

2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Who we are...

Proudly serving the communities of Highland Park, Highwood and Fort Sheridan

3,694	583	9
STUDENTS	STAFF	SCHOOLS

- 39 HOME LANGUAGES
- 132 MILITARY FAMILIES
- 377 CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATES
- 922 DUAL LANGUAGE STUDENTS

In this newsletter...

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT SOLIDIFIES SUCCESSION PLANS

DISTRICT SECURES NEW 5-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH TEACHERS

STEADY PROGRESS ON INDIAN TRAIL AND RAVINIA CONSTRUCTION

TEACHERS AND STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

DEDICATION TO ADVANCING EQUITY IN OUR DISTRICT

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. ENGAGE.

DISTRICT REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TEACHERS ON NEW 5-YEAR CONTRACT



Board Secretary Melissa Itkin, President Lisa Hirsh, NSEA President Jessica Share and Negotiation Chair Andi Simon sign the new 5-year contract at June's board meeting.

In June, the North Shore School District 112 Board of Education approved a 5-year collective bargaining agreement with the North Shore Education Association (NSEA), which represents 397 teachers. The approval followed months of amicable negotiations and ratification by the NSEA with 99% support. The new contract will be in effect from the start of the 2024-2025 school year until the start of the 2029-2030 school year.

"We are delighted with the outcome of the negotiation process," Andi Simon, the NSEA's chief negotiation chair, said. "The process was a shining example of collaboration and positivity. Our teams engaged in open dialogue, exchanged viewpoints and considered various perspectives. Our union is thrilled to have partnered with the school board to establish a fair contract that not only benefits our students but also honors the dedication and professionalism of our educators."

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Educator of the Year
In May, Jennifer Ciral, Chris Janzen, Mari Lagone, Laurence Marks, Susana Rabin, Isidro Ramirez and Kendall Woods were honored by the Lake County Regional Office of Education at the 2024 Educator of the Year Awards Banquet.

Fulbright Award
Oak Terrace teacher Elysia Garcia was one of only 20 educators nationwide to receive the prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching.

Golden Apple
Sherwood teacher Christy Tortorello was chosen as one of 30 finalists for the esteemed 2024 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Those Who Excel
Emily Crutchfield, Stephanie Just, Mollie McDougall and Jocelyn Stolberg were recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education as recipients of the annual Those Who Excel awards.

A special shout-out to our 2024 retirees
Congratulations and good luck to Jennifer Ciral, Annette Cronin, Christine Frega, Maria Fiocchi, Maurine Laird, Melissa Raich and Darla Van Etten! Thank you for your dedicated service to our students and community.



EQUITY AND BELONGING

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, District 112 made significant strides in advancing its equity journey.

Dr. Sarena Shivers, a national expert on diversity in public education, built on her past impactful work at D112 by hosting two community meetings. These gatherings fostered valuable discussions on how the district can best support and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of its community members.





Dr. Sonya Whitaker, a highly regarded educator, author and national speaker on topics related to equity in education, conducted two boot camp sessions for staff members about creating a culturally responsive learning environment for all students.

In the 2024-2025 school year, all nine district schools will join the Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" program. This initiative will enhance our efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone in our community.

