

Board and Teachers Ratify a 4-Year Agreement

Following 15 months of collaborative discussion, sitting side-by-side rather than across the table, the District 34 Board of Education and the members of the Glenview Education Association (GEA) ratified a revised Constitution on January 27. The Constitution is the District's contract with its teachers. The GEA approval was 85% while the Board's vote was unanimous.

BARGAINING TEAM MEMBERS indicated the contract creates a fair balance between the District being a good steward of the taxpayer's dollars, while at the same time respecting the quality teaching staff working in District 34.

In crafting the financial package of the agreement, the team took into consideration citizen input from three sources.

These include:

- ▶ The Citizens Finance Review Task Force recommendation to the Board of Education in the fall of 2001.
 - ▶ An independent communication survey conducted in the fall of 2001.
 - ▶ The 34Connect Task Force recommendation on staffing to the Board in November of 2002.
- The four-year agreement provides an average annual increase of 4.5%. This translates into an individual teacher's raise being between 2% and 7% each year, depending upon experience and education.

Other highlights of the contract include:

- ❑ The retirement program offered to teachers was expanded slightly.
- ❑ The insurance out of pocket costs for teachers will rise, resulting in an estimated \$210,000 annual savings to the District.
- ❑ The contract keeps in place a longer work year for District 34 teachers than many teachers in comparable/feeder districts.
- ❑ The agreement also includes a slight increase in professional development support through incentives for teachers to pursue a doctorate degree and National Board Certification.



Springman teacher, Scott Buzard, works with his students. Teachers and the Board recently agreed to a 4-year contract.

See page 2 to learn more about the District 34 Constitution.

Two District Schools Among 16 Named Illinois Blue Ribbon Nominees



Henking and Lyon schools were each named as No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School nominees recently by the Illinois State Board of Education. Just 16 schools in the state were chosen for this recognition!

District 34 was the only school system in the state to have more than one school named as a nominee.

“We are honored as a school system to have two of our schools named as Illinois nominees,” Superintendent Dorothy Weber says. “An award of this magnitude is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students and parents.”

All 16 Illinois schools, including Henking and Lyon, can now apply for national recognition as part of the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools program. The number of nominees from each state is based on the state’s population.

District 34 has achieved national recognition under the former Blue Ribbon Schools award in the past:

- Westbrook received the accolade twice, in 1988 and 1997.
- Springman was recognized in 1987 when the award program was titled National Education Award.

The District plans to submit its applications to the Secretary of Education prior to the April deadline. National award winners will be announced in September.

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HE SELECTIONS WERE DETERMINED by student scores as well as school performance on the math and reading state tests over the past three years. The criteria were:

- Schools with consistent performance in the top 10% or
- Schools with dramatic improvement to a high level and at least 40% of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds

In addition, Secretary of Education Rod Paige indicated a strong interest in recognizing schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged students who scored in the top 10% over the past three years.

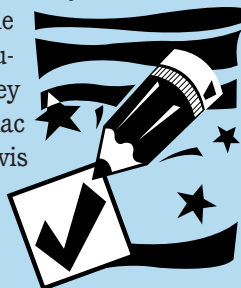
The state selected the 16 nominated schools from an eligible list of approximately 4,000 schools.

Board Election Set for April 1

Five Board of Education seats are up for election on April 1. Four of the seats are for 4-year terms while one seat is a 2-year term (to finish the term of a board member who resigned last year).

Five citizens have filed for the four available 4-year Board of Education seats. In filing order, they are: Scott Britton, Sue Ellen Bohac Galligan, Beth Primer, John Travis and Joel D. Moses.

Tim Tishler is the only citizen to file for the 2-year seat.



What is the District 34 Constitution?

Established in 1989, the District 34 Constitution is a description of the relationship between the teachers, administration and Board mapping out how all three groups, working together, can make a difference in student’s lives.

This makes the Constitution unique as a teacher contract. The document assumes, and then puts into action, that teachers are professionals and should be treated accordingly.

The document outlines a District expectation and support for teachers to be lifelong learners. It also is a fluid document, meaning nearly all sections of the Constitution can be modified as opportunities, problems or issues arise.

Kindergarten Registration Begins March 6

Parents of soon-to-be kindergartners are encouraged to attend Kindergarten Round-Up on March 6 at Henking, Lyon and Westbrook schools.

