



Betsy Ross Anne Sullivan Dwight D. Eisenhower Douglas MacArthur

The School Scene

Fall 2011 The Schools of Prospect Heights District 23



District 23 Finances Looking Better at Year End

Over the last few years, Staff, Administration, Board, Parents, and Community Members have come together to find ways to cut expenses in District 23. And, now all their efforts have paid off with a balanced budget. The unaudited surplus in the Operating Funds (Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, IMRF/Social Security) of \$420,000 is the first surplus in several years that will be reflected in the final audited 2010 - 2011 financial statements. In addition to the intentional budget cuts previously announced, some unexpected reductions also occurred that included lower

tuition payments to the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) and approximately \$200,000 in health insurance costs. These factors place District 23 in better financial shape than the last several years.

Fast Facts...

School enrollment:

Eisenhower . . . **376**

(with Early Childhood/ECDEC)

Betsy Ross . . . **298**

Sullivan **324**

MacArthur . . . **493**

While the 2011 - 2012 budgeted revenues will show an increase of only .23 percent over last year, expenditures will decrease by 7.2 percent. Business Manager Luann Mathis attributes the \$1.3 million difference in

expenditures from the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year to the move to grade level centers this school year and other cuts in staffing and programming made over the last year and a half including cuts implemented after the April, 2011 Referendum was not successful. Still, the Board and Administration remain cautiously optimistic. The State of Illinois still owes the District \$44,440 from last year and will owe \$1.92 million for 2011-2012. If the payments are late or are not received this fiscal year, the surplus will be affected negatively. "It is important to note," commented Board of Education Vice President, Mari-Lynn Peters, "that with the current large receivable from the State, our surplus is in the form of an IOU and it is not cash in the bank." Three-hundred thousand dollars is budgeted in the Capital

In This Issue...

Superintendent to Retire	2
Tenured Teachers	2
Summer Construction Projects	2-3
New Staff	3
New Union Contract	3
"Step Up" at MacArthur	4
GLC Planning Successful	4
Healthier Lunch Program	5
Alumni Make Us Proud	5
Newsletter On-Line	6
Upcoming Events	6

Projects Fund for any projects that might occur over winter and spring break. It should be noted that these funds may only be used for Capital Projects as defined in the School Code. In addition, some of the \$1.3 million in cuts the Board made this past spring were one-time reductions. Many of the one-time reductions, such as new textbook adoptions, will need to be

implemented back into the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year which will further reduce the surplus. "We're a small school district so small variations can have a big

effect on our budget," said Mathis. "For now, the District is in decent shape financially. I am happy with where we are now, but still cautious looking forward. During the

2011 - 2012 school year, the Board will talk about objectives and where we as a District should be in terms of educating our students, and not finances." ●



Soaring into the future...
creating communities
of eager learners,
daring to achieve
great things.

District 23 Vision Statement

Administration

Dr. Gregory P. Guarrine

Superintendent
847/870-5550

Dr. Deb Wilson

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
847/870-5551

Luann Mathis

Business Manager
847/870-5552

Jan Travis

Director of Technology
847/870-5555

Chrystyna Sroka

Special Education Coordinator
847/870-5580

Ron DeGeorge

Maintenance Supervisor
847/870-5581

Update on Summer Construction Projects

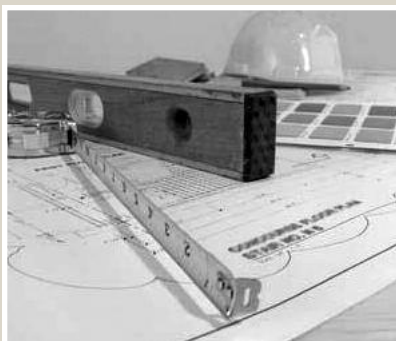
While the students were off enjoying their summer vacation, the buildings were buzzing with activity to complete construction projects and annual routine maintenance.

