



District Changes its Financial Ground Rules

Two years ago, voters were asked to consider a tax rate increase for District 34. At the time, it was explained that without the increased funds, significant changes would be made in the District.

That significant change was recently made. While that change doesn't affect individual classrooms and students, it is a major shift in philosophy.

The Board agreed to change the ground rules, spend down its reserve funds, and adopt deficit budgets. What this does is allow the District to operate for a few more years with current program and staffing.

The decision to move away from a policy that has been in place for more than 20 years was made following a review of the District's financial situation by a citizen-led finance task force. This is, however, just a short term solution.

By spending some of the reserves, it is projected the District can maintain its current programs and staffing through the 2005-06 school year. After three years of spending down the District's reserves, the District would need to either find addi-

tional funds or make difficult decisions on programming and staffing.

Why is the District in this financial situation where it is spending more money than it is bringing in? Simply stated, the Illinois tax cap law, and growing student enrollments. This legislation limits the amount of taxes a school district can collect. It was estimated recently by the Chicago Tribune that 80-85% of Illinois' nearly 900 school districts will spend more than they collect this year.

"We are in a situation similar to a family having to use its savings account to make ends meet," Superintendent Dorothy Weber says. "That savings account can only last so long. Even with our belt tightening and raising student book and lunch fees, projections indicate the reserves will last until the 2005-2006 school year."



34CONNECT Citizen Task Force Presents 13 Recommendations to the Board of Education

Following nearly a year of public engagement, the 34CONNECT citizen task force presented 13 recommendations to the Board of Education in November.

THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS began in February and was open to all residents. More than 135 individuals signed up to be a part of the process and nearly 100 residents attended at least one session. The task force met 14 times during the course of the past 10 months. The process began with the task force members asking questions about the District. That was followed by information meetings specifically designed to address the questions of the task force.

Additionally, the process included four school-based sessions that were attended by nearly 70 parents and community members. At those sessions, attendees provided input by ranking what they felt were the most important factors in school success. Those results were shared with the task force prior to that group formalizing its recommendations. Staff at the schools conducted similar input sessions.

Over the past several months the task force used all of that data to create the recommendations it recently presented to the Board. The core group from the task force, which included approximately 30 individuals, focused in on the areas of class size, facilities, staffing, student achievement, the curriculum, finances and communications.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

The District 34 Board of Education has scheduled the following meeting dates: **January 27**, **February 10** (this is an informational meeting—no action will be taken), **February 24** and **March 17**.

All meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM at the Administration Building, 1401 Greenwood Road.

The recommendations (grouped by topic, not by any kind of ranking) presented to the Board are:

Recommendation #1

Giving priority to the primary grades, move toward lower class sizes. Recognizing financial and space limitations, at a minimum, maintain current ranges for class size.

Recommendation #2

Maximize classroom use and remove instruction from inappropriate places such as hallways.

Recommendation #3

Explore and implement programs to support faculty and staff in the classroom that utilize alternative staffing models and community volunteers.

Recommendation #4

Allow the percentage of teachers with a master's degree to decrease, while continuing to encourage teachers to seek out other professional development opportunities.

Recommendation #5

Retain a competitive compensation package.

Recommendation #6

Evaluate options for adding a performance-based component into compensation for teachers and staff with the goal of improving classroom performance and attracting teachers.

Recommendation #7

With the goal of preparing students for a successful transition to Glenbrook South High School, work with the high school to identify potential program gaps. Establish academic standards that prepare each student to achieve his or her maximum performance at GBS. Implement program changes based on gaps identified.

Recommendation #8

Request aggregate performance data of District 34 students from GBS, relative to the average results from all GBS students and relative to other feeder districts, in order to determine potential gaps in curriculum. The analysis should control

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Enrollment Steadily Growing in District 34

The enrollment projections show slow but steady growth in District 34. The growth is attributed to the development of the Glen along with other construction in the District and redevelopment of older homes in Glenview.

The projections from the Glen currently show more than 300 preschool children living in the area. These preschoolers will enter area schools in the next 4 years. The District expects more families with school-age or preschool-age children as additional homes become occupied.

The District has 3,906 students enrolled. That number was 3,415 in 1992.

