



May 20, 2024

Presentations/Recognitions

Middle School Students You Should Know

District 62 middle school students were recognized at the May 20 Board of Education Meeting as part of the Middle School Students You Should Know recognition program.

Students were recognized in nine different categories:

Academic Excellence

- Caitlin Paunilian, 8th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Michal Piosik, 8th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Kaleab Kassa, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Enthusiastic Learner

- Jayne Thomas, 7th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Ashur Yokhanna, 6th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Juliana De Veyra, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Exceptional Service to School and Community

- Paige Alde, 7th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Emily Owca, 8th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Anthony Kusior, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Leadership Qualities

- Khloe Marquez, 8th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Kaya Kaminski, 7th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Timothy Murphy, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Outstanding Character

- Brooklyn Carson, 8th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Isabella Sparrow, 7th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Isabel Reveles, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

District 62 Board of Education

Ronald Burton
President

Elizabeth Massa
Vice President

Stephanie Duckmann
Member

Tina Garrett
Member

Gene Haring
Member

Beth Morley
Member

Jeanette Weller
Member

Margaret Goodchild
Secretary to the Board of Education

Peer Mentor

- Dania Crawford, 7th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Angelo Bello, 7th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Hanna Balchan, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Positive Attitude, Behavior and Effort

- Matei Duma, 8th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- William Martell, 6th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Isabelle Carrell, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Positive Role Model

- Elvir Music, 8th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Cara Hock, 6th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Melina Wodskow, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

Positive School Spirit and Good Sportsmanship

- Elijah Blake, 8th grade, Algonquin Middle School
- Jenifer Garcia, 8th grade, Chippewa Middle School
- Arnav Desai, 8th grade, Iroquois Community School

In addition, this month's [62 Story](#) was shown featuring how District 62 is focusing on a commitment to invest in the district's music program in order to support and and expand students' musical talents.

Student Learning and Support Services Update

Strategic Goal Monitoring: Cumberland and North Elementary Schools

Principal Marc Infante and Assistant Principal Costantina Mazzone shared an [update](#) from Cumberland Elementary School and Principal Carolyn Allar and Assistant Principal Ashley Patterson shared an [update](#) from North Elementary School. Their presentations centered on how their schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan.

Review of Student Handbook

Administration provided a brief overview of the Student Handbook proposed revisions that will be published electronically for the FY25 school year.

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 Vaselopoulos

Student Services Coordinator

Developmental Budget

Assistant Superintendent Mark Bertolozzi reviewed the developmental budget for the upcoming school year. The purpose of this developmental budget is to provide the Board of Education with an early look at the tentative budget assumptions. The final budget will be adopted in September. Listed below are dates related to 2023-2024 budget development:

- Monday, May 20, 2024: The Board of Education receives the initial developmental FY2025 budget assumptions and approves the release of the FY2025 purchase orders
- Monday, August 12, 2024: The Board of Education receives and adopts the Tentative FY2025 Budget
- Monday, September 16, 2024: The Board of Education receives and adopts the Final FY2025 Budget

Approval of Food Services Bid with Organic Life

The most recent renewal with Arbor for the 2023-2024 meal program was the fourth and final under the 2019 food service bid. As a result, the district was required to bid its food service contract for the 2024-2025 school year. The Board of Education approved the bid for contracted food service for the 2024-2025 school year to Organic Life LLC.

Approval of TIF Reform Resolution

In order to increase awareness regarding the impact of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts on public school districts, the Board of Education approved a resolution. A copy of the resolution can be accessed [here](#).



Consent Agenda

Director of Student Services

Heidi Rudy was formally approved as the Director of Student Services. This is a new position for the district. The Director of Student Services shares a key role in the management and leadership of the Student Services department. This role will utilize current research and best practices to build and sustain district-wide systems that will promote the academic growth and social emotional well-being of all students, along with being responsible for overseeing a variety of student support services including special education, Section 504, social work, and health services.

“It is a great honor to be selected as the Director of Student Services here in Community Consolidated District 62,” said Rudy. “I am beyond thrilled to join an amazing team of dedicated staff members and am genuinely looking forward to serving the students and community this upcoming school year.”

