

WINTER 2026 Connect 41

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SENT TO OVER 12,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN DISTRICT 41 BOUNDARIES



Hadley Junior High School students
with Principal Steve Diveley

www.d41.org

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GOLD CIRCLE STATUS



D41
glen ellyn

Dear District 41 Community,

It's hard to believe we're nearing the halfway point of the school year. As I look back on these first months, I'm inspired by the great work happening across District 41: from opening our new full-day kindergarten building, to transitioning to a more reliable transportation provider, to implementing a new cell phone and smartwatch policy that's helping students stay focused and engaged. Every step reflects our ongoing commitment to greatness.

One of the best parts of my role is visiting each school every week. Seeing learning in action and connecting with students daily always reminds me why our work matters. There's nothing better than walking down a hallway and hearing a student call out, "Hi, Dr. McHugh!" It makes my day every time.

Recently, members of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council joined me for a visit to Forest Glen Elementary. They saw firsthand the high levels of engagement, the calm and respectful classroom environments, and the intentional teaching happening throughout the building. I'm grateful to those who took time to experience our schools in action.

We also work to share that joy and learning through *Connect 41*. I hope this issue gives you a window into the meaningful work happening every day to support every child who walks through our doors.

Thank you for your partnership and support. Everything we accomplish—every improvement, every milestone, every success—is because WE do this work together. WE create environments in which students feel safe, welcomed, and ready to thrive. WE are the foundation of our district's greatness. WE are D41!

With appreciation,

Dr. Jeff McHugh
Superintendent



Members of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council join Dr. McHugh on a visit to Forest Glen School.

D41

At A Glance



3,462
STUDENTS



6
SCHOOL
BUILDINGS



17 to 1
STUDENT
TO TEACHER
RATIO



315
TEACHERS



78%
STAFF WITH
ADVANCED
DEGREES



51
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

NEW D41 KINDERGARTEN CENTER IN ACTION



The new District 41 Kindergarten Center opened its doors this school year, welcoming more than 215 students from across the district into a bright treehouse-themed, purpose-built space designed just for them. This exciting milestone also marks the launch of full-day kindergarten in District 41.

The school year began with a ribbon-cutting celebration attended by families, staff, and community members. Since then, the Kindergarten Center has been buzzing with curiosity, creativity,

and laughter as students explore their new classrooms, playgrounds, and learning spaces.

District 41 extends heartfelt thanks to the District 41 Board of Education and the entire community for making this vision a reality and investing in the future of our youngest learners.

For more information about kindergarten in District 41, go to **d41.org/kindergarten**



Instructional Technology in District 41

Building off of community engagement last school year on the topic of student personal devices during the school day, District 41 is now exploring the use of instructional technology. The district defines instructional technology as the use of digital tools — like laptops, tablets, apps, or online platforms — to support teaching and learning. It is not just about the devices themselves, but about using them in ways that make learning more engaging and effective for students.

Focus groups were conducted with students, community members, parents, and staff. In addition, staff, student, and parent surveys were administered in October followed by a Board of Education Committee of the Whole community engagement session on November 3. The focus groups, survey results, and feedback at the community engagement session resulted in three major themes for the district to consider:

- Limit Chromebooks going home overnight, especially in the younger grades
- Improve consistency of technology use across schools and grade levels
- Expand parent knowledge about how technology is used in classrooms

The district is now engaging with staff to explore possible action steps as well as an instructional technology framework for teachers across the district.

Thank you to all who are engaging in these conversations! Updates will continue to be provided to the community at Board of Education meetings and in district communications.



