

September 25, 2017

CCSD 89 families:

I hope that your school year is off to a great start. In our classrooms, the daily work continues to be focused on empowering young students to become lifelong learners.

At the District office, we are also preparing the District for long-term success. One part of those preparations has been looking at how to manage the recent enrollment increase, and plan for our continued population growth. The district's enrollment grew by 11 percent in five years, creating school populations that are imbalanced. While the district as a whole has enough classrooms to serve our student population, the boundaries for Park View Elementary include dozens more students than would fit in the building. The solution to this problem has been to use the district's administrative transfer policy to bus students to other schools with more space. This year, more than 100 students are being bused away from their neighborhood schools.

For more than a year, district administrators have been looking at ways to better balance school populations. Last week, the Boundary Committee - made up of staff and parents from all four elementary schools as well as two board members and a local resident - recommended a plan that would shift four neighborhoods. A map and more information about the potential boundary change can be found at www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryProposal

Despite the long, thorough conversation and study that led to this recommendation, we are still early in this process. This boundary-change proposal will not be presented to the Board of Education until its October 16 meeting. The Board of Education will then hear more about the proposal in November. The Board will not take a vote until at least December.

Before then, I will be visiting the Parent Teacher Council meetings at all four elementary schools. There will also be a community question-and-answer session at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 25, at Glen Crest Middle School. I encourage everyone to review the detailed information that has been posted on the district's website, in the superintendent's committee section.

A news release summarizing the boundary proposal and process can be read at <https://goo.gl/kGp5bg>

The agendas, minutes, presentations, and documents from all the Enrollment and Boundary committee meetings can be found at www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryCommittee

A document with frequently asked questions can be found at www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryFAQ

Board of Education

Tim Jedlicka
Jay Lerch
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD
La Sridhar

Superintendent

Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**
Robert Langman, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**
Maureen A. Jones, CSBO

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal
Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Barb Peterson, Principal

Westfield School

Stacey Hewick, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Kim Price, Principal
John Batiste, Assistant Principal

Here are some other important reminders:

Students talk about returning to school

Prior to the start of the school year, Community Consolidated School District 89 students from kindergarten through eighth grade shared their thoughts about the best and hardest parts of school, their advice for teachers, their hopes for the 2017-18 school year, and more. I hope you take a few minutes to enjoy the insights of our amazing students!

You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/xptDbdO3Qb8>

Thank you to PEP Foundation

This fall, the Partnership for Educational Progress (PEP) awarded \$1,870 in grants for CCSD 89 projects that will inspire readers, focus learners, empower students, and allow our families to explore STEM projects. Since 1992, the PEP foundation has awarded more than 440 teacher grants worth more than \$241,000. We are so grateful to those who have contributed.

You can read more about the projects that will be funded here: <https://goo.gl/3q8qQh>

You can find out more about donating to the PEP Foundation here: <http://www.thepepfoundation.org/>

Generous donations transform schools

In August, I had the honor of attending the dedication of the new Park Programming Center, a space in the Westfield library that will be used to teach students coding and programming skills. The Programming Center is named in honor of Catherine Park, the mother of three CCSD 89 students. Catherine, 46, died unexpectedly during a family vacation in 2016. Her family made a \$22,000 donation to provide opportunities for all students to learn more about the field in which she worked.

You can read more about Catherine's story here: <https://goo.gl/d9zeJE>

You can watch a video of highlights from the dedication ceremony here: <https://youtu.be/mBogR-1KGtQ>

I would also like to acknowledge the incredible \$30,000 donation that Arbor View Elementary School received from a local family, which will be used to enhance the school's MakerSpace program in the LMC.

Student/Parent Handbook reminder

As a reminder, it is important that the Acknowledgement Form inside the front cover of the 2017-18 Student/Parent Handbook is filled out, signed, and returned to school as soon as possible. For parents with more than one student in the District, an Acknowledgement Form must be turned in for each student. If the Acknowledgement Form has been misplaced, you can print out a new copy from www.ccsd89.org/handbook

Board of Education

Tim Jedlicka
Jay Lerch
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD
La Sridhar

Superintendent

Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**
Robert Langman, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**
Maureen A. Jones, CSBO

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal
Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Barb Peterson, Principal

Westfield School

Stacey Hewick, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Kim Price, Principal
John Batiste, Assistant Principal

Board updates

On August 21, the Board of Education heard a presentation on the tentative budget for the 2017-18 school year. The budget includes a deficit of more than \$1 million, although there are still parts of the budget that are not yet known.

A summary of the August 21 Board meeting can be read here: <https://goo.gl/FSGJJq>

The Board will meet again at 7 p.m. on October 16 in the district office.

Full agendas and minutes for all Board meetings can be found at www.ccsd89.org/board

Upcoming events

October 6: Student half day (School improvement)

October 9: No school – Columbus Day

October 10: No students (Institute Day)

October 16: Board of Education meeting

October 19: Evening conferences at Glen Crest

November 2: Evening conferences at Glen Crest

Thank you for supporting learning for life in CCSD 89!

Sincerely,



Dr. Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

Follow CCSD 89 on Twitter: [@CCSD89](https://twitter.com/CCSD89)

Follow CCSD 89 on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CCSD89

Board of Education

Tim Jedlicka
Jay Lerch
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD
La Sridhar

Superintendent

Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**
Robert Langman, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**
Maureen A. Jones, CSBO

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal
Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Barb Peterson, Principal

Westfield School

Stacey Hewick, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Kim Price, Principal
John Batiste, Assistant Principal