Roof repairs and parking lot seal-coating and re-stripping were accomplished at all four schools along with upgrades to the fire detection system and some tuck-pointing. In the elementary schools, classroom and library furniture were moved to accommodate the Grade Level Center configuration and data lines and electric drops for MealTime services were installed in the cafeterias.

At Eisenhower, ceiling tiles in the ground level hall were replaced and a new drain was added in a storeroom to prevent seepage. A ramp for handicap access to the playground and an ADA-compliant chair lift were installed. To comply with Health Department policy, a hand-wash sink was added in the utility room near the gym. Cafeteria tables were repaired and the white board in the music room was replaced. The playground also was seal-coated and re-stripped.

At Ross, cabinet doors, counter-tops, and cafeteria tables were repaired and the playground was seal-coated and re-stripped. Interactive white boards were installed in five

Continued on page 3



District 23 Superintendent Dr. Guarrine to Retire



Dr. Guarrine

After 23 years in District 23, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Guarrine officially submitted his resignation to the Board of Education at the October 12 regularly scheduled meeting.

“Although the School Board accepted Dr. Guarrine’s resignation with regret, we knew that he was contemplating retirement. We have a very close working relationship with Greg and have been planning for the day when this would occur,” said Board President Martha Olsen. “Greg has always acted in the best interests of the District. He has been a tremendous asset, an extremely effective leader, and has helped us achieve an unprecedented level of excellence in education. He will be greatly missed.”

Dr. Guarrine’s resignation is effective June 30, 2012. Assistant Superintendent Deb Wilson is expected take over as Superintendent beginning July 1, 2012.

“We are very pleased to have as outstanding a candidate for Superintendent as Dr. Wilson. She has a long history of dedicated service to District 23 and an extensive resume of successes so we anticipate a smooth transition in to the next school year. We realize our District is best served by continuity at this time and we are very happy that Dr. Wilson is ready to step into the Superintendent role,” said Olsen.

Dr. Wilson started her career in District 23 in 1990. She was an eighth-grade math and science teacher at MacArthur for seven years before becoming Assistant Principal for four years. She left for two years to be principal of Hawthorn Junior High in Vernon Hills. She returned to Mac as Principal in 2003 and was named Assistant Superintendent in 2007.

The Board plans to conduct a search for the Assistant Superintendent position. ●



Dr. Wilson

2011-2012 Tenured Teachers

Congratulations to eight teachers who achieved tenure status with the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

New teachers in District 23 serve a probationary period for four years before being considered for tenure. Non-tenured teachers are evaluated once a year and, through this process, receive instructive guidance, corrective action, or further development, all with the goal of helping teachers achieve excellence.

Staff Member	Position	Grade Level
Kim Basile	Science/Language Arts	8th
Keven Bazan	Art	6th-8th
Joseph Behun	Reading/Language Arts/Social Studies/Spanish	8th
Maggie Leja	Science/Language Arts	7th
Megan Murray	Music/Chorus	6th-8th
Megan Rieger	Social Worker	2nd-3rd
Megan Windsor	LBS.	6th-8th
Abra Zaveduk	Social Worker	K-1st

Welcome New Staff

Nine new members joined the District 23 family this year.

Staff Member	Position	Grade Level
Jenni Abram	Social Work Intern	6th-8th
Stacy Balla	Bilingual Teacher	Kindergarten
Frank Calcagno	Custodian	Administration
Gorman Christian	Network Manager	Administration
Kelly Keane	Social Work Intern	4th-5th
Arielle Mann	Social Work Intern	6th-8th
Hilary Reddick	Music Teacher	5th
Joy Unger	Hearing Assistant	4th
Michelle Valderrama	Bilingual Teacher	1st

Teachers Union and Board Reach Agreement

The District 23 Board of Education (BOE) and Prospect Heights Education Association (PHEA) signed off on a two-year contract September 22.

