

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE TO PARENTS, FEBRUARY 2009

Dear Parents,

The winter weather conditions have certainly had an impact on us! As a result of using a second emergency snow day on January 16, the last day of school is now scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2009. It is entirely possible, however, that with several more weeks of winter weather ahead, additional emergency days may be used. With summer construction looming, it is likely that we may adjust **the start of the 2009-10 school year**, and postpone the start of school until after Labor Day. It is important to use twelve weeks for construction. As soon as a decision is made, we will communicate this to you.

Undoubtedly, you have heard news about our declining economy and the effect it has had on the state, business, municipal agencies, and families. I want to take this opportunity to briefly describe how this **economic setting is impacting our school district**, and to communicate steps we are taking. Like other districts, District 89's current revenues do not support all our educational programs as well as expenses next year and beyond. Why is there this problem in District 89?

- Loss of interest income revenue of approximately \$300K per year
- Reduction in the Consumer Price Index (used to compute Equalized Assessed Value of property) to 0.1% for fiscal year 2010-11, resulting in approximately a loss of \$800K per year in revenue
- Illinois state revenue projects no new funding to the foundation level for Illinois schools
- Declining fund balances within the District 89 budget
- Education Fund tax rate has not been increased in 22 years

District 89 has been working to improve basic educational services to our schools. This has included striving for small class sizes, instructional coaches for differentiation, Response to Intervention (a federal and state mandated program), technology improvements, and other staffing needs in response to growing numbers of students with learning and language needs. The district has used its existing (and dwindling) fund balance to provide these necessary school improvements.

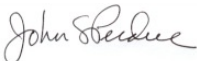
District 89 will take steps to reduce its budget; however, no specific decisions have been made yet. Careful study and discussion with our Board of Education and staff are occurring to assure that we make the best use of available resources. We will continue to be proactive in communicating with you. Board meeting presentations are available on our web site.

The **Enrollment Study Committee** will report to the Board of Education at the Board Retreat on Saturday, February 7, 2009, 8:00 a.m. No action will be taken at this meeting. This committee was formed to examine the impact of declining enrollment and its affect on balancing class sections as well as budget implications. The findings from this committee will be grouped in three segments: immediate recommendations, mid-range recommendations, and long-term solutions. The work of this committee will likely receive on-going discussion with the Board and district stakeholders in the months ahead. Information will be posted on our web site.

Spring registration has been scheduled for April 17 – May 1, 2009. Materials will be sent home with your children.

Thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89.

Sincerely,



John S. Perdue, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**

Susan J. Caddy

**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**

Jamie Reilly, Ed.D.

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Briar Glen School

Emily Tammaru, Principal

Park View School

Amy Warke, Principal

Westfield School

Peggy Marhoefer, Principal

Glen Crest Middle School

Scott Stevens, Ed.D., Principal

Todd Schrage, Assistant Principal

David Bruno, Dean of Students