

Student Growth Tops Success Stories

Increased Financial Stability, Collaborative Work on Behalf of Students, and Meeting New Rigorous State Standards Also Show Marks of Achievement

Individual student growth is at the heart of the new District 34 mission. Individual student growth also is at the heart of the success in District 34 from this past year. New District 34 Superintendent Dr. Michael Nicholson highlighted the student growth data when he outlined the accomplishments from 2011–12. At the beginning of the school year, the District identified several groups of students who were not reaching their individual growth goals. With a dedicated focus, the growth increases by the end of the year for these groups ranged from 5%–30%.

“The results that we achieve are a function of how we organize ourselves to meet the needs of students,” Dr. Nicholson says. “This success affirms our belief that when we link instruction to student learning, results will follow.”

The Road to Financial Stability

Dr. Nicholson also stressed the successful strategic budgeting process that contributed to more financial stability for District 34. More than \$1.8 million was reduced from the annual budget (or approximately 3% of the operating budget) through a community engagement process. The major reductions were in the areas of class size, reduced use of

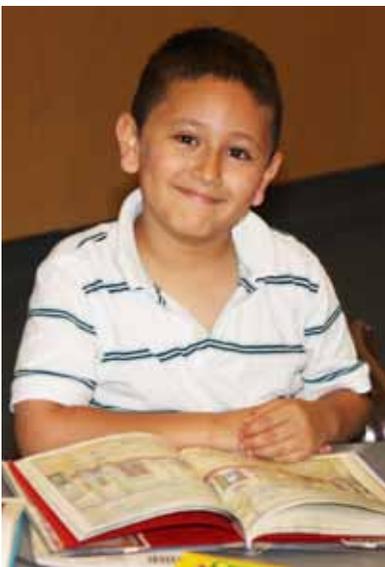
substitute teachers for meetings and professional development, annual school budgets (non-personnel) and redefining the middle school schedules to reduce the need for some positions.

The evaluation of teachers, a State mandate that District 34 had been proactively working on, was another area cited as a success this year. Teachers and administrators have worked hand-in-hand to establish guidelines and supports for educators to earn an excellent rating.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Dr. Nicholson shared the need to continue to keep an eye on the financial state of the District. Even with the \$1.8 million in reductions, the District is projected currently to spend more than revenues by \$4 million through 2017. There are many estimated figures built into the financial projections that could cause the financial picture to change. These include local, state and federal funding levels, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the future (any revenue increases to the school system are based upon CPI), and contract negotiations with the three main employee groups.

Additionally, Dr. Nicholson shared there is more work to be done on the evaluation system, the need to continue to build upon our collaborative structures for staff and the community, and implementing our recently adopted strategic plan focused on ensuring student ownership of learning.



Student achievement is at the top of the list of District 34 accomplishments.

GPA CONTRACT SIGNED

The Board approved a 1-year contract with the Glenview Professional Association (GPA) that had previously been ratified by the GPA membership. The GPA represents teacher associates, custodians, food service employees and administrative assistants, among others.

For the 2012–13 school year, the hourly rates of employees for all job grades will remain the same as 2011–12 with a one-time contract extension ratification payment equal to the average percentage salary increase, if any, received by a teacher under the GEA contract for the 2012–13 school year. The GEA contract is currently being negotiated.



THANK YOU RETIREES

District 34 thanks its recent retirees for their dedicated service to students. The list includes:

- Barb Buzard**, Springman Teacher, 22½ years
- Scott Buzard**, Springman Teacher, 39 years
- Ronda Franks**, Springman Teacher, 12 years
- Maurita Freas**, Attea Associate, 9 years
- Jean Gray**, Attea Health Coordinator, 14 years
- Lynn Halusek**, Lyon Associate, 10 years
- Dr. Gerald Hill**, Superintendent, 8 years
- Jan Hinton**, Pleasant Ridge Teacher, 26 years
- Kitty Hoover**, Glen Grove Health Coordinator, 25 yrs.
- Mary Indacochea**, Westbrook Associate, 17½ years
- Judy Johnson**, Pleasant Ridge Teacher, 11 years
- Bob Jones**, Hoffman Teacher, 25 years
- Jan Mraz**, Attea Administrative Assistant, 9 years
- Marte Rubel**, Springman Associate, 17 years
- Susan Zolin**, Springman Teacher, 17 years

FINANCE COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) is a group of financial experts who live in District 34 that assist the Board of Education as it works through financial challenges. The group provides a valuable financial perspective to the Board. The District is currently seeking volunteers with a financial background who are interested in serving on CFAC. Anyone interested in volunteering, please send a resume and statement of interest to Superintendent Dr. Michael Nicholson at mnicholson@glenview34.org or via mail at 1401 Greenwood Road, Glenview, IL 60026 prior to August 3.

Students are Meeting Growth Targets

When compared to students in other high achieving schools across the country, District 34 students once again compare favorably.

That message was the focus of the most recent student achievement report that highlighted student learning levels and student growth achieved this past school year.

Twice each year the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments are given. These assessments are administered by the District to learn not just the achievement levels of students but to determine the amount of growth in learning students have achieved during the school year.

