



December 16, 2024

Truth in Taxation Hearing

Finance Liaison Elizabeth Massa called the hearing to order. She opened the hearing by reminding attendees that the 2024 tax levy is the focus of the hearing and provided the public time to comment. A legal hearing notice was published in the Des Plaines Journal December 4.

The proposed levy amounts for all funds, in addition to other annual revenue, are projected to account for the expenditures during the 2025-2026 school year. The total levy request for 2024 is \$88,851,000 which reflects an increase of approximately 1.50% over the 2023 tax extension. The estimated 2024 total tax rate for District 62 is \$3.467 per \$100 of taxable value. The 2023 total tax rate was \$3.541 per \$100 of taxable value.

While the Board of Education recognizes the fact that the district's financial outlook is strong, it should be noted that the tax cap in Cook County, PTAB's (property tax refunds), the state economy, collective bargaining agreements and various pieces of legislation that may or may not be considered, will continue to pose financial challenges in the years ahead. District 62 continues to try to adhere to its Financial Planning Policy, which continues to guide administration related budgeting and expenditures. The Board of Education will continue to strive to provide the best educational programming it can for our children given the resources available and the current economic environment. With the continued support of our community, we hope to maintain high standards, as we continue to prepare our students to become productive and responsible citizens.

There are three main components to calculating tax extension. CPI, which is known, and EAV and new construction, which are not. The 2024 tax levy projects \$18 million in new construction due to the large projects being completed in district and the expiration of a TIF in Des Plaines. New construction was \$29.1 million last year. Projections and actuals can vary greatly as we don't know when new properties hit the tax rolls, nor do we know their EAV. The district needs to over-estimate to collect

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all tax dollars available. Given CPI of 3.4%, if new construction were the same as a typical year and with the Des Plaines TIF expiring, the total extension for 2024 would increase by about 4.0% to approximately \$91.0 million. The 2023 extension was \$87.5 million. The Board of Education has decided to intentionally under levy by about \$2.2 million with the 1.50% estimated levy increase. The Board of Education has always abated the recapture levy, which has ranged from \$700,000 to \$2.1 million. In total the Board has abated approximately \$5 million from operating funds over the last two years.

Student Learning and Support Services Update

Strategic Plan Goal Mid-Year Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei shared a video that highlighted how the five goals of the strategic plan are being addressed since the five-year strategic plan was adopted by the Board this spring. The video can be accessed [here](#).



Strategic Plan Goal Monitoring: Orchard Place and Plainfield Schools



Principal Jennifer Suárez Bautista shared an update on behalf of [Orchard Place Elementary School](#) while Principal Dr. Lisa Carlos shared an update on behalf of [Plainfield Elementary School](#). Their presentations centered on how their schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan.

Full Day Kindergarten Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei and members of the administrative team provided the Board with an [overview](#) regarding how the district has begun the process of exploring the implementation of full day kindergarten. Following the district's presentation, members of the district's architects, STR Partners, provided [construction updates](#) related to full day kindergarten.

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

Review of School Improvement Plans

School Improvement Plans (SIP) are tools that guide our schools' strategic direction for the year. They outline how we intend to support student achievement with measurable goals and ensure continuous improvement. The accompanying School Improvement Plans were created through a collaborative process. They were prepared by principals, assistant principals and teacher leaders at every school, and are in effect for the 2024-2025 school year.

Contents of the School Improvement Plans:

- In order to ensure alignment and depth of improvement, the School Improvement Plans align with our district's main areas of focus on Tier I instructional practices and Tier 1 practices for social-emotional learning.
- Additionally, all schools have included specific goals to address the needs of our multilingual learners and our students receiving Special Education services in this year's plans.
- Each goal area includes specific action steps that schools are taking to meet their goals.
- Building leaders, in collaboration with the Educational Services team, will regularly view progress on their goals and action steps and make adjustments as needed.

While all school's School Improvement Plans are included for the Board of Education's review please note that North Elementary School is also required to apply for a Title I 1003 (e) School Improvement grant due to its status as a "targeted support school". This will be shared with the Board of Education for approval at a later date. By submitting our SIPs annually, we create plans that provide a clear framework for allocating resources, prioritizing initiatives and ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed here in District 62.

Adoption of Levy Resolutions for 2024 Tax Year

The Board of Education adopted levy resolutions for the 2024 tax year. The amount of taxes to be levied for the year 2024, to be levied against estimated 2025-2026 fund budget totals as represented during the Truth in Taxation hearing, is as follows:

- Educational Purposes: \$66,450,000
- Special Education Purposes: \$4,300,000
- Tort Immunity Purposes: \$1,000,000
- Operations & Maintenance Purposes: \$9,900,000
- Transportation Purposes: \$3,700,000
- IMRF Purposes: \$700,000
- Social Security Purposes: \$1,800,000
- Life Safety Purposes: \$1,000
- Working Cash Purposes: \$1,000,000
- Bond & Interest Purposes: 0
- Total: **\$88,851,000**

Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Beth Morley provided an update on behalf of the District 62 Education Foundation. She announced that the Trivia event will take place on March 14 at the Frisbie Senior Center. Pizza Wars will take place at February 23 at the Danube Swabian Center.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Michael Amadei expressed his appreciation to the City of Des Plaines for including the district in the Paid Leave Ordinance language. Also included was Oakton College and portions of District 59. ACCESS testing begins January 15 and concludes on March 4. The concept of Vision 2030 was brought up this week. Vision 2030 represents the second time education stakeholders fostered collaboration and unity among education organizations across the state to create an advocacy framework for public education in Illinois. North will host STEAM night on December 17. Dr. Amadei invited Chief Business Official Mark Bertolozzi to address safety and security in the district. Mr. Bertolozzi shared that security expert Paul Timm spent time in the district in early December to learn more about the district's current safety and security practices. There were many thoughtful questions as part of his review. The district expects a report from Mr. Timm in early January that will be later shared with the Board as part of Closed Session.

Tax Levy Comparison 2019-2024 Dashboard Report

The district benefits from having a large EAV base, which in recent years has seen a shift of more tax burden to the residential properties from the commercial/industrial properties. This shift was even greater with the last triennial reassessment. Over the past six years, CPI has averaged 3.75%, which is higher than the 2.5% thirty-year average. The district is capped at 5% levy growth with 2023 CPI at 3.4%. In 2024, CPI is trending at about 2.5%.

The base EAV was higher in 2022 as Cook County performed its triennial reassessment for suburban properties located in northern half of the county. The EAV for district 62 has been approximately \$2.5 billion during this assessment period from 2022-2024. With the 2022 reassessment, EAV in District 62 went up 22.7% to over \$2.4 billion, this had the effect of reducing the tax rate from about \$4.00 per \$100 of taxable value to approximately \$3.50 per \$100 of taxable value.

While CY2023 CPI remains above the long-term average, the district will need to continue monitoring its revenues. There is still a possibility of a levy freeze would limit the district's ability to raise revenues in the coming years. Developments on any reduction in state funding or levy freeze will need to be closely monitored and the district will manage its resources to ensure that spending stays in-line with the projected revenue increases.

To view a copy of the dashboard report, click [here](#).