The agreement with the PHEA membership, which includes both certified and support staff in the District, covers the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

For 2011-2012, the average percentage increase in salary for the certified and support staff is 2.52%. In 2012-2013, both certified and support staff agreed to freeze their salaries. The overall amount of increase in costs for salaries and benefits and other financial pieces of the contract is tied to a percentage of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is the primary factor used in increasing property taxes which, in turn, is the basis of the bulk of revenue increase for the school district each year. Therefore, the PHEA and District were able to negotiate financial terms that provide more financial certainty and stability going forward.

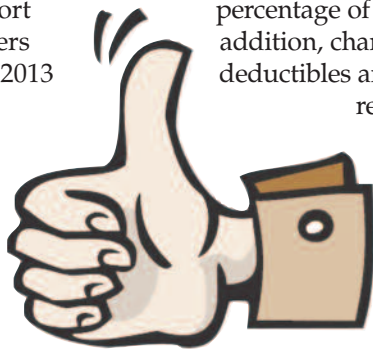
The length of the work year was reduced for some support staff categories. Building secretaries will now work 196 days instead of 200 days and building aides will go from 185

days to 180 days per year beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

Starting in the 2011-2012 school year, all employees will pay a percentage of their single health insurance premium. Individuals on family coverage will continue to pay a percentage of their insurance. In addition, changes were made in deductibles and prescription medicine reimbursements to help reduce the overall cost of the plan. The agreement calls for the BOE to assume up to a seven percent (7%) increase in the health insurance premiums in the second year of the contract. Employees will pay any premium increase greater than seven percent, or changes will be made to the plan to bring costs down.

In addition, concessions were made by PHEA in terms of tuition reimbursement and the change-over to an automated substitute-teacher calling system, both of which will save the District money.

"Going into negotiations, both parties knew, given the economic climate and uncertainty in State funding, that cost savings were necessary," said Business Manager Luann Mathis. "PHEA worked with the Board of Education to arrive at a workable solution for the next two years." ●



Continued from page 2

classrooms and two Smart Boards were raised to standard height.

At Sullivan, improvements to the West wing included replacement of galvanized piping, new ceiling and lighting, new cabinet heaters, fresh paint, and upgraded exit lighting. The playground was seal-coated and re-stripped, cafeteria tables repaired, and server closet A/C replaced.

At MacArthur, planters were repaired and timbers replaced along with the sidewalk at the main entrance. In the courtyard, the unused radio tower was removed, the sidewalk replaced to eliminate the step-up and allow for handicap access, and storm sewers and basins added to correct drainage problems. In the kitchen, gas, water, and electric was reconfigured to accommodate a new reach-in cooler, the addition of a braiser and steamers, and the elimination of the fryer. The gym floor was repaired, refinished, and striped. New flameproof stage curtains were installed and galvanized piping replaced.

In addition, a punch list of 14 annual maintenance projects were completed in all buildings including: HVAC equipment cleaning and inspections, fire and security systems testing, landscaping, and interior cleaning and sanitizing. Add to that, locker repairs, bleacher inspection and repairs, kitchen grease trap, and grease hood and exhaust cleaning, and main sewer line clean-out at Mac. ●

MacArthur Students “Step Up” at School

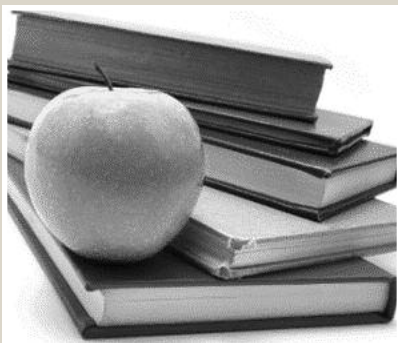
Last year, Mac added the Step Up program to the academic line-up at MacArthur Middle School.

This year, the offerings in this direct instruction period of the day have been expanded to allow all students to be involved based on their interests and/or academic/behavioral needs.

