by short-term federal funding. The district's strong financial position is the result of years of prudent financial management. To view a copy of the dashboard report, [click here](#).