

181  
Annual Report  
2016



**Clarendon Hills Middle School**  
301 Chicago Ave., Clarendon Hills



**Hinsdale Middle School**  
100 S. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale



**Elm School**  
15 W. 201 60th St., Burr Ridge



**Madison School**  
611 S. Madison St., Hinsdale



**Monroe School**  
210 N. Madison St., Hinsdale



**Oak School**  
950 S. Oak St., Hinsdale



**Prospect School**  
100 N. Prospect Ave., Clarendon Hills



**The Lane School**  
500 N. Elm St., Hinsdale



**Walker School**  
120 Walker Ave., Clarendon Hills



**Administration Center**  
115 West 55th Street, Clarendon Hills

**Our Vision** To be a community school district where students develop the skills they need to change the world and the confidence they need to do it.

**Our Mission** To provide a premier educational experience that teaches students to be critical thinkers and enables them to achieve their full potential – academically, socially, and emotionally.

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Featured on the Cover: In December 2015, Prospect School fourth graders collected new toys to donate to patients at Hope Children's Hospital. Students, parents, and staff contributed enough toys to create 96 gift bags.

The U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools Award program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement. 



# Strategic Leadership • News from the Board of Education & Superintendent



*Our leadership team: Board of Education member Marty Turek, Vice President Rich Giltner, member Jill Vorobiev, Secretary Gary Clarin, Superintendent Dr. Don White, member Leslie Gray, President Mridu Garg, and member Jennifer Burns. • Dr. White congratulates the Walker School team that won the 2016 Battle of the Books event - a friendly competition among D181 elementary schools that challenges students' knowledge of 20 fiction and non-fiction books through a buzz-in trivia-style event. Dr. White served as the event's emcee. • Dr. White talks with long-time senior reader Uly Backas. • Dr. White and Board member Jennifer Burns facilitate a community engagement session on the District's Strategic Plan development. • Board Vice President Rich Giltner shakes the hand of a D181 student who earned a KIDS grant from the D181 Foundation. • Board President Mridu Garg (right) is pictured with Ann Scott, a D181 resident and former Board member. Both were in attendance at a Walker School event celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the building's new construction. • Dr. White shakes the hand of a Hinsdale Middle School graduate as she accepts her diploma. • Clarendon Hills Middle School outgoing PTO Co-President Kathy Schilder (left) is congratulated by Board member Leslie Gray at a reception recognizing staff, parents, and students who earned grants from the D181 Foundation.*

## Connect with Your School Board

**BoardDocs:** Our electronic Board packet provides convenient public access to Board meeting agendas, presentations, reports, and minutes. To access BoardDocs, visit [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org) > Board of Education. **Board Meetings:** For a schedule of upcoming Board meetings, visit [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org) > Board of Education > Meetings. Community members are invited to attend and can participate during the public comment portion of each Board meeting. On our website, you can find live Board meeting audio and past meeting recordings, as well as a *Board Summary* outlining action and key discussion following each Business meeting. **E-mail:** The Board of Education has a group e-mail address ([boe@d181.org](mailto:boe@d181.org)) and individual e-mail addresses. Their contact information and procedures for Freedom of Information Act requests are listed on our website at [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org) > Board of Education.

Board Meeting Audio:  
We provide a live audio stream of each Board of Education Business meeting and recorded audio of Board Committee meetings. Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the D181 LiveStream site.



## Dear District 181 Community,

Welcome to our 2016 *Annual Report*, and thank you for your interest in how we prepare students for high school and beyond. This publication is one way we strive to help connect you with the schools of District 181 - by sharing news from the previous year and previewing the year ahead. If you live or work in the D181 community, you already know we have exceptional public schools that continue to draw in families looking to provide their children with a high quality and well-rounded education. In these pages are just some of the stories highlighting the remarkable opportunities our learners experience and showcasing the staff, parents, and community partners who support them each step of the way.

Joining me as proud leaders of our District are the seven elected members of the Board of Education. One of our most important tasks together this year was the creation and adoption of a new Strategic Plan for the District. After many months of preparation and following extensive engagement with our community that included surveys, focus groups, and round-table events, the Strategic Plan now becomes our guiding document for aligning current and future initiatives, building consistency across our system, and better informing the budget development process. It creates a shared, common understanding of where our efforts are leading and how we can work collaboratively to get there.

Two of the most critical pieces of the Strategic Plan are the revised District 181 Vision and Mission (shown on page 2), which are intended to be inspirational and aspirational. To achieve our Mission and bring the Vision to life, the Board established the following overarching goals:

**Academic Success:**

Maximize the academic and social-emotional growth of each student.

**Organizational Excellence:**

Attract, develop and retain high quality staff.

**Culture of Community:**

Engage all stakeholders through transparent, respectful communication and collaboration.

**Operational Integrity:**

Ensure fiscal stability and appropriate resources for programming and facilities.

The Strategic Plan includes detail for meeting these goals and ten guiding principles to direct the way in which we go about achieving them. A team of D181 staff members collaboratively outlined actions necessary for goal attainment and assigned quantifiable, objective measures of success. Implementation will begin in 2016-17 and will continue over the next several years. Our next step is the launch of a public dashboard so you can follow the progress of our strategic planning efforts as this work continues.