Students who are best served in Vocal and Instrumental Music (VIM) instruction, Foreign Language (Spanish) instruction (7th and 8th graders only), Special Education resource classes, and Tier 2 or Tier 3 Response to Intervention (RtI) classes are placed there first. RtI provides support in the areas of math, reading, writing, and assisted study.

All other students utilize the Step Up period for additional core curriculum instruction known as Tier 1. Depending on individual needs, this may include Pre-teaching to prepare for upcoming lessons or activities; Re-teaching to reinforce previously taught lessons; Study Skills instruction (Executive Functioning Skills) to teach and/or reinforce appropriate skills for organization, listening, homework preparation, time management, test taking, note taking, critical thinking/problem solving, and test preparation; Group Project/Presentation/ Cooperative Learning allows for

Continued on page 5



Planning the Key to a Successful GLC Transition

It was the attention to detail that really paid off in the Grade Level Center (GLC) transition that took place at the start of the school year.

Once the Board of Education voted in January to reconfigure the District’s three elementary schools to GLC’s, planning went into high gear. From parent volunteers to staff, everyone did their part to insure that things would run smoothly and learning would take place the moment the students stepped through the doors in August.

“Having a short time-line made it a greater priority for everyone involved,” said Superintendent Dr. Gregory Guarrine. “We looked at every person in every position to execute an effective plan.

Our entire team worked extremely hard to accomplish this as expeditiously as possible with minimal disruption to students. The time and effort focused on this change made it a success.”

The physical moves among the three buildings went off without a hitch and at minimal cost (less than \$5,000) to the District, thanks to Maintenance Supervisor Ron DeGeorge and his staff. Teachers, on the other hand, faced the challenge of being part of a new team -- many in a new building and a new classroom. This was quite a change for those who had been in the same spot for upwards of 25 years. However, their willingness to work with the new configuration has resulted in consistency in planning at all grade levels.

Parents are getting used to a new building, too. Most have offered positive feedback. According to Anne Marie Thomas, who was part of the committee that sought library volunteers, parents from all three schools have been involved in the transition.

“I drive my daughter to school and have noticed there are fewer cars in the lot,” said Mrs. Thomas.

“It does get a bit congested at times when the buses are pulling out, but

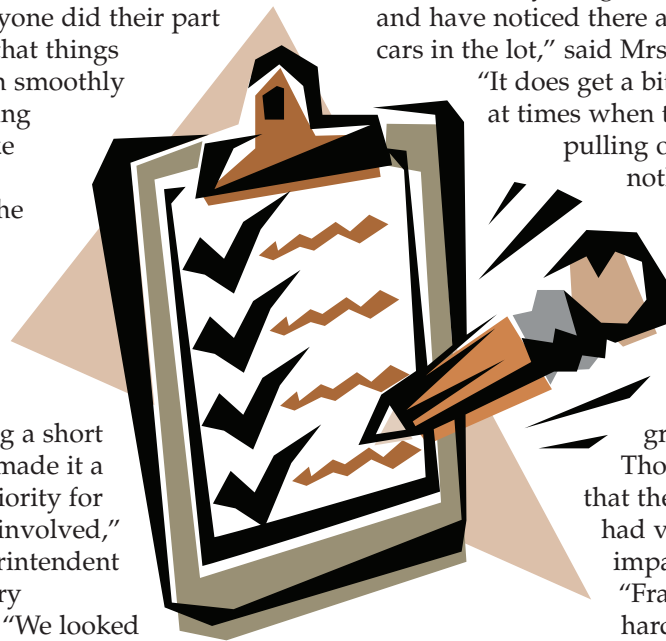
nothing that a minute or two of patience can’t resolve.”

As for her second-grader, Mrs. Thomas reports that the change has had very little impact on her. “Frankly, I hardly think she

has noticed! She has met many new children and remains close to most of her ‘old’ friends.”

This is consistent with Dr. Guarrine’s impressions. “Change is always difficult, but it is harder for adults than kids,” he said. “I’ve been in every classroom in the District and the youngsters have settled in nicely. I see the same wonderful kids and lots of smiling faces. The kids are just fine.”

