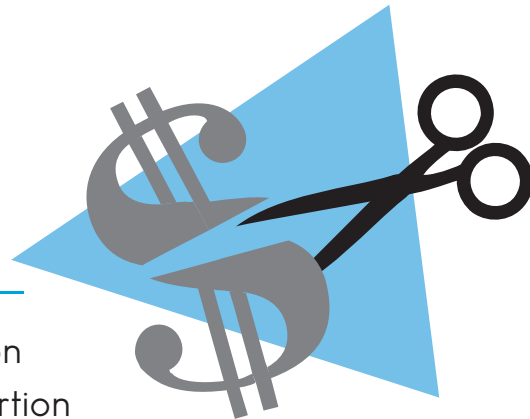


Board Cuts Expenses by \$1.1 Million



The Board of Education recently voted to cut \$1.1 million from the 2006-07 school year budget to address a portion of the revenue gap currently facing the District. It is projected that over the next two years the District will fall \$3.6 million short of funds needed for current programming.

“While cuts are not something anyone wanted to do, we believe it is a financially prudent action given the District’s current situation,” Superintendent Dr. Gerald Hill said. “We know these cuts will have an impact on kids and we hope to minimize that impact. We also know

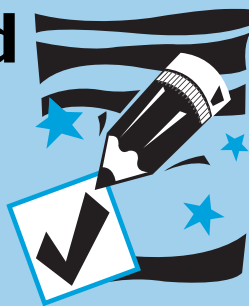
that without additional funding these are just the first round of cuts. Future cuts will have a profound impact on teaching and learning in District 34.”

The cuts are based upon the recommendations from a committee of staff, parents and administrators as well as community input from several sources.

The reductions next school year include:

- ✕ Reduce the number of Student Services Administrators from 5 to 4, putting more of the responsibility for the administration of special education, gifted and other special services on principals and other administrators.
- ✕ Reduce all District discretionary budgets by 3%. Examples of this reduction might include supplies and materials.
- ✕ Reduce the custodial allocation from two full-time positions at the intermediate level to one full-time and one half-time position.
- ✕ Eliminate the science kit support program, meaning the restocking of science kits will need to be done by the schools or parent volunteers.
- ✕ Reduce the central office support staff allocation by one position meaning responsibilities will need to be shifted and some services eliminated.
- ✕ Reduce the technology replacement budget by \$50,000, meaning some technology will not be replaced within

Referendum Projected for November Ballot



The Board unanimously agreed recently to place a tax rate increase on the November 7, 2006 ballot. The amount of that tax rate increase will be determined later this year when more of the financial information is available for analysis by District officials and the Board. This analysis is necessary as we want to be sure the final figure is based on the most recent financial information.

A committee of community members with financial backgrounds recommended the Board place a .55-cent increase to the education fund on the ballot. That would translate to a \$576 increase to the tax bill of a homeowner currently paying \$6,000 each year in taxes. As an overall percentage of the tax bill, that is about a 9.6% increase in taxes.

To learn more about why the Board is planning to ask the voters for a tax rate increase, please see page 2.

(continued on page 2)

Answering the Questions About The District 34 Revenue Gap

I have been hearing a lot lately about the District's financial challenges. Can you please provide an overview?

The District's educational operating budget (\$47 million in 2005–06) exceeded projected revenues for the second consecutive year. Without a significant change in programming or an increase in revenues, this gap will continue to increase. The estimated amount of the revenue gap over the next two years is \$3.6 million. That deficit is currently being covered by the District's reserve funds. That solution will no longer be viable once the reserves are spent down to 30%.

The District needs to maintain 30% of its annual budget in reserve to start each school year since it receives revenue payments just twice each year from property taxes. The reserves provide the cash necessary to pay the District's bills and ensure an appropriate percentage of expenses to cover costs when the tax revenue is late

or unexpected expenses arise. Without the reserves, the District would have to borrow money to pay for operating expenses.

The State recommends minimum reserves of 25%.

By estimates, how much is needed to maintain current programs for children?

In order to maintain the current programming, approximately \$3.6 million is needed for the 2006–07 and 2007–08 school years combined. Current estimates indicate an additional \$4.5 million will be needed for the 2008–09 school year for an estimated total of \$8.1 million over the next three years to maintain current programming.

What is causing the revenue gap?

There are four main factors:

1. State mandated "tax caps" (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law — PTELL) which went into effect in 1994 and limits the amount of money collected by the District from local

property taxes to 5% or the consumer price index (CPI), whichever is lower. Over the past four years, the CPI has been between 1.6–3.4%.