D41 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

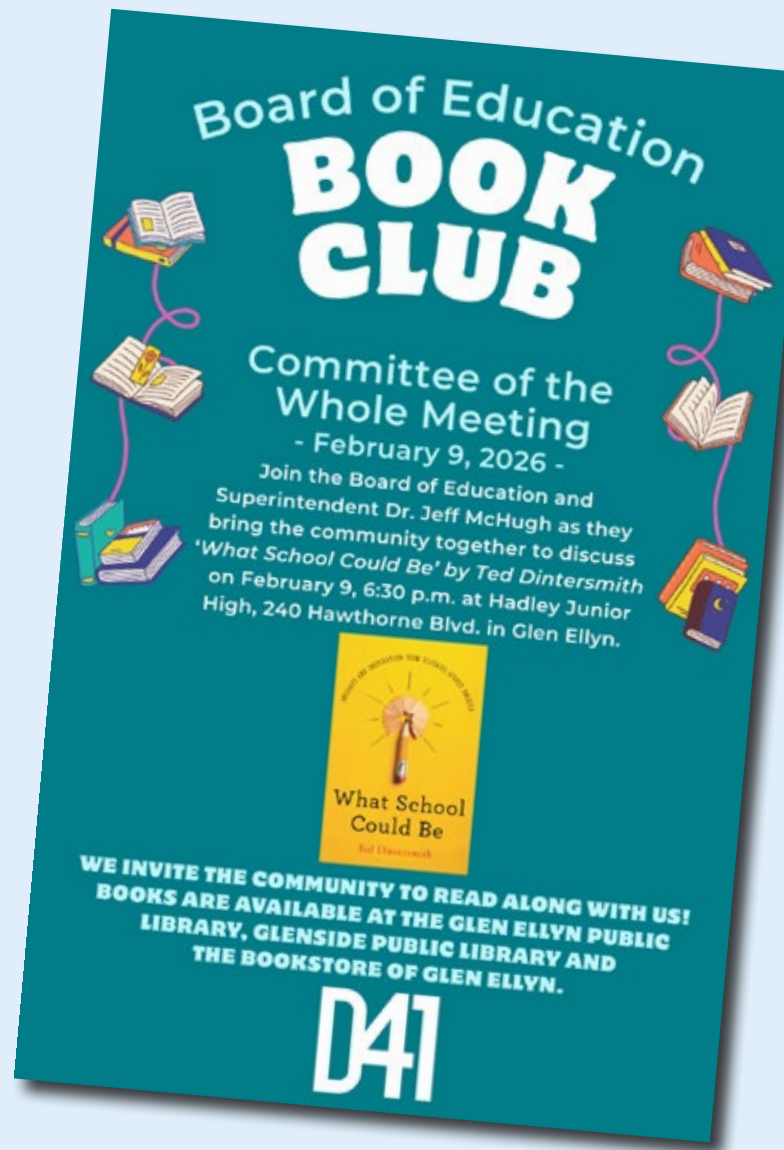
What School Could Be by Ted Dintersmith

The Glen Ellyn School District 41 Board of Education engaged in a book study last school year as they were exploring the impact of technology on children. They read *The Anxious Generation* and discussed the book at Board of Education meetings. Many community members read the book along with the Board and participated in a collaborative engagement process that led to a change of policy about personal devices in the classroom.

Building on the success of last year's book study, the Board recently announced a Board Community Book Club and selected *What School Could Be* by Ted Dintersmith. The Goal of the Book Club is to strengthen community connections and dialogue by engaging in meaningful conversations inspired by the reading.

To make the book easily accessible to the community, the district has partnered with the Glen Ellyn Public Library, Glenside Public Library, and The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn.

Join the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Jeff McHugh as they bring the community together to discuss the book at the Committee of the Whole meeting on **Monday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. at Hadley Junior High School, 240 Hawthorne Blvd. in Glen Ellyn.**



*“We look forward to engaging in meaningful dialogue with our community. Supporting education and the success of every student is a shared responsibility. The ideas explored in *What School Could Be* invite us to reflect on how we might continue to innovate and strengthen learning experiences here in District 41. I look forward to connecting with our community in this thoughtful way.”*

— Board President Dr. Robert Bruno

D41 SPECIAL EDUCATION REVIEW



The Board of Education approved a Special Education Review and the district has been engaging in this process since early in the school year. The last formal review of special education in District 41 was completed in 2016-2017, with a progress report in 2020. The district is now seeking updated information about special education services. The results of this review will be used to continue to build upon our strengths and bring greater focus to the areas of challenge, with the ultimate goal to improve the educational outcomes for our students.

The district has partnered with **Dr. Lea Anne Frost of Frost Educational Consulting Services**. In 2025, Dr. Frost joined Catalyst for Educational Change as a strategic advisor, supporting school districts in developing school-wide systems with a particular emphasis on aligning policies, procedures, and practices within special education.

