

Strategic Plan Goal:

► RESOURCES

To protect the trust and confidence of our community and staff, we will make the best use of our resources as measured by resource indicators.

Strategic Budgeting Underway

Community Input Sought on Potential Reductions

District 34 is facing financial challenges and is asking the community for its input on the best course of action moving forward.

One of the budget realities is that property taxes are the District's main funding source but are limited by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), otherwise known as the "tax cap." This law restricts the growth in property tax revenue to the lesser of 5% or the rate of inflation (CPI). In the past three years, the increase in property taxes has been between 1.2% and 3.3% each year. Over that same time period, the District's enrollment has increased by more than 440 students (9%).

Reserve Funds Covered 2010–11 Deficit

With this as a backdrop, the District fell into deficit spending during the 2010–11 school year, spending \$400,000 more than revenues. That spending gap was covered by reserve funds.

Spending Cuts Implemented

The deficit is projected to be \$2.6 million during this school year. Despite budget reductions, it is projected that the deficit will become larger in future years. The most recent budget reductions included a class size increase in K–5th grade and more than \$600,000 in central office departmental reductions.

Given this challenge, this past summer the

Board of Education asked for the District to complete a strategic budgeting process. The five-step process started this past fall with the Budget Alignment Advisory Committee (BAAC). This group included community members, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and board members. BAAC reviewed then prioritized all expenditures in District 34.

Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee Report

The second step in the process was a report by the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) on the projected financial situation. See page 3 of *Schoollook* for more details.

Step three will occur on February 6 when administrators will provide scenarios to the Board on potential budget reductions. That meeting will be held at Westbrook School, 1333 Greenwood Road.

Community input sessions on the scenarios will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 11 at Attea Middle School, 2500 Chestnut Avenue and at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15 at Springman Middle School, 2701 Central Road.

The Board will hear the administration recommendation, based upon all the information gathered, as part of the fourth step in the process on March 5.

Board to Make Final Decision

The fifth step is the Board making a final decision at the March 19 meeting.

For more on the strategic budgeting process, please visit our website at www.glenview34.org.

Input Session Dates

Saturday, February 11
10:00 a.m. – Attea Middle School

Wednesday, February 15
7:00 p.m. – Springman Middle School

Kindergarten and New Student Registration Begins February 16

Parents of children who will be kindergartners this fall should plan to attend District 34's registration event on Thursday, February 16 at their home school. Parents of first- and second-grade students who will be new to the District in 2012–13 should also plan to attend the event.

Registration will take place at Henking, Lyon and Westbrook schools for District 34's half-day program. The District does not offer full-day kindergarten.

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012 to be eligible for kindergarten. Exceptions are not made to this policy.

Registration is a parent only event, as it is a time for parents to complete paper work and ask questions of administrators and staff. At Henking and Lyon, registration will be from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. At Westbrook, registration runs from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Please contact your school to receive your registration packet and important information you will need to complete the registration process. Please know that book and PTA fees will be collected at the time of registration.

By registering students at this event, or very soon after the event date, the District can begin to plan staffing for the 2012–13 school year.

If a parent is unable to attend the February 16 event, please contact the school to make other arrangements to register the child as soon as possible after February 16.

Henking School	998-5035
Lyon School	998-5045
Westbrook School	998-5055



Kindergarten is a half-day program in District 34.

Tax Levy Expected to Increase by 2.5%

The District 34 Board of Education approved the 2011 tax levy in December, following a public hearing on the topic.

The levy is subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), otherwise known as the “tax cap.” This law restricts the growth in property tax revenue to the lesser of 5% or the rate of inflation (CPI).

Approved bond and interest levies, along with new property, are exempt from the tax cap. While the total value of new property is not currently known, all school districts by law had to file the levy request by

Only the levy amount allowed by law is actually collected.

December 27, 2011. Therefore, it is common practice for school districts to approve a “balloon” levy. This means the approved levy is larger than the expected levy. This practice is in place for school districts to avoid permanently losing revenue from new property.

While a “balloon” levy is approved by most school districts, **ONLY** the levy amount allowed by law is actually collected. In District 34, the 2011 levy is projected to be a 2.5% increase over the prior year. That increase is projected to result in approximately \$43,500,000 in local tax revenue for the school district. The owner of a home valued at \$500,000 can expect to pay an additional \$89 in property taxes to District 34 based upon the 2.5% projected increase.

Due to the uncertainty around the value of new property, the Board approved 2011 tax levy represents a 3.6% increase over the prior tax levy extension and would result in \$43,972,292 in local tax revenue. However, this is not the percentage increase in revenue that is expected based upon District projections.

Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee Paints Gloomy Financial Picture Without Changes

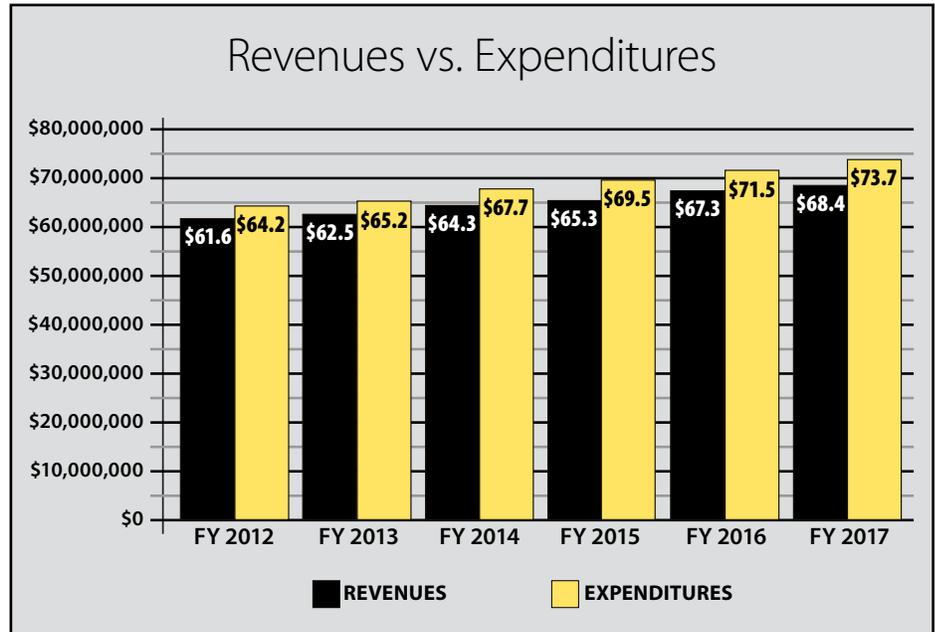
Without any changes to the budget and assuming probable financial conditions, District 34 will overspend revenues by approximately \$20 million in the operating funds by the end of the 2016–17 school year. That was one of the major findings in the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee's (CFAC) report to the Board of Education recently.

CFAC is a group of community members with financial backgrounds who meet on a yearly basis to provide an additional perspective on financial information.

Based upon the report, if no changes in revenue or expenditures are made the District will spend its fund balance (savings) to the minimum level allowed by Board policy by the end of the 2014–15 school year. In 2015–16, the District would then need to make substantial budget cuts to balance the budget.

The Importance of Fund Balances

The District currently has a fund balance of approximately 50% of the annual budget. Maintaining at least the State recommended 25% helps avoid short-term borrowing to maintain operations between revenue payments. District 34 Board policy requires maintaining at least a 30% fund balance.



For this year's report, CFAC provided the Board with both a base scenario and an alternate scenario. The base scenario CFAC shared is their best estimate about the future financial picture, while the alternate scenario represents the downside potential and takes more of a "worst case" look at both revenues and expenditures.

Committee Shares Potential Solutions

One of the charges from the Board was for CFAC to determine the amount needed to balance the 2012–13 budget. CFAC determined that amount at \$2.6 million in reductions. CFAC shared that if \$2.6 million in reductions were completed and took effect for the 2012–13 school year, the District would still deficit spend in future years but would maintain at least 30%

fund balances through the 2016–17 school year.

Another charge from the Board was for CFAC to determine how to balance the budget by 2015–16 and maintain at least a 30% reserve level. CFAC shared that could be done by cutting the budget by a total of \$4 million (\$1 million in cuts each year for four years beginning in 2012–13). This approach would also result in deficit spending but would maintain at least 30% fund balances through the 2016–17 school year.

The full CFAC report is available on the District's website at www.glenview34.org.

NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK SUMMER... SCHOOL

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 in private or parochial schools. Some of the enrichment offerings for this summer include a book club for younger students, technology classes focused on iPads and an outdoor adventure class.

A course catalog and sign up information are on the District's website at www.glenview34.org. For additional information, please contact Student Services Administrator Debbie Lubeck at 847-657-2152.

From the Superintendent

Much of this newsletter is dedicated to the financial challenges that we face together as a community. This situation is not unique to District 34. In fact, most school systems in the area, the state and nationally have either already faced these difficult decisions or are currently facing them. What is fairly unique to District 34 is how we are approaching these challenges.

District 34 has a long-standing history of including the community in helping to address such issues. Just last year, we engaged the community as we considered boundary changes. That same engagement is reflected in the proactive and collaborative approach we are employing as we work through our strategic budgeting process.

To be a part of the process, I invite you to attend one of two community input sessions to learn more about the financial state of the district and to provide your thoughts about what you believe should be done to address the challenge. The first is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 11 at Attea Middle School, 2500 Chestnut Ave, in the cafeteria. The second will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15 at Springman Middle School, 2701 Central Road, in the west gym.

These sessions will provide an opportunity, after a large group presentation, to ask questions and provide your thoughts. All of the feedback collected will be shared with the Board of Education.

If you are unable to attend one of these two opportunities, please consider visiting our website at www.glenview34.org to learn more and provide your input.



Dr. Gerald Hill, Superintendent



GLENVIEW 34
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Mission

*Recognizing the needs of each child
and believing all children can learn,
the mission of Glenview School District 34
is to empower children to be responsible learners
and decision makers in a changing society.*

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