

February 20, 2018

CCSD 89 families:

At last week's Board of Education meeting, Briar Glen parent and Finance Committee member Melissa Bartolli gave a wonderful presentation on the work of the Finance Committee. This committee is working toward recommendations that can be brought to the board to ensure the district's financial security.

As we have discussed previously, the district is facing significant projected deficits in the next four years. I asked committee members to have an open mind when they approached this process and they have begun to dig into some big questions. I appreciate their candor, curiosity, and sincerity in talking about education. It is evident that everyone on the committee values what our schools mean to children and this community, and they do not want to see that diminished.

The work of the Finance Committee is the next step in a plan we began discussing two years ago. It started with the work of the Strategic Plan and Boundary committees. Those committees were also made up of community members, parents, staff and board members. The Strategic Plan and Boundary committees dug deep into their work, produced valuable ideas, and helped set a solid course for this district.

This district is committed to hearing from all our stakeholders and engaging the community in the biggest issues facing education. Over the course of the next few months, there will be additional opportunities for dialog about finances. In the meantime, you can review all of the Finance Committee's work at: www.ccsd89.org/financecommittee

I thank everyone who has participated in these important conversations. I know that together we will ensure CCSD 89 remains a bedrock institution serving three great communities.

Here are some other important reminders:

Safety message

After the tragic events in Florida, I want to reassure you that safety is the foundation for all our work. If you did not see the safety message sent home last week, it is available here: <https://goo.gl/pUcwMo>

The message includes some practical steps we can take here to keep our schools safe, as well as resources for parents who are searching for ways to have conversations at home. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. If your student is struggling, let our staff social workers and psychologists assist. We will support your children in any way we can.

Board of Education

Tim Jedlicka
Jay Lerch
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
La Sridhar
Ben Yates

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

Welcome new Board Member Ben Yates

On February 12, the Board of Education unanimously appointed Wheaton resident Ben Yates to fill a vacant seat. Yates is a father of three who has served on the district's Enrollment and Boundary committees. We welcome Yates and thank him for his willingness to serve students. You can learn more about Yates here: <https://goo.gl/w13TYh>

Becky Kelly a finalist for Golden Apple honor

I'd like to congratulate early childhood teacher Becky Kelly, who is one of 30 finalists for this year's Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. There were 650 preschool-through-third-grade teachers nominated this year and less than 5 percent were selected to be finalists. Kelly is an amazing teacher who was instrumental in designing our specialized academic classroom. You can learn more about Kelly here: <https://goo.gl/wuZvxT>

Last day of school now scheduled for May 23

Due to the snow day on February 9, the last day of the school year is now scheduled to be Wednesday, May 23. The district builds five emergency days into the school calendar. The district has used one emergency day in the 2017-18 school year. If all five emergency days were used, the last day of school would be May 30.

PARCC testing begins in March

This year's PARCC testing for students in grades 3 through 8 will take place between March 5 and March 23. Each school will set its own schedule for these tests. There's nothing students need to prepare for these exams. We hope that students will do their best, without putting undue stress on themselves. We ask that parents make sure students get rest and have a good breakfast on these days.

COD tax filing help

If you're interested in having your taxes filed for free, our district will be hosting a College of DuPage event open to all residents. College students, under the supervision of accounting instructors, will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 25, at Park View Elementary School, to help file taxes. Find out more here: <https://goo.gl/8Hoo6y>

Board updates

On February 12, the Board heard a financial update from Assistant Superintendent Maureen Jones (which can be viewed here: <https://goo.gl/L8FAua>) and an update on the work of the Finance Committee (which can be viewed here: <https://goo.gl/ZCTfwy>). The Board also appointed Ben Yates to fill a term that will run through 2019.

A summary of the February Board meeting can be read here: <https://goo.gl/hZy123>

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The Board will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 19, at the Administration Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn. All meetings are open to the public. Full agendas and minutes for all Board meetings can be found at www.ccsd89.org/board

Upcoming events

February 21: Second trimester ends

February 25: Free tax prep event at Park View. More info: <https://goo.gl/8Hoo6y>

February 28: Second trimester report cards sent home

March 2: No school (Teacher Institute)

March 6: CCSD 89 fundraiser at PDQ in Wheaton. Info: <https://goo.gl/6Gnm17>

March 10: District Choral Festival

March 19: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

Thank you for supporting learning for life in CCSD 89!

Sincerely,



Dr. Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

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