



November 18, 2024

Presentations/Recognitions

62Stories Video Presentation

The Board of Education meeting began with a viewing of the [62Stories](#) showcasing Cumberland Elementary School's Educational Life Skills (ELS) Buddies program. This structured teaching model supports students with different life skills in an inclusive learning environment.

Recognition of School Board Members Day, American Education Week

Director of Community Relations Jennifer Tempest Bova began the meeting by recognizing the seven community members who make up the Board of Education and give their time to support the staff and students as part of School Board Member Appreciation Day (November 15). In addition, the 830 staff members in the district were recognized for their service and commitment as part of American Education Week (November 18-22)

2024 Winter Card Contest Winners

This year's Winter Card Design Contest winners were announced with over 70 submissions this year. District 62 extends its deepest appreciation to Frisbie Senior Center visitors and our community leaders who served as judges to determine this year's winners.

Congratulations to the 2024 Winter Card Contest Winners:

- 1st Place: **Arish Arsalan**, Grade 6, Chippewa Middle
- 2nd Place: **Grace Jacks**, Grade 5, Iroquois Community School
- 3rd Place: **Olivia Michalski**, Grade 7, Chippewa Middle 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



Student Learning and Support Services Update

Student Performance Monitoring: District 62 Assessments, Including IAR, ISA, DLM, and ACCESS

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Amy Cengel, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro, Director of Multilingual Programs Elizabeth Juskiewicz and Curriculum Coordinator and Data Specialist Christina Bowman provided an overview of District 62's student performance. The purpose of the student performance monitoring presentation is to provide the Board of Education with a review of District 62's performance in key areas. This year's [presentation](#) provides an overview of the state's annual assessments which included:



- **IAR:** The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois public schools. IAR assesses the new Illinois Learning Standards incorporating the Common Core in English Language Arts and Mathematics for 3rd-8th grade students.
- **ISA:** The Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) is administered to students in 5th and 8th grades. The assessment is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- **ACCESS:** The English language proficiency exam based on the WIDA Standards for English language development. This assessment includes items in all domains of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These domains are assessed within content areas such as math, science, and social studies. This assessment is for all children identified as Multilingual Learners (ML) in grades K through 8.
- **DLM:** The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is administered to students grades 3-8, with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The IEP team determines which students qualify for alternate assessment and may participate in the DLM. Students who take DLM assessments are instructed and assessed on Essential Elements. Essential Elements are grade-specific expectations about what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities should know and be able to do.

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 of
Multilingual Programs

Heidi Rudy, Director of Student
Services

Michael Vilendrer, Director
of Operations, Maintenance and
Transportation

Christina Bowman,
Curriculum Coordinator and Data
Specialist

Anel Escamilla, Multilingual
Coordinator

Electra Giannakopoulos,
Multilingual Coordinator

Karina Paul, Multilingual
Coordinator

Erica Tae, Multilingual Coordinator

Jill Dzik, Student Services
Coordinator

Benjamin Keele, Student Services
Coordinator

Angela Riggio, Student Services
Coordinator

Brandon Schaefer, Student
Services Coordinator

Katerina Vaselopoulos, Student
Services Coordinator

Board Development: School Finance

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Mark Bertolozzi provided the Board of Education with an overview of School Finances that includes topics such as the school finance schedule, Consumer Price Index and fund balance. A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Estimated Levy Resolution for the 2024 Levy Year

As discussed at the October 21, 2024 Board Meeting, the district must adopt the Tentative 2024 Levy at the November 18, 2024 Board Meeting and authorize the Administration to publish the Public Hearing Notice. The levy model includes a projected increase for New Property EAV, which could include new property from house starts throughout the district, and the expiration of a Des Plaines TIF. Based upon the increase in the 2023 Consumer Price Index, Urban (CPI-U) of 3.4% and the projected increase in the New Property EAV, the tax rate model has calculated an increase of 4.0% in the overall projected 2024 levy dollars from the prior year. At the Board of Education's direction, the overall increase on tax capped funds levied will be 1.50%, which will yield a levy on tax capped funds about \$2.2 million less than the maximum allowed under PTELL.

The increase over the prior year does not include the Debt Service Fund Levy. As of December 1, 2024, the district retired all outstanding debt.

In total:

- 1) The district has been abating the Debt Service Fund, in the average amount of \$8.1 million annually in past years.
- 2) The Board of Education may continue to abate the recapture levy, which has ranged between \$800,000 and \$2.1 million since it became available three years ago.
- 3) At the Board of Education's direction, the district will under levy on tax capped funds by approximately \$2.2 million. With the \$2.8 million abatement last year, the district has abated \$5 million from operating funds over the last two years.

Approval of Student Fee Recommendations

The Board of Education adopted the student fee recommendations, which is to maintain 2025/2026 student fees at the same levels as the 2024/2025 fee schedules as noted below.

2025/2026 Total Student Instructional Fees Schedule

- Kindergarten – \$78.00
- Grade 1 – \$84.00
- Grade 2 – \$84.00
- Grade 3 – \$88.00
- Grade 4 – \$88.00
- Grade 5 – \$88.00
- Grade 6 – \$131.00
- Grade 7 – \$118.00

- Grade 8 – \$118.00

AMS & CMS 8th Grade Promotion Fee – \$20.00 - Collected Separately

Technology Maintenance Fee - \$30.00 per Device - Collected Separately

Optional Fees (Replacement/additional items purchased separately)

- Combination Lock Set - \$13.00
- PE Shirt - \$8.00
- PE Shorts - \$8.00
- Extracurricular Fee - \$25.00 (\$50 for sports that require a referee) with a maximum extracurricular fee of \$75 per student.

Three-Year Facilities Project Outlook

To keep the Board of Education informed as to the upcoming facility needs throughout the district, Administration provides the Board of Education with a three-year facility project outlook on an annual basis. This outlook is tentative, especially in the later years, and projects may be moved up or down in priority based on changes in need, condition, pricing, weather, and supply chain issues. For items listed in the coming year, preliminary work may be in the process of starting to get items like surveying, engineering plans, project specs, and permit applications completed in a timely manner. Please note that the budget estimates are based on recent costs of similar projects, which may or may not be accurate to estimating the cost of future work. A copy of the three-year facilities outlook can be accessed [here](#).

Communications

Board of Education

Vice President Liz Massa said that she and her family enjoyed AMS Steam Night on November 14. The event featured an array of activities. Mrs. Massa thanked AMS staff for the event. Board Member Garrett thanked the district for the [Kindergarten Handbook](#) which is online and also printed in Spanish, Polish and Russian. District 62 Education Foundation held a Spelling Bee on November 6 at Des Plaines Theater. Over 30 students signed up for the event. Additional upcoming Foundation events including pizza wars and trivia night. Board Member Haring thanked the district for their efforts to help communicate additional information about the Community Backpack program to families.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei recognized the Des Plaines Youth Commission for their support of the community. Special Olympics is coming to Des Plaines next spring which is very exciting. The December Board meeting will feature information about full day kindergarten as well as an update about the strategic plan as we reach the mid-year point. There are four candidates for the upcoming Board election. The Triple I conference will take place November 22. Chief Business School Official Mark Bertolozzi updated the Board that the district is finalizing the contract with Pepper Construction out of Barrington. Pepper will be managing construction as it relates to implementation of full day kindergarten.