



May 19, 2025

Presentations/Recognitions

Special Olympics Athletes

The evening began by recognizing the athletes, peer buddies, staff and coaches that helped make Special Olympics a success on May 10. Twenty-five District 62 students from Cumberland, Terrace, Algonquin Middle School and Chippewa Middle School came to the event held at Prospect Heights. District 62 athletes left the day with 12 gold medals, nine silver and nine bronze.

Ten athletes have been invited to state, with six students heading there which will take place in Bloomington-Normal this summer.

Middle School Students You Should Know

District 62 middle school students were recognized at the May 19 Board of Education Meeting as part of the Middle School Students You Should Know recognition program.

Students were recognized in nine different categories:

- Academic Excellence
- Enthusiastic Learner
- Exceptional Service to School and Community
- Leadership Qualities
- Outstanding Character
- Peer Mentor
- Positive Attitude, Behavior and Effort
- Positive Role Model
- Positive School Spirit and Good
- Sportsmanship



District 62 Board of Education

Elizabeth Massa
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Tina Garrett
Member

Gene Haring
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Member

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Student Learning and Support Services Update

Strategic Goal Monitoring: Cumberland and North Elementary Schools

Principal Marc Infante and Assistant Principal Costantina Mazzone shared an [update](#) on behalf of Cumberland Elementary School while Principal Carolyn Allar and Assistant Principal Ashley Patterson shared an [update](#) on behalf of North Elementary School. Their presentations centered on how their schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan End-of-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 in April of 2024. The video can be accessed [here](#).



Review of Student Handbook

Administration provided a brief overview of the Student Handbook proposed revisions that will be published electronically for the FY26 school year.

Developmental Budget

Assistant Superintendent Mark Bertolozzi reviewed the developmental budget for the upcoming school year. The purpose of this developmental budget is to provide the Board of Education with an early look at the tentative budget assumptions. The final budget will be adopted in September. Listed below are dates related to 2024-2025 budget development:

- May 19, 2025: Board of Education receives the initial developmental FY2026 budget assumptions and approves the release of the FY2026 purchase orders
- August 11, 2025: Board of Education receives and adopts the Tentative FY2026 Budget
- September 15, 2025: Board of Education receives and adopts the Final FY2026 Budget

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

Approval of Food Services Bid with OrganicLife

The district bid out the food service contract in the spring of 2024 for a potential five-year period, starting with the 2024-2025 school year. The contract with OrganicLife can be renewed annually, not to exceed four additional years. Fiscal year 2025 was the first year of the existing contract and FY2026 will be the first renewal, or second year, of the food service contract cycle.

OrganicLife has submitted a one-year contract agreement for food management services, which is separate from the original agreement, but would provide the district with a second year of service with OrganicLife since the last bid. This agreement reflects an 3.6% increase for the 2025-2026 per meal price rate over the FY2025 prices. The percentage increase is based upon the annualized CPI-food away from home, which was 3.6% in 2024. The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Programs Department establishes the allowable annual increase.

Based upon the increase in meal costs to the district, the administration is suggesting a \$.10 price increase in the breakfast and lunch fees for FY2026, and up to a \$.40 increase is recommended on a la carte items, with a \$.10 increase on adult meals. The State Board of Education monitors the meal prices charged by districts to ensure that the free and reduced meal reimbursement is not subsidizing the paid meal program. The requested increase will help ensure that District 62 stays in compliance with ISBE guidelines.

Communications

Board of Education

Board member Morley announced that the District 62 Education Foundation will continue discussions regarding plans for the upcoming school year. Member Morley added that the Foundation seeks new members. Member Burton expressed how pleased he was with the Special Olympics event on May 10. President Massa thanked everyone who attended Special Olympics and also congratulated everyone who retired this year. Vice-President Duckmann shared that the North Cook meeting is coming up with the intent to set plans for the upcoming dinner meetings for 2025-2026.

Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amadei announced that the district posted a part-time grant manager position. Triple I Conference registration opens up June 2. Triple I is a professional development opportunity for Board of Education members. It is held annually in November. Board self-evaluation will take place hopefully this summer. In addition, Mr. Bertolozzi shared that the Administration Center bids have been received. They are good for 90 days with the current focus on Full Day Kindergarten construction work which is time sensitive. The 1717 Rand Road property work continues. The district anticipates that the building will be demolished by the end of June.

Dashboard: Human Resources Wellness Screening: 2024-2025 School Year

Annual wellness screenings have been offered to all staff members since 2008. Initially, screenings were offered to help offset the rising costs of insurance premiums. Addressing health concerns/conditions before



they develop can result in a savings not only in the annual premium rate increases and policy experience (which drives the premium rates), but also in overall medical expenditures for a long term or serious health claim linked to lack of early treatment or intervention. Employees may choose between a screening or a visit to their personal physician. The screenings are mandatory to all employees currently on our medical insurance policy and in a bargaining unit. The district continues to invest in employee wellness in order to improve employee health, identify illness early, increase productivity, increase attendance and lower risk and cost. This program has been widely accepted and attended by all staff. A copy of the dashboard report can be accessed [here](#).