

## Preparing America's Students for College and Career Readiness Through Common Core Standards

In an effort to ensure students are prepared for college or the workforce after graduating high school, Illinois and many other states are adopting the Common Core State Standards initiative. These standards provide a clear understanding of the learning expectations for students in math, reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language.

Teachers, researchers, and leading educational experts created the rigorous math and English language standards. The idea behind the effort is to ensure students are prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to collaborate and compete with their peers in the United States and abroad.

### Standards Set Clear Expectations

The Common Core State Standards provide a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn at each grade level. This progression of learning assists teachers and parents in supporting the mastery of grade level standards each year. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that students need for success in college and careers.

In Illinois, the Common Core State Standards will be implemented starting with the 2013–14 school year. District 34 has been preparing for the change through the creation of a Common Core State Standards committee, professional

development for teachers and administrators, and independent book studies. It is important to note that while the standards clearly articulate the knowledge a student must have at each grade level starting in kindergarten, it does not dictate how teachers should teach. As in the past, teachers will continue to tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms with support from their school and District 34 colleagues.

### Assessments Being Developed to Measure Standards

These high level standards will be tested through assessments that are currently being created and administered in the 2014–15 school year. In District 34, students who are not meeting the standards will be provided with additional supports and/or new approaches to the material.

With students, parents, and teachers working together toward shared goals, progress will be made each year to keep students on the trajectory to succeed in college and in a modern workforce.

To learn more about the Common Core State Standards, please visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

Please note information in this article is based upon documentation available on the Common Core State Standards website referenced in the article.



Teachers recently spent an institute day learning more about Common Core State Standards.

# Information Provided by District 34 Board of Education Candidates

On April 9, 2013, Glenview School District 34 voters will select three Board of Education members. The candidates for the open seats on the District 34 Board of Education were recently asked to submit biographical information and responses to two questions regarding the District. A specified word limit was given to each candidate and their submitted responses are printed on these pages. The candidates are listed in alphabetical order.



## Glenn Farkas

### Biographical Statement:

Glenn and his wife, Pauline, have lived in Glenview for over ten years and have two children in D34. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati (Finance & Marketing) and a Masters of Science in Finance from DePaul University. Glenn has over 20 years of private sector experience in marketing, sales, consulting and portfolio management; and is currently the owner of Avista Wealth Management. Avista provides consulting, asset management and insurance services to individuals and small businesses. Glenn enjoys spending time with his family; coaching youth athletics at the Glenview Park Center; and playing tennis and guitar.

### **Why are you running for the Glenview School District 34 Board of Education?**

A quality education is essential to prepare our children for the competitive, global workplace that awaits them. The School Board plays a key role in this development and requires individuals with a diverse set of personal and professional skills and the courage to make difficult decisions. I believe my background and experience can help meet any district challenges while strengthening the special partnership Glenview has between its parents, students, teachers & administrators.

### **What do you think are the key issues facing the Glenview District 34 Board of Education?**

District 34 is facing a common dilemma: providing high-quality services with limited resources. Creating an excellent educational environment, while maintaining fiscal discipline, is a difficult task. Nonetheless, it must be accomplished. Despite a \$60+ million budget and consistent property tax increases, D34 is losing money and is projecting deficit spending over the next several years. Not only is this unsustainable, it is unacceptable. Glenview teachers, administrators, students, parents and taxpayers deserve better.



## Jack Murphy

### Biographical Statement:

I have lived in Glenview for ten years and have two children attending District 34 schools. I am a lawyer with a law firm that represents school districts. Previously, I worked in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office — ten years as a criminal prosecutor and ten years representing Cook County in labor/employment litigation. I interrupted my legal career for six years to work at WBBM-TV on its Investigative Team. I have coached soccer and have been a board member of an alcohol, drug, and HIV prevention agency in Chicago. I am seeking my third term on the School Board.

### **Why are you running for the Glenview School District 34 Board of Education?**

For my third term, I would like the Board to build on the many successes of the past eight years, such as raising test scores, developing a Strategic Plan for the district's future, and employing child-centered and responsive administrators and teachers. Through my representation of other school districts, I have dealt with the issues confronting our own school district, allowing me to contribute to the resolution of the difficult issues facing the School Board.

