



January 21, 2025

Presentations/Recognitions

Introduction of School Resource Officer

Superintendent Michael Amadei introduced the district's School Resource Officer Brian Maresco and thanked Officer Matt Stonequist for his years of service to the district. Officer Maresco brings to the role a strong background in clinical mental health counseling, education and childhood development. He values the importance of public education and understands the value of an SRO's role in a school district.



Student Learning and Support Services Update

Resolution to Abate Supplemental Levy

In 2021, the State of Illinois passed legislation that requires all counties in Illinois to determine the amount of tax refunds given to taxpayers from school districts and other taxing bodies related to property tax appeals. The total amount of these refunds is then available to be recaptured by taxing bodies through a Supplemental Tax Levy, which is not limited by the property tax cap. These refunds are almost always given to owners of large commercial and industrial properties. For levy year 2024, the amount refunded to District 62 is \$1,757,236. Given that accepting these supplemental levy dollars has the effect of taxing home owners again to compensate for the district's tax refunds to commercial and industrial taxpayers, the Board of Education has directed Administration to abate the Recapture Tax Levy. The resolution abates the Recapture Tax Levy in full and will be delivered to the Cook County Clerk's Office.

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

Resolution in Support of Vision 2030

The Board of Education formally adopted [Vision 2030](#), which focuses on collaboration and unity among education organizations across the state to create an advocacy framework for public education in Illinois. A copy of the Resolution can be accessed [here](#).

Approval of Extended School Year, SPARK, Title I, Title III Summer School and Parent University, Summer 2025

Title I Summer School

This year's Title I Summer School will be held at two locations, Orchard Place and Plainfield schools due to projects being held at the other sites. The dates for the program will be June 10 - June 27 with no school on June 19. Participating students will attend from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm, Monday through Friday for a total of 13 instructional days. Breakfast will be served prior to the start of each school day. Students going into grades K-8 who are most in need of extra learning support including our new to the country students and students in our bilingual program will be invited to participate and encouraged to attend. Title I summer school will focus primarily on remediation of Math and ELA skills and standards. There will also be a STEM component added to this year's program to promote critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration.

Title III Parent University

District 62 will be offering Parent University for Title III eligible students and families. Parent University will be held at Forest School from June 9 to June 20, 2025. There will not be any program offerings on June 19th. Parents will attend informational sessions from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm while their children are participating in activities, Monday through Thursday. On both Fridays families will attend from 8:00 am to 3:00 for field trips. This program supports our multilingual students and their parents in learning beyond the school day. This program is funded through the Title III - LIEP grant.

Extended School Year (ESY)

Consistent with state and federal special education mandates, the district will offer Extended School Year (ESY) programming for students eligible through their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). ESY will be held at Cumberland Elementary School for students in grades K-7 and the Westerhold Early Learning Center for PreK. The program will run for a total of three weeks, from June 10 - June 27, 2024 (Monday-Friday) with no school on June 19. The hours of programming will be from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm.

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 Vasselopoulos, Student
Services Coordinator

SPARK Summer Camp

In order to provide District 62 early childhood students with an opportunity to attend a summer program, SPARK Summer Enrichment Program will be held at the Westerhold Early Learning Center. This program provides preschoolers with engaging hands-on activities that focus on math, literacy and social emotional skills. The program will run three weeks, from June 10 - June 27, 2025 with no school on June 19. The hours of programming will be from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. This is a parent paid program.

Proposed 2025-2026 Calendars for 10-month and Iroquois Community School

The Board reviewed the proposal for the FY26 school calendar for the 10-month schools and Iroquois Community School. The Board will take action on the proposed FY26 calendar in February.

Design and Construction Updates

The Board received an update regarding progress to date surrounding construction in the district. Representatives from STR Partners and Pepper Construction were present to address the updates specific to North Elementary. The ultimate goal at North is to expand capacity and remove the modular classrooms. The construction update specific to North will result in the construction of a full day kindergarten “suite” for those students. In addition, the Forest Administration staff will relocate to the Leon Smaage Administration Center this summer which will be the first construction to take place in district. The expected outcome is for full day kindergarten to be ready for July of 2026 when Iroquois Community School is expected to begin its school year. Bid results are expected to arrive in March for bid results related to the summer 2025 administration center construction project. Cost estimates by location will also be expected this spring.

Communications

Board of Education

Vice President Massa attended the “Best of the Best” art exhibit featuring artwork from District 62 and District 207 students. The exhibit will be open at the Des Plaines Public Library through January 28. Member Morley announced that the D62 Education Foundation Pizza Wars sign-up is live. The event take place at 2 p.m. at the Danube Swabian Center in Des Plaines. Tickets cost \$10. Advance registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.



Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amadei announced that the ED-RED Legislative dinner is on January 27. Last Friday, members of the district’s administrative team and Des Plaines Police Department attended the Safety Reunification Training through the [i love u guys foundation](#). Superintendent Amadei has been meeting with parent groups this fall and winter to discuss safety procedures and answer questions. Dr. Amadei was happy to announce that Rivers Casino has given a \$200,000 grant to go toward playground construction at Forest and Cumberland Elementary Schools. Construction is expected to take place in the spring.