NO place for HATE®
An ADL Education Program

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

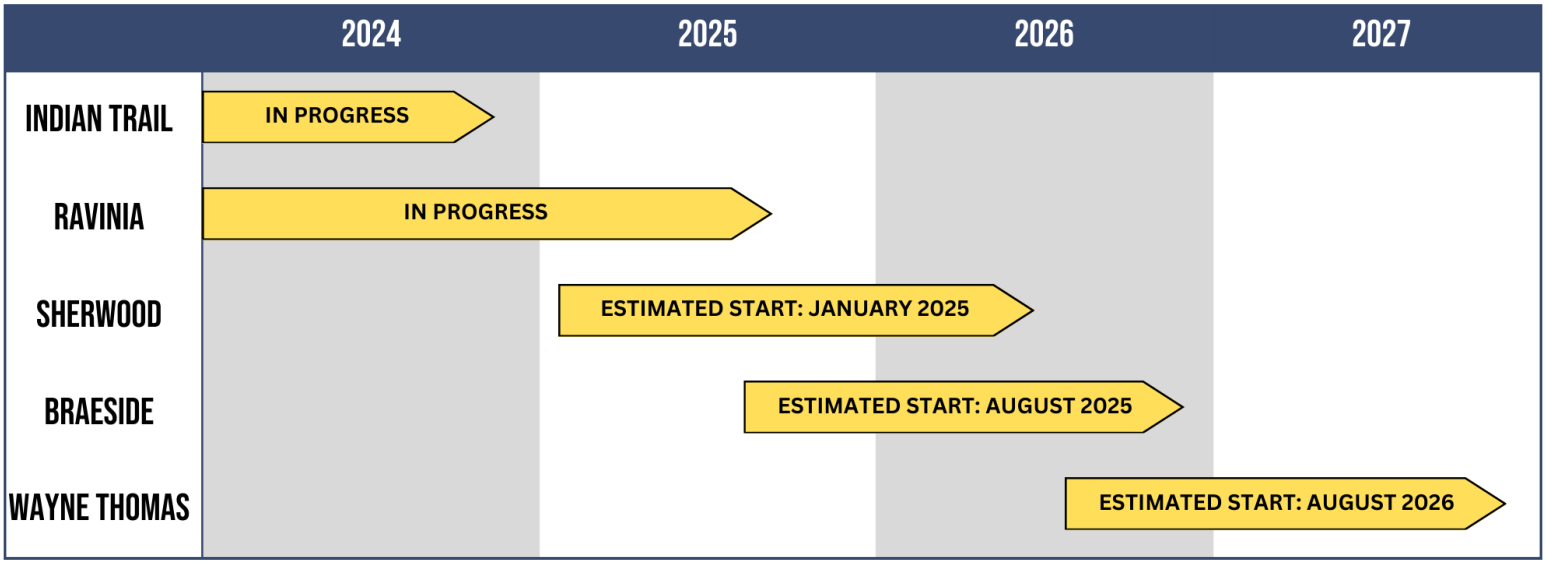
INDIAN TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



RAVINIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR PHASE 2 PROJECTS



HOW DISTRICT 112 INFLUENCES YOUR TAXES IN 2024



Jeremy Davis
Assistant Superintendent
for Business Services

Visit nssd112.org/board to find information about upcoming board of education meetings.

As both the assistant superintendent for business services and a fellow Highland Park resident, I understand the community's concerns about property taxes. I'd like to share some important information to help clarify our role in your tax determination.

District 112 operates under tax caps, limiting tax increases on existing properties to the prior year's inflation rate or 5%, **whichever is less**. For the upcoming tax bills, our taxes have increased by less than 5% on average and **our tax rate this year is lower than last year's**. If your property taxes have increased, it is likely due to a higher property assessment. Otherwise, you would be paying less in taxes to NSSD 112 this year compared to last year.

Part of recent increases is also due to the successful 2022 referendum, which is **funding upgrades to our schools,** ensuring they provide a suitable learning environment for years to come.

We remain dedicated to managing the district's budget with both efficiency and transparency. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jdavis@nssd112.org. Your feedback is invaluable, and I greatly appreciate the support of our extraordinary community.

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. ENGAGE.

LEADING DISTRICT 112 INTO THE FUTURE!

In May, Dr. Mike Lubelfeld announced his retirement as District 112 superintendent of schools, effective June 30, 2026. The Board promptly followed with the announcement that Dr. Monica Schroeder will become the next superintendent, beginning July 1, 2026. Her appointment was officially approved at the June board of education meeting.



"Serving our students, families, and staff members as your superintendent has been an honor and a privilege. I look forward to continuing to lead with Dr. Schroeder over the next two years and am confident that her leadership will guide our district to excellence for many years to come."

Dr. Mike Lubelfeld
Superintendent of Schools



"On behalf of the board, I express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Lubelfeld for his exemplary leadership and commitment. Selecting a superintendent is our most important responsibility, and we are confident that Dr. Schroeder is the ideal candidate. For nearly two decades, she has been a vital part of District 112 and we eagerly anticipate the bright future ahead for our district."

Lisa Hirsh
Board of Education President



"I am honored to be appointed as the next superintendent of North Shore School District 112. Over the next two years, I look forward to working closely with Dr. Lubelfeld to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. I am eager to collaborate with our dedicated staff, engaged families, and vibrant community to ensure that every student has the resources and opportunities to thrive."

Dr. Monica Schroeder
Incoming Superintendent of Schools

ABOUT DR. MONICA SCHROEDER

Over 18 years at District 112, Dr. Schroeder has served as associate principal, principal, assistant superintendent, and, since 2018, deputy superintendent. She earned her doctorate from Northern Illinois University in 2006 and holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in educational leadership and administration, and a Chief School Business Official endorsement. She is also the president-elect of the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Schroeder will be the district's first Latina superintendent.