

June 22, 2009

Message from the Superintendent

We hope that summer break is off to a good start for you and your family. With several important projects underway in District 89 this summer, this communication is intended to keep you informed.

**Facility Renovations**

An aggressive 12-week work schedule has begun for all five schools. The projects now being completed include the demolition of ceiling tiles, light fixtures, windows, unit ventilators, casework, and HVAC/mechanical systems. Many areas inside the buildings are fully exposed with work being completed in order to prepare for the installation of various new systems. Every two weeks a summary of completed projects will appear on our web site under the Facility Improvement link. Since there is considerable activity on the school sites and safety, please remind your children to not enter the schools or related areas.

**Paired Schools Model**

At the June 15, 2009 Board of Education meeting, it was recommended that the district discontinue study of the paired schools model, and the Board agreed. This idea was a valid solution for rebalancing class sizes and sections; however, it does not solve a growing financial problem. These factors also blend with a general discontentment we have heard from parents who do not favor this option. The district continues to support four neighborhood schools, and will strive to support this objective as long as enrollments and finances permit. In the interim, we believe that the administrative transfer policy for new enrollments will assist in balancing class size sections.

**Budget and Finances**

To remedy long-term financial issues, the Board discussed several tax increase strategies at the June 15 meeting. These included an increase in the tax rate or Consumer Price Index factor and educational programs this would fund. These include: class size, technology, academic support programs (reading and math), professional development, special program supports (ELL, Challenge), mandated programs, areas of rising costs (instructional materials, energy, insurance, employment), and the district's deficit. No decisions have been made; however, it is fair to say that the likelihood of the district seeking community support for new educational funding is imminent. In the interim, the district will continue to reduce its costs where possible.

**Satisfaction Surveys**

An executive summary of all satisfaction surveys has been posted on the district web site. The following groups participated in this survey with corresponding participation rates: parents (12%), staff (86%), students (100%). Data from these surveys will be used as the Strategic Plan is updated this fall. Building summary data is being compiled by principals and will be reviewed by their school improvement teams this fall. Building summaries will be posted to their web sites this fall. Thank you to all who participated in responding to this survey.

Enjoy your summer holiday, and thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89.

John S. Perdue, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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**Superintendent**  
John S. Perdue, Ed.D.  
**Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations**  
Susan J. Caddy  
**Assistant Superintendent  
for Learning**  
Jamie Reilly, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**  
Lori Gaspar  
Gene Claudell  
Mary Kataura  
Terry Lachcik  
Mike Nelson  
Jody Selenica  
Frank Zak

**Arbor View School**  
J. Kevin Diehl, Principal  
**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