English Learner Coordinators

Electra Giannakopoulos and Karina Paul were approved as English Learner (EL) Coordinators. In their roles, EL Coordinators are responsible for supporting school leaders and staff with meeting the academic

and social emotional needs of English Learners. They will be working with schools in their efforts to support students as they transition to English. They are also responsible for coordinating schedules, overseeing the administration of ACCESS testing (as required by the state) and ensuring students are making measurable gains within state standards. They will also be working in collaboration with families and with the community through such events as Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC).



“I am excited to be joining the District 62 team as an EL Coordinator,” said Giannakopoulos. “Having grown up in a bilingual household myself, my goal is to ensure equity, access, and academic success for all learners. I aspire to bridge expertise and leadership, facilitating collaboration amongst educators, support staff, and families.”

Electra Giannakopoulos brings a decade of dedicated teaching experience to District 62. During her initial five-year tenure at Mark Twain, she excelled as an ESL Teacher, co-teaching students across all grade levels and providing support to multilingual learners. Over the last five years at Gemini Middle School, she

has demonstrated her commitment as a Special Education teacher. Giannakopoulos has consistently met the diverse needs of her students by fostering strong partnerships with families and collaborating with specialists, resulting in meaningful and effective educational experiences.

“I’m excited to start my new role as an English Learner Coordinator,” said Karina Paul. “I am also excited to work in the district where I was once a student. Thank you for the opportunity to help make a difference in the place that helped develop me as a learner.”

Karina Paul has been in education for 15 years, starting as a bilingual resource teacher in 8th grade for District 15 teaching Language Arts and Writing. After that, she became a bilingual resource teacher for grades 3rd-6th in the same district where she co-taught with teachers to support their multilingual learners, provided services to newcomers, and provided small group reading and math instruction. During her last years in District 15, Paul was a classroom teacher for kindergarten, ½ multiage, and second grade. In 2020-2022, she taught first grade in East Maine School District 63. For the past two years, she has been able to be a homeschool mother in Haiti.



Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Haring announced that the 45th anniversary memorial gathering honoring the victims of the Flight 191 airplane crash will take place at 2 p.m., May 25 at Lake Opeka. In addition, Member Haring recognized Tina Garrett’s daughter Lily Garrett for being nominated as the Athlete of the Month via the Daily

Herald. Member Morley announced that the District 62 Education Foundation held a Trivia Night and raised a significant amount of money to support the students of District 62. The next meeting of the Foundation will take place at 5:30 p.m. on June 24 during which time the Foundation is seeking Board members. Member Garrett announced that Maine West will host a Pride Fest event from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on June 1. President Burton thanked Vice President Massa and Member Weller for representing the Board at the Des Plaines Youth Commission Fun Fair. The Middle School Students You Should Know nominees will be invited to be part of the Youth Commission Student Board.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei announced that the Food Truck Round Up will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 21 at Forest Elementary School and held in conjunction with the Early Learning Center Community Resource Fair which will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dr. Amadei also shared that the [2023 Annual Report](#) was released to the community and is now online. Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Mark Bertolozzi provided a few updates including one on HB4652 which will provide up to \$10,000 in stipend pay to student teachers. The funding of this stipend will come entirely from the State of Illinois. The district will need to account for these student teachers and process payment to them. However, the funding for these stipends is subject to state appropriations.

Dashboard Report: Wellness Screenings

Annual wellness screenings have been offered to all staff members since 2008. Initially, screenings were offered to help offset the rising costs of insurance premiums. Addressing health concerns/conditions before they spiral out of control can result in a savings not only in the annual premium rate increases and policy experience (which drives the premium rates), but also in overall medical expenditures for a long term or serious health claim linked to lack of early treatment or intervention. Employees may choose between a screening or a visit to their personal physician. The screenings are mandatory to all employees currently on our medical insurance policy and in a bargaining unit. The district continues to invest in employee wellness in order to improve employee health, identify illness early, increase productivity, increase attendance and lower risk and cost. This program has been widely accepted and attended by all staff. A copy of the Dashboard Report can be accessed [here](#).

62 COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