Students are assessed in 20 grade level and subject area NWEA measures. The District compares its students against other high achieving school districts across the country... then raises the level even higher to set its goal. This year, in 19 of the 20 measures, students met or surpassed this elevated goal. In nine of the 20 measures, students were significantly higher than the elevated goal.

In the area of student growth, several groups of students were identified that were not reaching their individual growth targets in prior years, but this year the growth increases for those groups ranged from 5%–30%.

The NWEA assessment provides the District with information on college and career readiness for 8th graders. While these students still have four years of high school before they enter college, the information will help us determine if they are on the right track. Given this is the first year this information is available, this is baseline data. More than 80% of students in 8th grade are projecting to be college and career ready in the area of language usage, more than 60% in reading and more than 55% in mathematics.



Students continue to show high levels of growth in academic achievement.

Board Names Four New Administrators

The Board of Education recently appointed four administrators to assist the District as it works to reach its strategic goals.

Donald Biggs was hired as the Director of Facilities, **Christy Crabtree** was named as a Student Services Coordinator, **Courtney Nordstrom** was hired as the Principal at Westbrook, and **Hal Schmeisser** was named as the Assistant Principal at Attea Middle School.



Donald Biggs

Biggs has been Executive Director of Facility Operation Services for DeKalb Community Unit School District 428 since 2008. He has extensive school district background serving as Facility/Construction Management Consultant for both St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 and Arlington Heights School District 25 between 2006 and 2008. He was the Director of Construction & Maintenance at Community High School District 218 in Oak Lawn between 2004 and 2006. Biggs was Director of Buildings & Grounds for Northbrook School District 27 from 1998–2004.



Courtney Nordstrom

Nordstrom has been the Assistant Principal at Meadowbrook Elementary in Northbrook District 28 since 2008. Among her many duties, she coordinated professional development for staff, implemented learning teams, and supervised and evaluated staff. She also served as Director of Summer School. Prior to entering into administration, Nordstrom taught third grade from 2000–2008. Nordstrom also is a National Board Certified Teacher. She earned her bachelor of science in elementary education and her bachelor of arts in speech and hearing science from the University of Iowa. She earned her masters in school leadership from Concordia University.



Christy Crabtree

Crabtree has been Director of Student Services/School Psychologist in Morton Grove District 70 since 2010. She provided leadership for the special education team of teachers and support staff, as well as led committees to evaluate the effectiveness of existing practices and developed plans to make improvements. From 2009–10 she served as Intervention Specialist/RtI Coach for the Niles Township District for Special Education. She was a school psychologist at Meadowbrook School in Northbrook School District 28 from 2006 until 2009. Crabtree earned her bachelor of arts from Drury University and her specialist in school psychology degree from Illinois State University. She earned her master of arts in educational leadership from Roosevelt University.



Hal Schmeisser

Schmeisser has been a social studies teacher at Edgewood Middle School in North Shore School District 112 since 2007. Schmeisser served an administrative internship at Edgewood Middle School during the 2010–11 school year, which included facilitating staff meetings, analyzing assessment data and assessing intervention activities for students. Since 1999 he has served as director of the Hi-Five Sports Camp in Chicago for 300 campers. He earned his bachelor's in liberal arts and sciences, as well as history, from the University of Illinois. He holds a master's in educational leadership from DePaul University.

Dr. Michael Nicholson Begins His Tenure as District 34 Superintendent



Dr. Michael Nicholson

Dr. Michael Nicholson began his tenure as the seventh superintendent in the more than 70-year history of Glenview School District 34 on July 1. Dr. Nicholson was named the incoming superintendent this past fall. He has been with the District for the past two years as the Deputy Superintendent.

Dr. Nicholson has worked on many initiatives during his time in District 34. A few of those include strategic planning, strategic budgeting, increasing collaborative opportunities for staff and parents to be involved in the District, and the professional development plan.

If you are interested in having Dr. Nicholson speak to a community group or organization, please contact him at mnicholson@glenview34.org.

From the Superintendent

Looking Forward to a Collaborative Relationship with the Community

Dear School Community,

It is with a great deal of gratitude and honor that I write to you, as I recently assumed the superintendency in Glenview School District 34. I cherish the trust and confidence you have placed in me to be the educational leader for this great school district.

We have so much to be proud of in District 34; yet, we still have vast opportunities and challenges ahead of us to maintain and improve our programming. Some of these challenges and opportunities are referenced on the front page of this issue of *Schoollook*. There are operational, financial, and educational changes we have to make in order to optimize the educational experiences for our children.

We will address these changes collaboratively, openly, and reflectively, in order to maximize understanding and support across the whole school community. There are many aspects about our school community that make me very optimistic that we will address these opportunities as well or better than any school district. The interest, concern, involvement, and support demonstrated by parents, teachers, community members, and administrators for top shelf thinking, action, and reflection about our problem solving is unparalleled.

I look forward to working with you to make Glenview School District 34 THE place to be for first-rate education for children!

Thanks again for your support,



Dr. Michael Nicholson, Superintendent



GLENVIEW 34
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Mission

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

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