



September 15, 2025

Public Hearing on 2025-2026 Budget

Review of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the school budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The tentative budget has been on display and available for public inspection at the District Administration office as required by law. Notice of said public hearing was published in the Daily Herald newspaper.

Presentations/Recognitions

Des Plaines Youth Commission Recognition of District Participation in the Pay It Forward Initiative

The Des Plaines Youth Commission recognized all District 62 schools for participating in the Youth Commission's Pay it Forward initiative this spring. During that time, students participated in acts of goodwill and kindness.



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

Student Learning and Support Services

Strategic Goal Monitoring: Central and Terrace Elementary Schools

Principal Dr. Erica Cupuro shared an update from Central Elementary School while Dr. Bradley Stein shared an update from Terrace Elementary School. Both presentations centered on how the schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan. A copy of Central's presentation can be accessed [here](#) while a copy of Terrace's presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Board Development: iReady

This year the district transitioned from the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to the iReady Diagnostic platform as its primary benchmark assessment system for all kindergarten through 8th grade students. This shift reflects the district's ongoing commitment to improving student outcomes and to ensuring that assessments provide us with actionable information we need in order to support that goal.

Moving from MAP to iReady comes with many benefits including a reduction in the amount of time students spend testing overall and more actionable and meaningful data for educators and families. The iReady system is also more closely aligned to both state standards and district curriculum, offering relevant information about student performance.

In addition to supporting goal setting, the data generated from iReady helps teachers make informed instructional decisions, identify students who need support or enrichment, and plan instruction based on readiness for specific standards. iReady also offers valuable information and practical tools for families.

We are pleased to share that the initial implementation of iReady has gone smoothly at each of our sites. Preliminary results are showing a slight decrease in student percentile compared to previous MAP data, which aligns with expectations based on past iReady performance.

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 Bialobrzeski, 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

trends. Parent reports were shared with Iroquois families in August and will be sent to families at 10-month schools later this month.

Approval of Iroquois Community School Bid Results

As part of the district's Full Day Kindergarten implementation, bids were solicited for renovation work at Iroquois Community School. Iroquois has the earliest start date, making timing the most critical. Based on design work conducted by STR Partners, the district's architect, bids were prepared by Pepper Construction Company and were opened at the end of August. As typical with this scope of work, bid packets were broken out by trade.

Pepper Construction reviewed and verified the bids results with each low bidder to ensure responsiveness. The total bid results tallied \$1,447,827. The estimated final cost for this work is \$2,206,481 with management fees and contingent costs.

The Board of Education approved the bid results of \$1,447,827 and Project Work Order #2 with a final estimated cost of \$2,206,481. Work is expected to commence on September 17.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

The Board of Education formally approved the 2025-2026 budget. As required by state law, the Board adopted a resolution in January that directed administration to begin the budget development process and prepare the budget in tentative form. In August, the administration presented the tentative budget and indicated that the final budget would be presented to the Board of Education for adoption at the September Board meeting. The district projects approximately \$110.8 million in revenue over the next year. This includes revenue from local taxes, state funding and federal funding. A copy of the budget can be accessed [here](#).

District Boundary Study as Part of the Strategic Plan

Presently, there are class size inequities across the district. In Goal 5 of the district's Strategic Plan, addressing this issue is an action item. The district has had initial discussions with Woolpert, a company that has consulted with a few neighboring school districts regarding demographic and boundary studies. The district is currently in an exploratory phase of this study.

Communications

Board of Education

Board Member Garrett acknowledged the recent school shootings and expressed her appreciation for educators and the work they do for children. Member Morley said the District 62 Education Foundation continues to work on fundraising opportunities. Dr. Amadei recently invited Foundation President Elizabeth Murphy to join her as part of his podcast. President Massa reminded the Board of the ED-RED Luncheon that will be held on October 20. Member Haring attended the Community Leaders meeting on September 15 which meets on a quarterly basis with the Superintendent. The Des Plaines History Center expects to name its new Executive Director very soon and looks forward to welcoming this individual.

Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amadei highlighted student artwork that is on display in the Board of Education meeting room for the year as part of Celebrate 62 which showcases student artwork selected by art teachers. Triple I, an annual Board development opportunity, is taking place November 21-November 23. Dr. Amadei concluded his remarks by showing the 62 Stories video highlighting the contributions of educator Donna Hennessey who is now a substitute in the district. Click [here](#) to learn more about Mrs. Hennessey.



Mr. Burton: Algonquin and Cumberland
Ms. Delgado: Chippewa and Terrace
Ms. Duckmann: Iroquois Community School and North
Ms. Garrett: Central and Orchard Place
Mr. Haring: Algonquin and South
Ms. Massa: Cumberland, Forest, and ELC
Ms. Morley: Iroquois Community School and Plainfield