



April 15, 2024

Presentations/Recognitions

Recognition of 25-Year Employees, 62 Stories Video presentation and Infinitec Student Technology Achievement Award winner Jamal Mian

Community Consolidated School District 62 recognized its 25-year employees at the April 15 Board of Education meeting.

25-Year Service Employees

- Victoria Ales (Terrace Elementary School)
- Susan Artarian (Administration Center)
- Erin Ballman (All D62 Schools)
- Malgorzata Biega (Cumberland Elementary School)
- Polly Brenner (Central Elementary School)
- Melissa Broska (Orchard Place Elementary School)
- Bridget Francese (North Elementary School)
- Kristen Goczkowski (Iroquois Community School)
- Melissa Lenski (Iroquois Community School)
- Shawn Mannion (Plainfield Elementary School)
- Aaron Nussbaum (Cumberland Elementary School)
- Maria del Pilar Ramirez (Early Learning Center)
- Lara Simonian (North Elementary School)
- William Snyder (Iroquois Community School)
- Maureen Wentzell-Genke (Chippewa Middle School)

In addition, the district shared this month's [D62 Story](#) for South Elementary School which featured the story of how two clubs combined into one. The presentations concluded with the recognition of Forest Elementary student Jamal Mian who received the Infinitec Technology Achievement Award this month.

District 62 Board of Education

Ronald Burton
President

Beth Morley
Vice President

Stephanie Duckmann
Member

Tina Garrett
Member

Gene Haring
Member

Elizabeth Massa
Member

Jeanette Weller
Member

Margaret Goodchild
Secretary to the Board of Education

Student Learning and Support Services Update



Strategic Goal Monitoring: Forest and South Elementary Schools

Principal Amy Cengel and Assistant Principal Traci Reiner shared an [update](#) from Forest Elementary School and Principal Kristin Jares shared an [update](#) from South Elementary School. Their presentations centered on how their schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan Approval

The Board approved the district's new five-year strategic plan. The strategic plan was facilitated by the Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC). Developed through a collaborative effort that involved District 62 students, District 207 students, staff, Board of Education members, families and community, the newly adopted strategic plan focuses on five key goals:



Goal 1: Engage all students in learning that leads to academic growth, achievement, and readiness for high school and beyond.

Goal 2: Cultivate a safe, inclusive, and engaging culture of learning that supports the academic, social, and emotional growth of each student.

Goal 3: Invest in our diverse workforce to encourage innovation, collaboration, communication, responsibility and accountability.

Goal 4: Cultivate partnerships with families and the community to support and expand learning opportunities for each student.

Goal 5: Make effective and efficient use of resources to maximize educational success for each student, every school and the district.

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

Approval of Student Services Curriculum Adoption

The Board of Education approved the adoption of materials and training to support the updated special education curriculum. Based upon information gathered in the spring of 2023, the Student Services Department began the task of developing a curriculum adoption committee for grades kindergarten through 8th that represented all buildings and programs. The committee utilized a 6-step process to guide their work which will be cyclical in the subsequent years.

Highlights of the committee's work entailed:

- Holding a curriculum fair that was attended by 12 vendors who demonstrated reading, writing and math curriculums,
- Reviewing curriculum currently utilized within the district as well as others that were not represented at the curriculum fair,
- Engaging in various “strengths/challenges” activities, to identify curricular programs to pilot throughout the district in different buildings and programs, and
- Creating a curriculum map.

The Committee ultimately recommended to the Board of Education, 10 reading programs, 3 writing programs and 7 math programs that would meet the unique needs of students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in the district.

