

Superintendent's Message to Parents, April 5, 2010

School District Finances

This has certainly been a very difficult budget planning season for District 89 and most all other school districts. At the March 15 meeting, the Board of Education took action to reduce spending by \$600K. This included the following: Personnel \$441,881, and Delayed Expenses, Program & Operational Efficiencies \$153,995.

We worked very hard to not directly affect the classroom with many of the personnel reductions due to declining enrollments, attrition, and support staffing positions proportionally. The District remains in a deficit position with the fund balance being used to absorb approximately \$100K of additional shortfall. What we thought was a challenging financial year has grown bleaker with recent news from the State. With the State unable to make this year's level of state aid payments (the State owes D89 \$425K), the Governor has proposed reductions in all K-12 state aid categories for 2010-11. For District 89, this could result in additional losses of as much as \$800K, depending on the results of legislative action now underway. The Board of Education has opted to wait for the State to decide these matters before additional decisions can be made. While D89 is in a better financial position than many other districts, the fund balance is not an eternal funding source for ongoing expenses. The 2011-12 budget year could be even more daunting. The Board has not ruled out a future education fund tax increase question as it continues to monitor expenses and revenue.

Student Registration for 2010-11

Student registration information for 2010-11 will be provided to families from April 9-23. This is an important time for the district as it begins to collect confirmed enrollment data upon which staffing decisions are started. Please be looking for these materials and complete them in a timely manner and return to your home school. Kindergarten registration planning is underway in each of our elementary buildings.

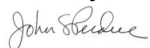
Illinois Student Data Collection

The Illinois State Board of Education is requiring that every Illinois school district ask its entire student body two new race and ethnicity questions before the start of the 2010-2011 school year. The questions will be part of the registration packet going home April 9th. Included will be a letter to parents explaining why this is being done and a form to return for each student. Parents or guardians must answer the questions for their students. The first question is the ethnicity question, which asks if the student is Hispanic/Latino. The second question is the race question, which asks for the student's race. More than one race may be chosen. Both questions must be answered and the signed form should be sent back to the student's school by April 23rd. We appreciate your help in this undertaking.

Park View's "Smart Way to Move Ahead" Fundraiser

Special thanks and congratulations are extended to the Park View PTC and event co-chairs Maggie Minor and Dawn Weigand for a very successful school community technology fundraiser on March 6. This event attracted over 100 parents and staff for a lively and fun evening designed to support learning for the students. Final numbers have been calculated, with the committee awarding its goal of \$12,100 to the school. Congratulations on a terrific event for the students!

Thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* for District 89!



John S. Perdue, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**

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Lori Gaspar

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Terry Lachcik

Mike Nelson

Jody Selenica

Frank Zak

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Principal

Briar Glen School

Emily Tamaru, Principal

Park View School

Amy Warke, Principal

Westfield School

Peggy Marhoefer, Principal

Glen Crest Middle School

Todd Schrage, Principal

Shalagh S. O'Neill, Assistant Principal