



June 17, 2024

## Presentations/Recognitions

### Recognition of Dr. Erica Cupuro and 62Story Video Presentation



Central Elementary School Principal Erica Cupuro was recognized for recently earning her Doctoral degree from Western Illinois University.

In addition, this month's [62Story](#) this month's was shown featuring now-retired Music Teacher (and District 62 alumni) Colleen Beaver and her impact on the fine arts program at Orchard Place Elementary School.

## Student Learning and Support Services Update

### Year-end Monitoring of Long-Term Community Relations Plan

Director of Community Relations Jennifer Tempest Bova shared updates from the 2023-2024 school year on behalf of the Community Relations department. A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

### Student Performance Monitoring: Spring 2024

Data Specialist and Curriculum Coordinator Christina Bowman presented the Board with a review of the district's student academic assessment outcomes.

## 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

The presentation includes results in math and reading from the following 2024 spring assessments:

- Kindergarten through 2nd grade students: FastBridge assessments
- 3rd-8th grade students: NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

## Approval of Orchard Place Elementary School Improvement Plan

In November 2023, district administration was notified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that Children with Disabilities (students with IEP and 504 plans) in third through fifth grade at Orchard Place School performed on the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) at an Overall Index Score of 34.02 which was below the targeted score of 35.40. Hence, ISBE placed this special population at Orchard Place School on a School Improvement Plan that spans across four years.

Year One of the School Improvement Plan (the rest of the 23-24 school year) was deemed a planning year by ISBE. During this time, Orchard Place School held Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings and staff planning meetings outside of the school day to determine the factors impacting student achievement and develop a plan to address the barriers.

During these meetings, the following factors were found to impact student achievement:

- Chronic absenteeism which affects students' receipt of instruction and application of skills,
- Lack of updated curriculums that are research- and/or evidence-based, and
- A data analysis process whereby student performance is collected, reviewed, analyzed, and acted upon.

During the 23-24 school year, the Student Services Department addressed the need for updating curricular programs and creating a data analysis process throughout the district. For the 2024-2025 school year, the district will focus on curriculum coaching and addressing barriers for student attendance.

## 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 Inclusive Playground Enhancements at Forest and Cumberland Elementary Schools

While the district's playgrounds are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, the district has been working over the last year to make our playgrounds more inclusive in areas where the need is greatest. The Board of Education learned about two additional play areas for consideration that are wheelchair accessible, along with options related to playground surfacing through the Sourcewell National Joint Purchasing Cooperative.

## Consent Agenda

### Student Services Coordinator

Angela Riggio was named Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center Student Services Coordinator at the June 17 Board of Education Meeting. In her role as Student Services Coordinator, Riggio is responsible for administering and supervising special education programs and services in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations.



Riggio started her career as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher in the classroom in Berwyn North District 98 with nine years of experience. She worked with various students with multiple needs. She then took on a leadership position as the Special Education Specialist for the past four years, leading Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, collaborating with administration and working with Special Education teachers. Riggio also facilitated the transition process for families coming out of Early Intervention transitioning to school.

"I am so excited to be joining District 62 as the Student Services Coordinator at Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center," said Riggio. "I believe that all children have the ability to learn and it is a joy to be a part of their education, especially the beginning."

### Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center Assistant Principal



Taylor Ivan was named Assistant Principal of the Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center. Ivan has spent the last eight years as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher and Teacher Facilitator, serving students and families at the Westerhold Early Learning Center. She has also served on various teams and committees in District 62, including the mentorship program and the Strategic Plan Team.

"It has been a privilege to have worked in this amazing school district for nearly eight years and I am committed to continue to carry out the mission and vision of District 62," said Ivan. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students to foster a nurturing environment for our youngest learners."

## Communications

### Board of Education

Board Member Morley recognized District 62 Education Foundation Board Member Maxine Hubbard who passed away on June 1. Mrs. Hubbard was a former principal and teacher in the district and contributed to the community in countless ways. The Foundation will meet on June 24 to determine their new path forward. President Burton thanked everyone who attended the three Promotion ceremonies this year. Member Haring invited the community to participate in the Des Plaines Independence Day Parade on July 4. District 62 will be participating in the parade this year with students from Iroquois Community School.

### Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei echoed Member Morley's comments about Mrs. Hubbard and her legacy to the district and community. District 62 will remain forever grateful to her care and kindness to the students and staff of District 62. Dr. Amadei shared that he is excited to participate in the upcoming Independence Day Parade. In addition, the Cabinet will be participating in an upcoming retreat on July 11 and 12. The district is preparing for its upcoming Institute Day on August 16 that will feature a keynote speaker that will focus on culture in an effort to give all staff the best start to their school year. Following the Institute Day event, administrators will serve lunch to staff. The district continues to maintain a focus on crisis response, having just completed a table-top drill earlier this month. Dr. Amadei wished former district webmaster Ejaz Syed all the best in his upcoming retirement.

### Dashboard Report: Workers' Compensation Data FY2018-2025

The district realized a substantial increase in its experience modification for FY25 to 1.39. The experience modification is calculated based on a three-year average over FY21-FY23. The claim costs and number of claims over these three years are higher than usual. While FY24 is not completed at the time of this writing, it will be an improvement over the FY23 claims incurred, and more typical of the district's historical experience. This will mean the district's experience modification is likely to be over 1.00 for the next two years. The benefit of being part of a pool is that the district is better able to spread out risk, and one or two bad years doesn't impact your experience modification nearly as much as unfavorable trends. A copy of the report can be accessed [here](#).