Annual Monitoring of District Technology Report

Chief Technology Officer Adam Denenberg provided an overview of the department projects from the year that included the launch of the district website, safety and security, Artificial Intelligence and looking ahead to the next school year. A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

District Paving Bid Results and Approval

As discussed at the March 2024 Board meeting, bids were solicited to do paving work at Orchard Place, South, and Cumberland, and to do sealcoating where needed throughout the district. Bids were submitted by and opened on April 3, 2024. The district only received one bid, which was submitted by Chicagoland Paving Company. Eriksson Engineering has reviewed the scope of work and bid with Chicagoland Paving, and has determined that Chicagoland will be able to complete the work. Chicagoland has also done work for the district in the past. The Board of Education approve the contract with Chicagoland Paving Company for the amount of \$850,000.

Consent Agenda

Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center Principal

Xrisovalantou “Valia” Garbis was named Principal of the Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center at the April 15 Board of Education Meeting.

Garbis will replace Margarite Beniaris who will retire at the end of this school year after serving 17 years as Director of the Early Learning Center.

“We are incredibly grateful to Mrs. Beniaris’ dedication and leadership to the children and families of the Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “She has had a profound impact on the lives of countless students, staff and families.”

For the last year, Garbis has served as assistant principal of the Early Learning Center. Prior to that, she was a Student Services Coordinator in District 62, where she was responsible for administering and supervising special education programs and services in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations.

“What drives me is building relationships, collaboration, and continuous improvement,” said Garbis. “I am devoted to providing a school and community partnership to foster a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment where all of our young learners can flourish and grow.”



Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Garrett attended Advocacy Day in Springfield facilitated through ED-RED. It was a nice event and great day. Member Garrett thanked ED-RED for hosting the event. Vice-President Morley announced that the District 62 Education Foundation will host a Trivia Night on April 26. Click [here](#) to register. Member Massa shared an ED-RED update including initiatives that ED-RED is lobbying on behalf of public education. The de-prioritization of school polling places is at a standstill at this time. Supporting the newcomer program is moving forward in committee. President Burton announced that the Des Plaines Youth Commission will host a Community Fun Fair from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 11 at Prairie Lakes Community Center.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei had a few updates to share. Dr. Lisa Carlos, Principal of Plainfield Elementary School, is a finalist to receive the Golden Apple Leadership Award. The winner will be announced within the next few months. Dr. Amadei wishes Dr. Carlos the best. He also shared that he hosted the first district Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) group for families of children with special needs to have voice and a space in D62 to speak openly and collaborate on behalf of their children. Dr. Amadei is working on a music instrument donation program in order to provide children with the opportunity to have

access to instruments as they embrace the arts. Chief Business Official Mark Bertolozzi updated the Board on a few items including the North modular classroom. The Regional Office of Education will conduct its formal inspection on April 18. Food service bidding process continues with results expected to be shared at the May 20 Board of Education meeting. Work continues with Full Day Kindergarten. Weekly meetings have been taking place on this topic including an architectural RFP to be taking place this spring.

Dashboard Report: Staff Development Activities

Professional learning funds allowed District 62 staff to receive training affecting school improvement and student achievement, including: curriculum articulation and collaboration among teachers, assessment results analysis and next steps planning based on students' learning needs, mathematics learning, literacy learning, learning for English Learners, improved pedagogical practices, leadership skills, and social-emotional learning and much more. A copy of the Dashboard Report can be accessed [here](#).

Reorganization Meeting

The Board of Education elected officers for a one-year term:

President: Ronald Burton

Vice President: Elizabeth Massa

Board Liaisons

Building and Operations: Beth Morley

Community Relations: Gene Haring

Education: Jeanette Weller

Finance: Elizabeth Massa

Personnel: Stephanie Duckmann

Policy: Tina Garrett

Board Representatives

IASB North Cook: Stephanie Duckmann

IASB Legislative/Delegate: Ronald Burton

ED-RED: Tina Garrett

ED-RED Alternate: Jeanette Weller and Gene Haring

Foundation: Beth Morley and Elizabeth Massa

The Board convenes its meetings on the third Monday of the month, except for the following meetings:

- August 12, 2024
- January 21, 2025
- February 18, 2025

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 starting at 7:00 p.m.