



September 16, 2024

Public Hearing on 2024-2025 Budget

Review of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

The Board of Education held a Public Hearing on the school budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The tentative budget has been on display and available for public inspection at the District Administration office as required by law. Notice of said public hearing was published in the Daily Herald newspaper.

Presentations/Recognitions

Des Plaines Youth Commission Recognition of District Participation in the Pay It Forward Initiative

The Des Plaines Youth Commission recognized all District 62 schools for participating in the Youth Commission's Pay it Forward initiative this spring. During that time, students participated in acts of goodwill and kindness.



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

Student Learning and Support Services Update

Strategic Goal Monitoring: Algonquin and Chippewa Middle Schools

Principal Dr. Donald Jones and Assistant Principal Panagiota “Patty” Tzortzis shared an update from Algonquin Middle School and Principal Juliana Vissering and Assistant Principal Lorence Reid shared an update from Chippewa Middle School. Each presentation highlights how each school is focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan. A copy of the AMS presentation can be accessed [here](#). A copy of the CMS presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

The Board of Education formally approved the 2024-2025 budget. As required by state law, the Board adopted a resolution in January that directed administration to begin the budget development process and prepare the budget in tentative form. In August, the administration presented the tentative budget and indicated that the final budget would be presented to the Board of Education for adoption at the September Board meeting. The district projects approximately \$114 million in revenues over the next year. This includes revenues from local taxes, state funding and federal funding. A copy of the budget can be accessed [here](#).

Appointment to the Position of School Trustee

In the last legislative session, the state legislature passed a law to require a representative of school districts in Cook County that use a Township Treasurer, to appoint a School Trustee to oversee the Township Treasurer. There will no longer be elected School Trustees. Once the term of duly elected trustees expires, their service in the role will conclude. While the law was passed in June, the governor signed the law into effect on Friday, August 9, the Friday before the August Board Meeting. Most districts appoint their Business Official to the position of School Trustee. The Board of Education approved the resolution appointing Mark Bertolozzi to the position of School Trustee.

District 62 Administration

Dr. Michael Amadei
Superintendent of Schools

Mark Bertolozzi, Assistant
Superintendent of Business Services

Kathleen Kelly Colgan, Assistant
Superintendent for Human Resources

Amy Cengel, Assistant
Superintendent for Instructional
Services

Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro
Assistant Superintendent for
Student Services

Adam Denenberg,
Chief Technology Officer

Jennifer Tempest Bova, Director
of Community Relations

Colin Baer, Director of Social
Emotional Learning

Dr. Julie Fogarty,
Director of Curriculum

Elizabeth Juskiewicz, Director for
Second Language Learners' Programs

Heidi Rudy, Director of Student
Services

Michael Vilendrer, Director
of Operations, Maintenance and
Transportation

Christina Bowman,
Curriculum Coordinator and Data
Specialist

Anel Escamilla, ELL Coordinator

Electra Giannakopoulos, ELL
Coordinator

Karina Paul, ELL Coordinator

Erica Tae, ELL Coordinator

Jill Dzik, Student Services
Coordinator

Benjamin Keele, Student Services
Coordinator

Angela Riggio, Student Services
Coordinator

Brandon Schaefer, Student
Services Coordinator

Katerina Vaselopulos, Student
Services Coordinator

Communications

Board of Education

Vice President Massa thanked Mike Vilendrer and his team of custodians for ensuring a smooth start to the school year. Classrooms looked ready to go, landscaping was pristine and that helped set the stage for a strong start to the year. Member Duckmann reminded the Board that the Illinois Association of School Board's (IASB) North Cook division will hold its dinner meeting on September 30 that will feature state legislators discussing hot topics happening in the state. Member Haring spent a few hours with Orchard Place staff and students at Feed My Starving Children volunteering time with third, fourth and fifth grade students who were passionate and happy. Together, they packed 160 cases which amounts to 4,100 meals for children who need food around the world. Member Garrett shared that District 64 Superintendent Dr. Ben Collins will be speaking at Go Green Park Ridge.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei began the meeting by sharing a brief video highlighting the strategic plan [core values](#) and what those values mean to students as part of the district's strategic plan video series. Dr. Amadei thanked all administrators for attending the Board meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Amy Cengel is at a conference this week. Mrs. Cengel and Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. DeCristofaro continue to embrace their listening tour throughout the schools. The District Safety Committee will meet this week as well as Parent Leader and Community Leader meetings. Despite the recent power outages that have occurred, Dr. Amadei shared that the district is able to operate a normal school day with a generator. In addition, conversations are taking place with a strategic plan consultant to help us with the process as we begin our work to support the five goal areas. The district is in close communication with the Des Plaines Police Department to discuss hiring more crossing guards for our community. Chief Business Official Mark Bertolozzi shared additional information regarding hazardous crossings in the community. There are eight hazardous crossings within district boundaries. In addition, the environmental study was conducted for 1717 Rand Road which is under contract by the district. There was nothing of concern found. The closing is scheduled for September 26.

Dashboard Report: Enrollment for 2024-2025 School Year

This is the third consecutive year of enrollment increases after several years of declining enrollment. The data demonstrate that the enrollment increase for the 2024-2025 school year has the biggest impacts seen at Algonquin Middle School, South Elementary School and the Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center. This is the third year in a row for an increase at the WELC, where numbers remain robust. It is notable that two special education classes were relocated from North to South this year, which accounts for some of the +22 increase at South. Current numbers as of September 9 show an additional 27 enrollments in total and enrollment updates will continue to be provided throughout the year. The Kasarda Report projections have been updated as of Spring 2024. The report makes projections based on a variety of factors, specifically Future Fertility Rates, Housing Turnover and Resulting Immigration of Families with Preschool Age and School Age Children and provides information across three possibilities: Less Than Anticipated, As Anticipated and Greater Than Anticipated. The enrollment numbers presented fall within the ranges contained within the report. A copy of the report can be accessed [here](#).