



August 11, 2025

Moment of Silence for Hisham Razeq

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei began the meeting by observing a moment of silence for Hisham Razeq who suddenly passed away in July. Mr. Razeq was a beloved staff multilingual teacher at North Elementary School.

Presentations/Recognitions

ICS Drone Soccer Club Recognition

Iroquois Community School Drone Soccer Club Coaches Cathy Borge and Andrew Sinclair provided the Board with a presentation regarding the Drone Soccer Club that was funded by a Rivers Casino grant and their triumphs and opportunities to date for this school year.



Student Learning and Support Services

Strategic Goal Monitoring: Iroquois Community School

Principal Kelly Krueger and Assistant Principal John Rey shared an update from Iroquois Community School centering on how the school is focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan. A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

District 62 Board of Education

Elizabeth Massa
President

Stephanie Duckmann
Vice President

Ronald Burton
Member

Kat Delgado
Member

Tina Garrett
Member

Gene Haring
Member

Beth Morley
Member

Marielle Metoyer
Secretary to the Board of Education

Review of Preliminary 2024-2025 Financial Statement and Approval of 2025-2026 Tentative Budget

The Board of Education approved the 2025-2026 tentative budget. Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Mark Bertolozzi provided the Board with a brief overview.

Property Tax Levy: The two factors that impact the levy are new property and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The district projected a maximum of \$70 million in new property in order to capture the new developments within the district. The CPI to be used for the December 2025 levy is 2.9%, for taxes collected in the 2026 calendar year. With the Board directed levy increase of 1.5% for taxes collected in calendar year 2025, an estimated levy increase of 2.2% is expected. This does not factor in new construction. As reported every year, increases in property taxes income, including FY2026 and future years, is in jeopardy due to the potential tax levy freeze legislation at the state level. For the first six months of CY2025 CPI is trending at approximately a 2.6% annual rate.

Student Fees: No changes are suggested for FY2026. However, fees may need to be raised after this year.

Interest Income: Interest rates are expected to decrease slightly with changes in interest rate policy from the Federal Reserve. The projected interest rate factor for the FY2026 budget is 3.5%, which includes mostly long-term existing investments locked in at higher rates.

State: The state funding for education in Illinois is expected to be flat between FY24 and FY25. Evidence Base Funding (EBF) and categorical payments are expected to be mostly unchanged in FY26. That said, Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes will be down nearly \$2 million from last year.

Federal: At this time, it appears that the district can anticipate that federal Title Funding will remain at the current FY25 levels. This funding was in doubt until a few days ago.

Approval of Playground Fencing Bid

The Board of Education approved a bid with Action Fence Contractors in the amount of \$52,936. The bid is for the purchase and installation of black vinyl chainlink fencing with gates for the inclusive playgrounds located at Forest and Cumberland Schools. Construction is expected to begin in August.

District 62 Administration

Dr. Michael Amadei

Superintendent of Schools

Mark Bertolozzi, Assistant

Superintendent of Business Services

Jennifer Bova, Director of Community

Relations

Amy Cengel, Assistant Superintendent

for Instructional Services

Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro, Assistant

Superintendent for Student Services

Adam Denenberg,

Chief Technology Officer

Kathleen Kelly Colgan, Assistant

Superintendent for Human Resources

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

Maggie Bialobrzewski, Multilingual

Coordinator

Anel Escamilla, 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 Vaselopulos, Student

Services Coordinator

Katharine Valtos, Health Services

Coordinator

Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Morley shared that the District 62 Education Foundation met last week. Foundation grants currently are being accepted and will be reviewed in September with the intent to award the grants after Indigenous People's Day. The Foundation continues to explore different ways to raise funds. Vice President Duckmann shared that the North Cook Division meeting will take place on October 22. The dinner will feature speaker Dr. Doug Bolton who will discuss mental health supports. Member Haring attended National Night Out on August 5. He commended the district and City of Des Plaines for such a wonderful event that fostered community connections. Member Delgado also shared the same sentiment regarding National Night Out, as did President Massa.

Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amadei shared that the district continues to focus on supporting staff during this difficult start to the school year with losses that have affected four of the 12 sites in District 62. Institute Day will be moved to August 19 in order to provide support to those in need. The district has a growing enrollment that we are responding to. Iroquois has been in full swing having been in session for the last five weeks. The rest of the district will welcome its students on August 21 and 22. Dr. Amadei is aware that e-bikes and scooters are becoming more prevalent throughout the community, which is a bit concerning as a safety issue. The administration will investigate and look into a possible policy to address this issue. In other news, Alexandra "Allie" Jonynas was appointed as the Principal of Plainfield Elementary School at the August 4 Special Board meeting. She will be a welcome addition to the administrative team. Institute Day is set on August 19 as a day of professional development. The next Board meeting is on September 15 and will begin with a Board evaluation at 5 p.m. The regular meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The Board will continue with its "on the road:" meetings. The October 20 meeting will take place at North Elementary School and the November 17 meeting will take place at Central Elementary School.