### **What do you think are the key issues facing the Glenview District 34 Board of Education?**

We must maintain and build upon our excellent schools. We must continue to make prudent financial decisions while never wavering from our primary mission of educating our children. We cannot have everything we want, so we must make the right choices in exercising our judgment as to how to spend our resources. The School Board must be mindful that education is a cooperative and collaborative process. We must listen and learn from our community.



## Chris Northwick

### Biographical Statement:

Chris Northwick, the parent of a recent District 34 graduate and 5th grader, has resided in Glenview since 2002. Elected to the Board of Education in 2009, she has served as President since spring, 2011. She currently serves on the NSSD Governing Board and Steering Committee for the Consortium for Educational Change. Prior volunteer highlights include: Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA President, District 34 PTA Council President, Glenview Education Foundation Board, and Glen Oak Acres Community Association Board. Until 2004, she was Vice President, Integrated Sales Strategy at SRDS, part of The Nielsen Company. She is a graduate of Northwestern University.

### **Why are you running for the Glenview School District 34 Board of Education?**

We have excellent schools by many measures, but we must continue to advance. I feel privileged to help shape our changing District and have worked hard to focus our district's goals around supporting every student's development - academically and beyond. Our kids and our schools are much more than just test scores. Wisely investing our community's resources is critical for our success and, as such, recently required difficult expense reductions. There is simply more to do.

### **What do you think are the key issues facing the Glenview District 34 Board of Education?**

Change is challenging on people and systems. Not only do our educators continually challenge themselves to improve our system and student outcomes, but at the same time new state mandates are redefining how we must operate (Common Core, SB7, PERA, etc.). Our success is based on people - who today must do much more with less. This amount of change and work requires leadership with common goals, values, and deep respect of all.



## Cathe Russe

### Biographical Statement:

Cathe Russe and her husband, David Tojo, chose Glenview as their home in 2003 because the high achieving schools and diverse community offered a strong foundation for raising their 4 daughters. After 25 years in corporate strategy, marketing, communications and business development Cathe became an entrepreneur and is now General Manager of Sound Hearing Solutions, a business dedicated to helping people hear better. In addition to caring for her family and working, Cathe has volunteered extensively in Glenview on district 34 committees and as a board member for the Glenview Education Foundation and the Friends of Youth Services.

### **Why are you running for the Glenview School District 34 Board of Education?**

I was actively involved in crafting our district's new strategic plan adopted in 2011. It establishes a vision for increased growth in student learning and teacher effectiveness. I would like to continue being a part of guiding the district's development in this area. While we continue navigating the significant financial challenges and regulatory demands from the state and federal governments, I believe my continued service would add stability for our school district.

### **What do you think are the key issues facing the Glenview District 34 Board of Education?**

We face a complex financial future driven by costs associated with the Affordable Care Act, growth of our "at risk" student population, union contracts and looming state legislation likely to shift costs to the local level. Internally we are working to manage the transition from a system of 8 discrete schools to a school system with appropriate centralized infrastructure. This will be critical to effectively address the legislative changes directed at Illinois's education system.

**Election Day is Tuesday, April 9, 2013.**



## SIGN UP FOR SUMMER SCHOOL TODAY

District 34 will again offer both reinforcement and enrichment summer school classes this year. Summer school enrichment classes are available to any student living within the District 34 attendance boundaries, including students who are enrolled at private or parochial schools. Reinforcement classes are for District

34 students only through recommendation from the classroom teacher. Both a course catalog and sign up information are on the District's website at [www.glenview34.org](http://www.glenview34.org) under the "schools" header.

## NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Parents of children who will be kindergartners or new students in District 34 this fall should plan to register their child for school as soon as possible.

Registration paperwork can be picked up at your home school. If you need additional information about kindergarten registration, please contact Henking (998-5035), Lyon (998-5045) or Westbrook (998-5055).

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2013 to be eligible for kindergarten. Exceptions are not made to this policy.



### Our Mission

To empower children  
to be self-directed learners  
and responsible decision makers.

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