2. Enrollment has grown by 330 students over the past four years. An additional 400 more are expected by 2008–09.

3. Mandated special education program costs continue to rise at double-digit percentages, yet the federal government is not meeting the legal requirement to provide its share of the costs.

4. Military impact aid received for children from military families attending District 34 schools does not cover the costs. The District does not receive property taxes from the homes on the base but instead receives just \$800 per child from the government while it costs about \$11,000 to educate each student in the District.

\$1.1 Million Budget Cuts

continued from page 1

our current schedule but instead expected to last longer.

- ✂ Reduce the number of Learning Specialists positions from 43 to 16. This is a reduction in the number of teacher leadership positions available.
- ✂ Eliminate the teacher on assignment position. This person currently is a teacher serving an administrative internship providing assistance to several administrative offices.
- ✂ Reduce a support staff position in the warehouse, which will require a reorganization of responsibilities in that area.

The Board also approved the staff allocation plan that will determine staffing allocations for the 2006–07 school year. The projected reductions with that new model are outlined below:

- ✂ Reduce the number of special education associates by approximately 16 positions.
- ✂ Reduce the number of special education teachers by approximately 3 positions.

The actual numbers depend upon the special education caseloads for 2006–07.

These reductions for next school year are a continuation of reductions that be-

gan after the failed referendum questions in 2000 and 2001. Previous reductions have included limiting the number of teachers we have hired by increasing class size. In fact, the Citizen's Finance Advisory Group found that District 34's class sizes, depending upon the grade, are 8% to 71% higher when compared to the other districts that send students to either Glenbrook North or Glenbrook South High Schools. Further savings have been accomplished by increasing student fees, reducing supply and material budgets, reducing professional development and renegotiating contracts with outside vendors.

What are the plans to address the revenue gap?

The Board recently voted to place a tax rate increase on the ballot in November of 2006. The amount of that tax rate increase will be determined later this year when more financial information is available. The Board wants to be sure the final figure is based on the most recent financial information. Another option would be to cut programs and staff each year to balance the budget.

When was the last tax rate increase for staffing and programs passed?

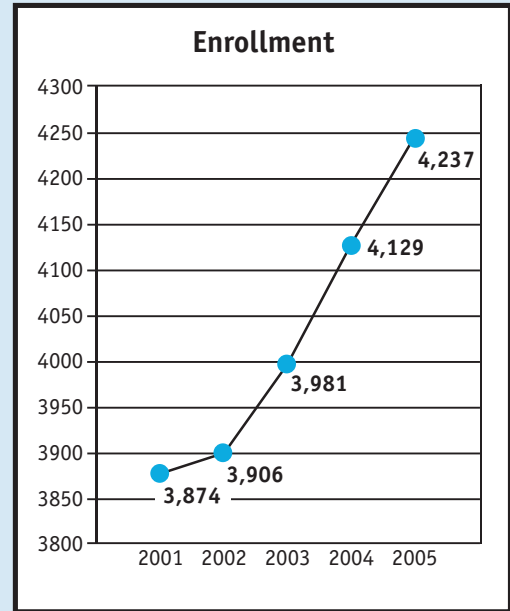
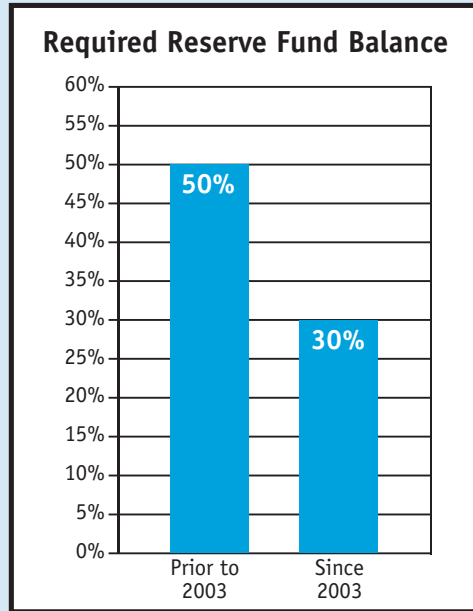
The last operating budget increase was passed in 1987. The community did not support tax rate increase questions at the ballot in 2000 and 2001. At that time, the District implemented a series of budget reductions and reduced its reserve policy from 50% of its annual budget to the current 30% policy. These actions have

allowed the District to hold off asking for a tax increase without any major cuts.

What specific budget reductions has the District made since 2001?