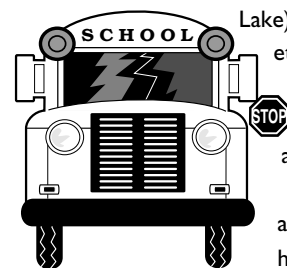
The growing number of children in

the District coupled with the increased numbers of children in the Special Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs equates to a need for additional space. With the opening of Attea Middle School and the transition to a K-2, 3-5, 6-8 structure, that space will be provided in five of the eight schools. Pleasant Ridge, Glen Grove and Hoffman will remain crowded as they will continue to educate three grade levels of students.

Please Give our Buses a Hand

On a daily basis, District 34 transports 3,600 students to and from school using 31 buses. With the construction on Lake Avenue causing some traffic challenges in the area, District 34 asks the community's assistance with its transportation of children. When you see a school bus attempting to merge into traffic, would you please allow them to enter the road?

Also, know that cars cutting through the Lyon School parking lot (Waukegan and



Lake) are being ticketed because of the unsafe nature of that activity.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Citizen Task Force Recommendations

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for critical factors affecting student performance (e.g. income level, diversity). Implement program changes based on those identified gaps.

Recommendation #9

Maintain the current level of services within special programs (e.g. special education, gifted education, ESL, early intervention) and identify specific enhancements as part of the existing annual program assessment.

- The District should seek out grants and other sources of funding, outside of tax dollars, to fund programs.
- If necessary, balance increases or decreases in services across all programs.

Recommendation #10

Create a chart of accounts and use it according to accepted accounting

methods to evaluate program changes and improve resource allocation.

Recommendation #11

Expand the objectives of the Board Financial Advisory Committee to condense and present appropriate summaries from the chart of accounts and provide recommendations for efficiency enhancements as identified.

Recommendation #12

Identify and synthesize studies that explore positive and negative factors, including school quality, that impact property values. Communicate this information to the public.

Recommendation #13

Redesign Schoolook and the District web site to be more readable and concise, more informative, more accessible to a diverse community and more

relevant. These resources should be interconnected and provide direction on how to access specific information. Examples include results of school board votes; financial reports; student achievement reports; opportunities for District participation or volunteerism; agendas for major meetings; and curriculum information.

34CONNECT Co-Chairs Jack Hotaling and Jackie Lutz presented the task force findings and recommendations. Additionally, the Board received the data and information the task force used to create its recommendations.

The recommendations will be discussed during the next several months at Board of Education meetings.

District Earns National Awards for Excellence

Glenview School District 34 earned two distinctive awards recently—the 2002 Bright A+ Award and the 2002 Bright Red Apple Award from SchoolSearch.

The A+ award goes to school districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the top 5% among Illinois school districts.

The Bright Red Apple award was earned by just 8% of school districts and is given to Districts that are strong in five main categories: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers and average teacher salary.

School Resource Officer Honored

Glenview School District 34 School Resource Officer Ken Smith recently earned the designation of a National School Resource Practitioner.

Just six other school resource officers in Illinois and just 12 in the region, which encompasses five states, have earned the National School Resource Practitioner designation. Smith has been at Springman for the past three years.



Henking Students Learn About their School's Namesake

On October 25, Henking School held a ceremony to dedicate a new portrait of Louise Henking, the former District 34 Board of Education member for whom the school is named.

Louise Henking was a Board of Education member from 1946-1959 and spent her final two years on the Board as president. She was

a board member during a time when women historically were not serving on boards of education. In fact, she is believed to be the first woman in the area to serve on a school board.

Louise Henking passed away seven years ago but her passion and interest in education stayed with her throughout her life.

District Receives More Than \$80,000 in E-Rate Grants

District 34 recently received notification it was awarded \$82,117 from the Universal Service Administrative Company to access discounted E-Rate telecommunication services. The funds will allow the District to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

District Receives its Report Card from the State

While the Glenview School District 34 scores on the state standardized tests were already at a high level, the recently released Illinois Standards Achievement Test scores (ISAT) showed improvement.

THE OVERALL PERCENTAGE of students in the 'meeting,' or 'exceeding,' categories rose for the third straight year," Assistant Superintendent Phil Collins says.

The percentage was 82.2 percent on the 2000 report, 83.3 percent on the 2001 report

and 83.9 percent on this year's report.

Students in District 34 are tested each spring and their score determines which of the four categories they reach: "academic warning," "below standards," "meets standards" and "exceeds standards." The full reports for each school are reported in the fall and are available on the District's website at www.ncook.k12.il.us.