Children 5 years old on or before September 1, 2003 are eligible for kindergarten.

Kindergarten Round-Up runs from 4:30–7:30 PM at Henking and Lyon schools and from 4–7:00 PM at Westbrook. Parents should call Henking at 998-5035, Lyon at 998-5045 or Westbrook at 998-5055 for more information regarding registration packets that should be completed.

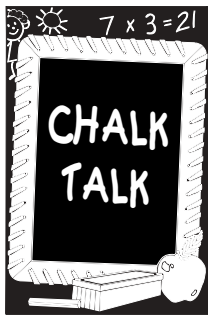
Parents who are unable to register their child on March 6 are encouraged to contact their school as soon as possible for registration.

Board Member Nancy Morgan Resigns for Health and Time Reasons

Board of Education vice-president Nancy Morgan, citing both her health and her time commitments, recently announced her resignation from the Board. She has been a Board member since April of 1999.

The District thanks Nancy for her work on behalf of District 34 students and staff over the past four years.

The Board was scheduled to appoint a resident to fill the position following an application process. That appointment has likely been made. However, because of the time schedule involved in producing this newsletter, that person's name was not available at printing. When the appointment is made, it will be posted on the District's website at www.ncook.k12.il.us.



Students Lend a Hand in Naming Attea Mascot and Colors

No school is complete without colors and a mascot. Attea Middle School now has both.

The school colors are blue and silver and the mascot name is the

Flyers, both of which were chosen through voting by students at Springman and the intermediate schools.

Attea Middle School, set to open in the fall of 2003, is nearly complete. Construction is on time and under budget.

Residency Reminder for Parents

Each year during registration, the District requires parents to provide proof of residency. Cook County recently sent property tax bills to all homeowners. In order to make proving residency easier in July for parents, homeowners should keep a copy of the 2002 real estate tax bill and proof of payment receipt for residency verification. Additionally, those parents who have homeowners/condo/renters insurance policy declarations or renewal statements should keep copies of that information as well.

Residency verification packets will be sent in June and are due back between July 7th and July 25th.

Keep Current with District News through New E-mail Service

Parents and residents who want to keep up with District news can sign up to receive e-mail news updates.

Anyone can register for the service by visiting the District's website at www.ncook.k12.il.us and signing up under the 'NEWS' link.

District Earns National Music Award

A nationwide survey of public and private school programs recently identified the top 100 places to live in America for quality music education. Glenview School District 34 was one of the Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America.

For more information visit www.amc-music.org.



Education Foundation to Host Benefit

The Glenview Education Foundation will host a benefit to showcase its teacher grant award recipients and raise funds for future projects. The event will be held on Friday, April 11 at Valley Lo Sports Club. All residents are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Ann Cohn at 657-6046.



In The Superintendent's Corner

The letters arrived in the mail with no advance warning—two of our seven schools (Henking and Lyon) were being recognized by the State of Illinois for strong academic achievement. Their names were being sent to the Department of Education in Washington for application to the No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Award program.

I nearly passed over the letters as we receive numerous communications from the State Board of Education; we had not submitted anything to the state for such an honor; I had not read anything about the reconfigured awards program in several months.

I also had to verify their message. Was it possible that among the 900 school districts and more than 4,000 schools in Illinois, District 34 could have 2 of its 7 schools recognized? Consider the state was limited to just 16 nominees.

After finding out it was true, I moved to thoughts of how we achieved this—questions I'm sure we'll receive from other schools. My thoughts touched on the following: quality staff; strong classroom

teachers; a competent School Board that supports working and learning together; administrators who emphasize student and staff learning; children who try and work hard; School Improvement Plans; parent involvement; a Constitution that promotes adult collaboration on behalf of learning; high expectations for staff and students; programs for students who need additional help or challenge—early intervention, extended Kindergarten, special education, English as a Second Language, gifted, learning centers and reading support.

Many other Districts have similar resources and programs. What makes our efforts result in improved student achievement? I firmly believe it starts with the teachers and support staff in our schools. Competent, caring, creative, and collaborative, staff members see themselves as both teachers and learners and act accordingly. May this remain a District 34 hallmark in the years to come!

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

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SCHOOLOOK


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