Since the failed referendum questions in 2000 and 2001, reductions totaling approximately \$9 million have been made. For example, the District now targets the middle to high end of the class size policy rather than the middle

to low end. This means kindergarten class sizes at a high of 23, 1st–3rd grade class sizes at a high of 26 and 4th–8th grade class sizes at a high of 28. Additional savings have been accomplished through several measures including increasing student fees and renegotiating contracts with outside vendors. Additionally, the Board recently voted to cut \$1.1 million for the 2006–07 school year.



District Asking Parents to Prove Residency Saves at Least \$43,000

District 34 requires all parents to prove residency each summer as part of the registration process.

That requirement will continue this year. The efforts last summer saved taxpayers more than \$43,000 in net costs as the families of six children were unsuccessful in trying to illegally enroll. Additionally, several other families likely did not try to register knowing the process was in place.

Cook County will be sending property tax bills to all homeowners this spring. In order to make providing residency in July easier, parents who are homeowners should keep a copy of the

2004 real estate tax bill and proof of payment receipt.

Additionally, parents who have homeowner's/condo/renter's insurance policy declarations or renewal statements should keep copies of that information as it will be needed for residency.

Kindergarten Registration Underway

Parents of soon-to-be kindergartners are encouraged to register their child for kindergarten as soon as possible at Henking, Lyon or Westbrook school. Children 5 years old on or before September 1, 2006 are eligible for kindergarten. For more information, parents should call Henking at 998-5035, Lyon at 998-5045 or Westbrook at 998-5055.

Start of School Set for August 23

The Board of Education recently approved the 2006–07 school calendar.

Students will start school on August 23, 2006 and are scheduled to end school on June 13, 2007.

The calendar includes 181 student days and 25 full five-day weeks. The full calendar is available on the District website at www.glenview34.org.

Summer School Classes Available to All Children in the District

The District will once again offer both reinforcement and enrichment summer school classes this summer. Some planned enrichment course offerings include: Summer Spanish, Fun With French, Film Making, and Sign Language. These courses are available to any students living in District 34, including students attending private or parochial schools. A course catalog is available on the District's website at www.glenview34.org.



From The Superintendent

The Situation We Face Together

I am often asked about the revenue we receive and why we are currently facing a revenue gap. For background, approximately 87% of our funding comes from you, the local property owners. District 34 currently receives approximately \$300 per student from the state in General State Aid.

The State of Illinois has an over reliance on local property taxes for funding, which puts the burden of ensuring a quality school system on the local taxpayers. Under Illinois' tax cap law, which took effect in Cook County in 1994, voters must approve property tax increases in excess of the Consumer Price Index or 5%, whichever is smaller. The tax caps have worked as intended, which is why many school districts now have to periodically go to the voters to increase tax levies since expenditures have typically risen more than the CPI level, which has been between 1.6% and 3.4% for the past several years.

Tax caps are one reason why District 34 is currently facing a revenue gap. Along with small increases in revenues, we face special education mandates that are under-funded by the federal government, under-funded military impact aid and growing enrollment (which is not factored into the tax cap formula). The Board of Education has recently voted to cut \$1.1 million from the 2006-07 budget. The Board is also analyzing additional cuts for future years. Finally, the Board is working with legislators to seek additional funding for special education and military impact aid.

While these initiatives will help, without a tax rate increase the District will move into a situation where it is cutting programs and staff on a yearly basis in order to balance the budget.

Dr. Gerald Hill
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.

Board of Education

Sue Ellen Bohac Galligan <i>Board President</i> 847-998-8443	Michael Cherry 847-657-8863
Beth Primer <i>Board Vice President</i> 847-724-1137	Scott Martin 847-724-7051
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	John M. Travis 847-729-6349

Administrative Team

Dr. Gerald D. Hill <i>Superintendent of Schools</i> 847-998-5005	Bob Vincenti <i>Executive Director of Business Services</i> 847-998-5008
Philip A. Collins <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> 847-998-5006	Brett Clark <i>Director of Community Relations and Grants</i> 847-486-7861
Dr. Jill Engel <i>Executive Director of Human Resources</i> 847-998-5017	Brian Engle <i>Director of Educational Technology</i> 847-486-7855
Kathleen Hart <i>Executive Director of Student Services</i> 847-998-5018	Kim Radzinski <i>Director of Food Services</i> 847-486-7711
John O'Connor <i>Executive Director of Facilities</i> 847-998-5011	Connie Rymysza <i>Director of Transportation</i> 847-998-5064

Contact

Phone: 847-998-5000
WEB: www.glenview34.org
Mail: 1401 Greenwood Road, Glenview, IL 60026

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Scott R. Britton
Michael Cherry
Sue Ellen Bohac Galligan
Scott Martin
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