As time goes on, Assistant Superintendent Deb Wilson also expects to see social and emotional benefits for Mac students. “We draw from four different communities, so our students will have an opportunity to get acquainted with all their classmates at an earlier age. As they move to Mac, they will be more comfortable already knowing everyone.” ●



New Lunch Program Offers Healthier Options

Who says healthier needs to cost more? Not in District 23. Thanks to an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arlington Heights School District 25, District 23 is able to offer a new and more nutritious lunch program this year at about the same cost as last year. In fact, prices at the grade schools are exactly the same, as is basic lunch at MacArthur. Expanded lunch options added to the menu at Mac are slightly higher in price.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are offered every day at all schools along with healthier menu items that incorporate more whole wheat and grain products and less processed foods. Children in the elementary buildings now have five choices for lunch; in the past, they've had only two at

Eisenhower and Sullivan and one at Ross. To encourage Mac students to eat a well-balanced lunch, ala carte items are offered as part of a meal. For example, instead of purchasing two pieces of pizza ala carte, students are having one piece of pizza and choosing as many vegetables and fruits from the fresh bar as they would like with their meal. The cost also includes milk.

All food is prepared at MacArthur under the supervision of Food Service Manager, Marie Mack, an Arlington Heights District 25 employee. Lunches are then delivered to the grade

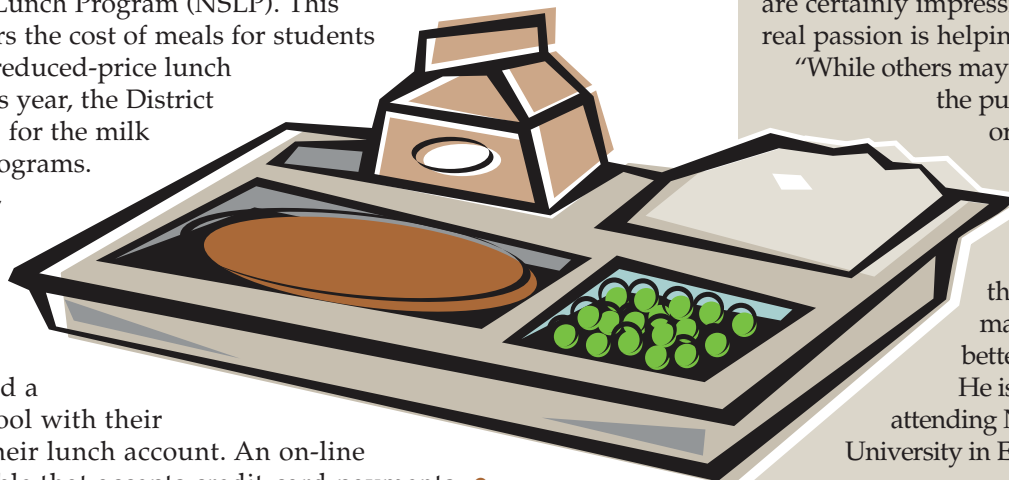
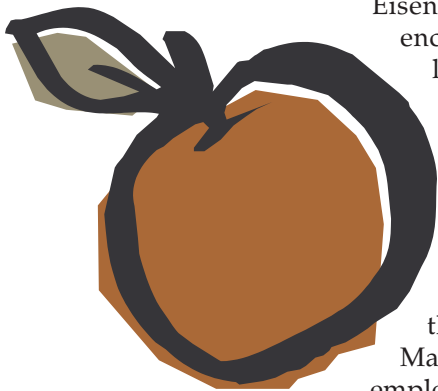
schools each morning. On-site staff at each building assemble the lunch items for that day. Cold carts at each school feature a colorful and ever-changing array of fruits and vegetables.

The new program, particularly the fruits and vegetables, has been well received by students, staff, and parents. In fact, the number of students participating has increased. Not only are more students getting well-balanced meals, but the higher number of lunches sold allows the District to spread out the management costs associated with the program making it more affordable to run.

