



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2008

District 64 Hearing on 2008-09 Budget Set for September 22

Park-Ridge Niles School District 64 Board of Education will conduct a hearing on its 2008-09 final budget on Monday, September 22 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 July 14. The tentative budget may be viewed on the District 64 Web site (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 2008-09 budget is one of controlled growth to fulfill referendum initiatives," Business Manager Bruce Martin said. Because of greater investments being made to improve student learning, Operating Fund expenses are expected to grow about 7.4% on a net basis (excluding Life Safety projects and transfers between funds) to \$56.8 million. Revenues are expected to increase by almost 10% (excluding transfers) to \$64.6 million primarily due to property taxes approved by the referendum, Mr. Martin noted.

This budget should allow the District to continue to improve its financial condition, which was another referendum goal. "This will bring the District into compliance with the Board's fund balance policy one year earlier than planned," Mr. Martin said. The Operating Fund balance is expected to be about \$24.7 million or 44.7% of expected annual operating expenditures at the close of the fiscal year; the fund balance policy is 33%.

Here are some of the ways funds are being used in 2008-09 to improve student learning:

- Based on referendum initiatives, 5.0 teaching positions have been restored to support student literacy in grades 4-5. To better serve schools with high enrollments, the Assistant Principal at Lincoln Middle School has been made year-round with added summer school responsibilities and an Assistant Principal has been restored to Roosevelt School but reduced to 10 months.
- Stepped up technology investments include: replacement computer labs at Franklin, Carpenter and Roosevelt schools; mobile laptop computer carts at all schools; replacement of teacher computers on a four-year cycle; and a new high-speed intranet network.
- The District will implement a new Early Intervening Services/Response to Intervention initiative focused initially on reading, assisted by a District-wide Director (limited to three years) and an additional school psychologist.
- Required projects from the 10-year Life Safety survey are being completed more rapidly, with immediate attention to secure the exterior "envelope" of all schools.
- Building maintenance is resuming a normal schedule, including a carpet replacement program and ongoing school custodial positions.
- A new Strategic Planning effort will get underway this year.

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