



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District 64 2010-11 Budget Hearing Set for September 27

The Park-Ridge Niles School District 64 Board of Education will conduct a hearing on its 2010-11 final budget on Monday, September 27 at 7:20 p.m. at Jefferson School, 8200 Greendale, Niles, prior to adoption at its regular meeting that evening. A tentative budget was adopted on June 28; it may be viewed on the District 64 website (www.d64.org) and also is on display at the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., as well as the Park Ridge and Niles Public Libraries.

"The 2010-11 budget is one of controlled growth, which continues to fulfill initiatives made possible by the 2007 referendum and allows us to implement the first year of activities under the District's new strategic plan," according to Business Manager Becky Allard.

The 2010-11 fiscal year is the fourth budget adopted since the 2007 referendum. "Each year has seen the District's financial condition steadily improve, which was a key referendum goal," she added. At the close of 2010-11 on June 30, the Operating Fund balance is expected to be about \$37.4 million or 51% of expected annual operating expenditures; the fund balance policy is 33%.

The annual budget surplus for 2010-11 will be about \$3.1 million, based on all funds revenues of more than \$78.9 million and expenditures of almost \$75.8 million, Ms. Allard noted. District 64 expects to receive about \$7.8 million in reimbursements for Federal Aviation Administration sound insulation projects at Washington and Roosevelt schools. The 2010-11 budget also provides for the District's mandated Life Safety improvements and building upkeep projects, including re-roofing and a locker room renovation at Lincoln Middle School and other ongoing repairs at all schools.

Here are some of the ways funds are being invested in 2010-11 to improve student learning:

- New materials in the *Being a Writer* program will be provided to support the writing curriculum in grades 1-5 at all elementary schools based on the recommendation of the Language Arts Committee following a two-year pilot.
- Additional instructional materials will be purchased as part of the Middle School Review's new grade 6 schedule supporting the integration of reading instruction in all content areas.
- Based on the Foreign Language Elementary School (FLES) program review, a new textbook series *Viva el español!* is being adopted and materials added for foreign language study in grades 2-5.
- The final payment of the two-year Harcourt *StoryTown* purchase contract will be made and additional materials will be purchased to support the District's new Reading Framework and Response to Intervention (RtI) initiative.

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District 64/ADD ONE

In addition, District 64 is continuing a multi-year investment in technology. Interactive “smart” boards will be added to more classrooms, and the District will continue a phased program to replace outdated computers. “We also are upgrading switches at all schools and providing wireless connection ports to support a reliable and robust local network area connection at each building,” Ms. Allard added.

These improvements are being done in tandem with the District’s new strategic plan, “Journey of Excellence,” which gets underway this year and will involve all certified staff and administrators in some aspect of the plan. First-year activities include work on: finalizing the technology curriculum scope and sequence; student goal-setting; developing power standards for student learning and related common assessments; differentiating instruction; and use of assessment data. The full plan is available on the District 64 website.

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