"We are not in it to make a profit," said Business Manager, Luann Mathis, who developed the new lunch plan, "but I do want to break even rather than losing money year after year on the program."

This year, the District will get some help from the federal government to the tune of approximately \$75,000 by participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This federal subsidy covers the cost of meals for students in both the free and reduced-price lunch program. Prior to this year, the District was only reimbursed for the milk given out in these programs.

Over the summer, the District implemented the MealTime point of sale service. This system allows parents to either send a check or cash to school with their students to add to their lunch account. An on-line option is also available that accepts credit-card payments. ●



Continued from page 4

additional work time beyond the regular classroom; Enhancement Activities allow for work beyond core curriculum expectations and offer opportunities to apply previously-learned skills or knowledge to new and real-world situations.

According to Principal Steven Lee, classroom/team teachers determine in which of these activities students will be participating. They may rotate day-to-day and week-to-week depending on what is scheduled academically during the semester. ●

District 23 Alumni Make Us Proud

Congratulations to academic stand-out Ted Schwaba of Prospect Heights who got his start in District 23.

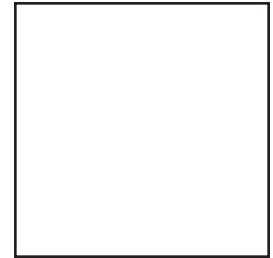


The outstanding Hersey High School graduate was named to the 2010-2011 Daily Herald Academic Team.

Ted was ranked number one in his class of 472 with a GPA of 5.74. He scored a 35 on the ACT and was on the seven-semester honor roll and a National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar with Honors.

Ted's academic achievements are certainly impressive but his real passion is helping people.

"While others may be driven by the pursuit of profit or fame, my push for success is instead driven by the desire to make the world better," said Ted. He is now attending Northwestern University in Evanston. ●



PROSPECT HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 23

700 N. Schoenbeck Road
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
Phone: (847) 870-3850

SUPERINTENDENT

Gregory P. Guarrine, Ed.D.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Martha Olsen, President
Mari-Lynn Peters, Vice President
Carol Botwinski, Secretary
Jim Bednar
Randy DeCoursey
David Hess
Judi Zimmerman

DISTRICT WEB SITE

www.d23.org

Betsy Ross Elementary School (847) 870-3868	Sullivan Elementary School (847) 870-3865	Eisenhower Elementary School (847) 870-3875	MacArthur Middle School (847) 870-3879
---	---	---	--

School Scene Readers: Spread the Word

The School Scene is an on-line publication. When the latest edition is available on the District 23 Web site, you will receive an e-mail notice. If your contact information changes, be sure to notify your school office. If you have friends and neighbors who are not aware of how to find information about District 23, be sure to spread the word. Direct



them to d23.org and let them know they can contact the administration office to be included in the e-mail notifications. For those who do not have access to a computer, your local library offers free Internet service. Stay in touch with District 23! ●

Upcoming Events

- November 9.....**Board of Education Meeting**, 7 p.m. (@Sullivan)
- November 17...**Students in Attendance**
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 p.m.
- November 21...**No School, Thanksgiving Holiday Begins**
- November 28...**Classes Start, Thanksgiving Holiday Ends**
- December 1**Students in Attendance**
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 p.m.
- December 8**All District Orchestra Concert**, 7 p.m.
- December 13....**7th/8th Grade Band/Choir Concert**, 7 p.m.
- December 14....**Board of Education Meeting**, 7 p.m. (@Mac)
- December 19....**No School, Winter Vacation Begins**
- January 3.....**Classes Start, Winter Vacation Ends**
- January 11**Board of Education Meeting**, 7 p.m.
- January 16**No School, Martin Luther King Day**
- January 23**No School, Teacher Institute Day**
- February 8**Board of Education Meeting**, 7 p.m. (@Ross)
- February 20**No School, Presidents Day** ●