

October 22, 2018

CCSD 89 families:

In a little more than two weeks, you will be part of charting the next steps for Community Consolidated School District 89. Tuesday, November 6, will be the first time in 32 years that CCSD 89 residents will vote on whether to change the operating rate for this district.

I'm sure it will seem to some people that on November 6, the 'public' part of public education will be more front and center than usual. However, throughout this process, the community has led the conversation. Residents were front and center in 2011, when the feedback was to make cuts outside the classroom rather than changing the operating rate. The district eliminated administrative positions, trimmed benefits, teamed up with other districts to leverage our purchasing power, and found ways to cut nearly \$3 million from the budget. This was a wise community decision, as falling enrollment allowed the district to weather difficult financial times.

CCSD 89 continues to be an attractive location for young families. As the district grew by more than 300 students, we have had to use our reserves to make sure every student has the same educational resources and opportunities. As reserve levels fell, the seven residents on the board of education asked the community to study our next steps.

The district formed a finance committee. Many residents joined believing efficiencies would be easy to find. In the end, they felt the district could not make any further cuts outside the classroom. They presented the board with two options:

- Increase revenues to maintain comprehensive, high-quality educational programming.
- Begin cutting programs, including reductions of: gifted services, band and orchestra, social work services, library staff, administrative support, extracurricular activities, and full-day kindergarten. The cuts could also result in larger class sizes.

Facing these difficult options, the district continued to engage with residents through community forums that hundreds of people participated in, through surveys, and in face-to-face discussions. Again, we followed the community's lead when residents told us: a referendum should be to maintain programming, not add. This led to the question that will be on the ballot November 6, which would maintain current programming and restore reserves to the board-mandated 10 percent.

I am so grateful to the hundreds of residents who have asked questions and shared ideas with the district. We are all stronger because of your time and your insights. I ask everyone to continue to read the information on

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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

the district's website (www.ccsd89.org/referendum), attend our second information session, or ask questions by contacting the district office.

Please continue to guide your school district by voting on November 6. Thank you for all you do to support our students!

Here are some important reminders:

Referendum meeting, information

Residents can learn more about the upcoming referendum at district's second informational meeting. At the meeting, there will be a brief overview presentation, then residents will be able to ask questions. The meeting will be held 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 23, at the District Office, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn.

You can see an explanation of the ballot question, see a frequently-asked-questions document and learn much more about the referendum at: www.ccsd89.org/referendum

To watch a video summarizing the financial challenges and community feedback that led to the referendum question, go to: <https://youtu.be/G2rjnhxtzfw>

STEAM Family Night October 22

Families are invited to imagine, design, and construct at the STEAM Family Night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. tonight at Glen Crest Middle School. "STEAM" stands for: science, technology, engineering, art, and math. This is a free event with fun activities that are appropriate for students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Families will be able to help students complete the hands-on challenges that require imagination, critical thinking, and problem solving. More information: <https://bit.ly/2q1r3hT>

Poinsettia sale supports music students

You can support CCSD 89 musicians at all levels by ordering poinsettias, wreaths, or garlands from the Music Boosters Association. Orders are due to any CCSD 89 music teacher by Friday, October 26. The Music Boosters are selling poinsettias, azaleas, and cyclamen flowers, as well as wreaths and garlands from Schaefer Greenhouses. More information and the order forms can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2NEO8Ap>

Blood Drive at Glen Crest November 1

Anyone who donates blood at Glen Crest Middle School on Thursday, November 1 will receive a \$10 gift card to Colonial Café and a voucher for a Chicago Wolves hockey ticket. The blood drive will be held from 2 to 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. More information: www.ccsd89.org/blood

Halloween costume reminder

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With Halloween a little more than a week away, we remind all parents that students are allowed to dress up at school. Elementary students can wear their costumes after lunch, and middle school students can dress up all day. We ask that all costumes be non-violent and school appropriate. Look for more information about Halloween from your building principal.

Board of Education highlights

The Board of Education met at 7 p.m. Monday, October 15. The Board heard a presentation on the buddies program at Park View Elementary School. The buddies program has been making connections between older and younger students for many years. Classes get together weekly for various learning opportunities, including math activities, literacy practice, computer skills, and MakerSpace projects. The students grow academically and socially by interacting with their peers.

You can read highlights from the October 15 meeting here: <https://bit.ly/2NPCLFC>

The Board will meet again at 7 p.m. Monday, November 19, at the District Office, 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

October 23: Referendum information meeting
October 25: Evening conferences at Glen Crest
November 5: Evening conferences at Glen Crest
November 6: No students – Teacher Institute
November 7: First trimester ends
November 13: First trimester report cards go home
November 15: Elementary evening conferences
November 19: Elementary evening conferences
November 19: Board of Education meeting

Thank you for supporting learning for life in CCSD 89!

Sincerely,



Dr. Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

Board of Education

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Superintendent

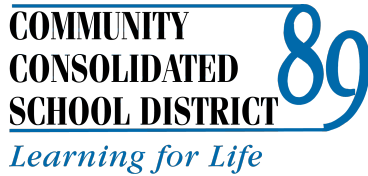
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