The focus of the review includes the following areas:

- Special education programming to ensure an appropriate continuum of services within schools
- Service/instructional delivery options to ensure students are growing in their educational domains
- Staffing allocations for the District and each school to ensure all students' educational needs can be met
- Parental communication from the District to parents of students with special needs

The scope of the review includes facilitated staff "office hours," extensive data review with qualitative and quantitative analysis, and observations throughout the schools.

Information gathered during the review will be presented to the Board of Education after the process has concluded.

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT CHURCHILL AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN SCHOOLS



Thank you to the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC) and the Glen Ellyn Lions Club for hosting the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at two District 41 elementary schools. Families from Churchill and Abraham Lincoln Schools came together with their school communities to share gratitude and celebrate the season. This cherished tradition brings joy, connection, and an abundance of delicious food to all who attend.

District 41 is deeply grateful for the community partners and volunteers who support our schools in so many ways throughout the year.



D41 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AWARDED GOLD CIRCLE OF QUALITY STATUS

District 41 Preschool for All (PFA) Program has again, for the third consecutive year, achieved a Gold Circle of Quality status in ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs. Congratulations to all who help support the District 41 preschool program and all of our youngest learners!

About the D41 Preschool Program

The District 41 Preschool Program immerses children in a play-based, student-centered environment to maximize student learning, growth and development. Daily instruction targets all areas of development with a strong focus on literacy, math, language and social-emotional development. The classroom experience engages 3-5 year old children of all abilities, to thrive in an academic setting for a lifelong passion of learning.

To learn more about the District 41 Preschool Program, contact:

Megan Jakobsze, Preschool Parent Liaison – mjakobsze@d41.org • 630-534-7466



ACTIVE THREAT AND CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

District 41 recently participated in Active Threat and Critical Incident Management Training conducted by the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

The training brought together local emergency response partners including the Glen Ellyn Police Department, Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Department, Community Consolidated School District 89, and Glenbard District 87. The training focused on strengthening coordination and communication among agencies responding during a critical incident. Participants engaged in realistic, scenario-based exercises, including a tabletop simulation designed to mirror real-time decision-making and response efforts.



Meet District 41's Student Board Members

Three Hadley Junior High students took their seats at the Glen Ellyn School District 41 Board of Education table this fall. Chloe King, Sophia Ligman, and Joseph Maillet officially began their journey as District 41 Student Board Members for the 2025/2026 school year. Each brings a unique voice and a shared commitment to representing what it means to be a District 41 student.

Chloe King, the 6th grade representative, comes to Hadley from Forest Glen Elementary. When she's not playing her ukulele as part of the Hadley group Triple Fret, Chloe can be found volunteering with the Leo Club, where she enjoys giving back to the community. Her commitment to her role as a Student Board Member is another example of her commitment to service.

Sophia Ligman, representing the 7th grade, a former Abraham Lincoln student, Sophia fills her days with music and dance. She enjoys playing piano and competing as a dancer. Her creativity, paired with her strong work ethic, gives her a thoughtful perspective on the student experience.

Joseph Maillet serves as the 8th grade representative and is a proud former Churchill student. Joseph is an active individual who enjoys running cross country, playing baseball, and practicing Kung Fu. He's also an accomplished musician in the Hadley Orchestra and an active Boy Scout. His involvement in many different activities highlights his well-rounded nature.



Together, Chloe, Sophia, and Joseph serve as a bridge between students and the Board of Education, offering advisory input on issues that affect the school district overall. While they won't vote or access confidential information, their voices help guide conversations that shape the future of District 41.



D41 BOARD MEMBERS

*Pictured left to right
Back Row—Katie LaDow,
Ted Estes, Secretary Julie Hill,
President Dr. Robert Bruno,
Superintendent Dr. Jeff McHugh,
Vice President Jason Loebach,
Amy Becker, Dr. Chris Martelli*

*Student Board Members
Front Row—Sophia Ligman,
Chloe King, Joseph Maillet*



793 N. Main Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

D41 SERVES GLEN ELLYN | GLENDALE HEIGHTS | CAROL STREAM | LOMBARD | WHEATON



KINDERGARTEN CENTER

240 Geneva Rd
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6495



ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

380 Greenfield Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6475



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY

350 Bryant Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6480



CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY

240 Geneva Rd
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6485



FOREST GLEN ELEMENTARY

561 Elm St
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6490



HADLEY JUNIOR HIGH

240 Hawthorne Blvd
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6450



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