"These tests basically give us a benchmark in order to see how well we are doing with the education of our students," Collins says. "I think the results show that our teachers and staff members at our schools are providing students with a quality education based on the District curriculum. However, we still have some work to do to achieve a level where all of our students are scoring in the top two categories."

Historically Significant

District 34 celebrated its 60th anniversary on April 4, 2002. As part of the celebration, the administration is putting together a District history.

DO YOU HAVE FIRST-HAND recollections of former Superintendents Clyde Lyon and John Springman? Were you a student in the first classes held in the elementary or junior high buildings? Perhaps you were in one of the last classes held at Rugen School or Glenview Junior High School located on Waukegan Road. Then your help is needed to put together the District 34 history. Your help also is needed if you have



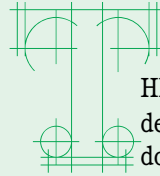
Laying the cornerstone at Springman Middle School—1953.

knowledge, old publications, printed material or photos. Information is especially needed from the early years of District 34 that was consolidated and chartered in 1942. If you have any information, please contact Mark Dlatt, historian and former Springman Middle School Social Studies teacher. He is compiling the history of the District and can be reached at 847-298-3978 or at dlatt@ncook.k12.il.us.

The compiled history will be used in the classroom with students in the 2nd and 3rd grade as part of a social studies unit on the community. A portion of the report also will be provided to new staff to provide them with a sense of the history surrounding the District. Additionally, the history will serve as a complete context for what has gone on prior to the opening of the new Attea Middle School.

Attea Middle School will Open Next Fall

As enrollment numbers continue to rise, the District will have another building to house students next fall with the opening of Attea Middle School.



THE PROJECT IS ON TIME and under budget. The school will open its doors to approximately 675 students from across the District in the fall of 2003. The District should take possession of the building in February from the contractor.

The project was funded by a \$24.9 million bond issue. Currently, the District has sold \$20 million in bonds to pay for the project. Recently the Board agreed not to sell \$4.9 million and abate or refund approximately \$1.3 million back to the taxpayers. This will be made possible upon the receipt of the remainder of the \$6.2 million building grant from the state.

With the financial situation the District finds itself in, an emphasis was placed on further streamlining the staffing in the building. Each middle school will have just one assistant principal and just two secretarial support staff positions.

Overall, the District has 3,906 students, up nearly 500 students from 1992. Next fall the District will have three K-2 buildings (Henking, Lyon and Westbrook), three 3-5 buildings (Glen Grove, Hoffman and Pleasant Ridge) and two middle schools that will house 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Attea and Springman middle schools will offer identical programs, be staffed the same and plan to collaborate on projects, activities and a joint PTA.

A dedication and community open house are being planned for early October of 2003.



In The Superintendent's Corner

Things were different 25 years ago in District 34 and in Glenview. Student enrollment was steadily decreasing; very few children (less than 20) needed help in learning English; there were no children in wheelchairs and very few identified as special education (as the special education law was just 4 years old). There was no tax cap law and the Citizens' Committee on Finance advised the Superintendent to keep reserves strong and ask voters for fiscal support. This was successfully completed and that philosophy has lasted—until now.

Things are different today. Our enrollment is growing; one in four of our students live in a home where another language is spoken; 18% of our children are special education students and account for 25% of our total spending. We've been under a tax cap since 1994 and have used the reserves from the 70's and 80's to build classrooms and hire more teachers for enrollment and programs. Two years ago we went to

referendum to keep those reserves strong and the community indicated that was not the solution they wanted at the time.

Therefore, we studied the issues and listened to the Citizens' Financial Review Task Force, which recommended spending reserves, becoming as efficient as possible, and raising student fees. All of this has begun. As we do this, however, we are unwilling to reduce the quality of the teachers and staff who provide wonderful experiences for students.

Therefore, this year we join the growing list of state school districts (80%) with a deficit budget. This is a short term solution but the goal is to maintain the competent and caring teachers and staff that continue to be known throughout the State and the nation. That is the one thing that hasn't changed in the past 25 years!

Dr. Dorothy M. Weber
Superintendent of Schools

Our Mission

The Glenview Public Schools, in collaboration with the parents and community, shall empower children to be responsible learners and decision makers in a changing society.

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SECOND CLASS

POSTAL PATRON

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