With the Strategic Plan as our focus for establishing updated priorities for the next several years, we can move forward, together, with confidence that the future is very bright.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don White, Superintendent  
dwhite@d181.org • 630.861.4922

# Academic Success & Organizational Excellence • News from the Departments of Learning & Human Resources



An HMS graduate joins his classmates in reading passages from "I Knew You Could" during the commencement ceremony. • D181 Preschoolers listen to their teacher read a story during the Summer Learning Program. • Monroe School Green Club members lead an Earth Day Convention for students to vote on the variety of Oak tree to be planted on the school grounds. • Elm School third graders read the biographies of famous artists, musicians, and scientists, and then dress as the individuals for the school's annual living wax event. Pictured is "Daniel Hale Williams." • Teacher Jean Monat reads with a student participating in the Summer Learning Program. • A Madison School parent helps lead an activity station during the school's STEM family night. • A Prospect School student demonstrates the power of electrons during the school's STEM night and science fair. • Through funding provided by the PTO, Walker School students explore the planet and its geography through Earth Dome. • Author Lincoln Pierce presents his books and the concept of symbolism in illustration during a visit at Oak School. • Throughout the 2015-16 school year, CHMS led a variety of events and special projects focused on supporting Veterans, including an all-school assembly in November that welcomed American soldiers. • Students at The Lane School participate in a collaborative challenge to arrange themselves in a particular order without moving outside of a designated set of floor tiles.

District 181 Preschool:  
 We offer a five-day per week  
 preschool program for three to  
 five year-old students of  
 all ability levels. Classes are  
 held at Oak School and open  
 to all D181 residents. Scan  
 this QR code with your  
 smartphone to visit the D181  
 Preschool webpage.



## Academic Success

- We continue to see **high achievement** across the District, with student performance among the very best in the state. We also see students enjoying their learning, finding opportunities to explore their interests in the arts and athletics, and connecting to the global community through service.
- Monroe School was nominated by the U.S. Department of Education for the esteemed **National Blue Ribbon Schools Award**. We anticipate the announcement of selected schools will be shared in the early fall. If selected, Monroe would become the sixth D181 school to earn that distinction.
- We fully implemented our recently adopted math resources this year, and teachers collaboratively developed math curriculum maps this summer - an important step in **strengthening our curricular infrastructure**. Our current curriculum renewal efforts have focused on science at all grade levels, with emphasis on concepts related to STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics). That work was also continued this summer.
- The Digital Learning Initiative Committee - a group of 40 parents, community members, teachers, staff, Board members, and administrators - worked in partnership throughout this past school year to research and explore issues related to **technology in teaching and learning**. They led the development of six Belief Statements, which were adopted by the Board in the spring. Our conversation is now focused on the digital environment and the platform that will best support instruction.
- We worked with teachers, administrators, and the Board Learning Committee to reduce the number of student assessments, and as part of Strategic Plan implementation, we will be further **reviewing our assessment schedule** to ensure we are using the most appropriate tools to make informed instructional decisions.
- **District 181 Preschool** continues to provide an outstanding program for three to five year-old students of all ability levels. We incorporate research-based practices and use a play-based model that includes exploration and student-initiated learning. To prepare students for kindergarten, an emphasis is also placed on self-regulation, independence, language development, and interpersonal skills.
- The annual **D181 Summer Learning Program** was held June 13 through July 1. In addition to a series of

available academic classes focused on math and language arts, a variety of additional course options were offered, including circuit design, debate, sculpting, Italian language and culture, digital storytelling, middle school transition prep, and computer coding.

## Organizational Excellence

- We are extremely fortunate to have truly **high quality educators** in District 181. We extend best wishes to those who retired from the District this year, including Linda Atko, Craig Monson, John Rebel, Kathy Donohue, Linda Littley, Claudia Payne, Barbara Saad, Kathy Mangan, Sompith (Moon) Bounsayngam, Stephanie Douglas, Patricia Brody, Libby Johnson, Walter Johnson, and Steve Kohut.
- In June 2015, we approved a three-year agreement with our support staff union (HESS). At the time of printing this publication, we are in the midst of **contract negotiations** with our teachers' union (HCHTA). The collaborative process we are using has resulted in meaningful conversations about how best to be supportive of our teachers while being responsible to our taxpayers.
- In regard to our **organizational structure**, there are new faces in several leadership positions. Kelley Gallt is the Assistant Superintendent of Learning (Curriculum and Instruction), and Dr. Christina Sepiol is the Assistant Superintendent of Learning (Pupil Services). Terri Hanrahan is our new Director of Learning (Curriculum and Instruction), we have a new Comptroller, Kate Ambrosini, and Kelly Kramer is a new Pupil Services Administrator. In our schools, Madison Principal Kim Rutan and The Lane School Principal Angela Stallion both had extremely successful first years as principals in the District and look forward to 2016-17. CHMS Assistant Principal Joni Sherman is returning to the classroom as a math teacher at CHMS; Levi Brown was hired as the new CHMS Assistant Principal.
- A committee of teachers and administrators worked diligently this year to plan for the implementation of the state law **PERA - Performance Evaluation Reform Act**. As the name suggests, this work deals with how principals, assistant principals, and teachers are evaluated, and includes the use of student data as a measure of their performance. This has been a significant shift in education that our staff has reviewed and planned for so that we can be successful in making these changes as a District.

# Operational Excellence • News from the Department of Business & Operations



NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Elementary Student:Teacher Ratio 15:1



**3,914**

Approximate Students

**\$71,000,000**

Annual Budget

**298**

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff

**11.6%**

Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Operational Cost Per Pupil

**\$16,674**

### Instructional Cost Per Pupil

Wilmette SD39 • \$8,574

Lincolnshire SD103 • \$8,654

River Forest SD90 • \$9,290

**District 181 • \$9,461**

Park Ridge CCSD64 • \$9,824

Avoca SD37 • \$9,943

Northbrook SD30 • \$10,020

Butler SD53 • \$10,080

Winnetka SD36 • \$11,102

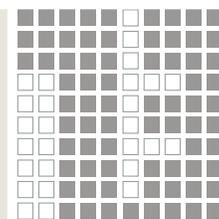
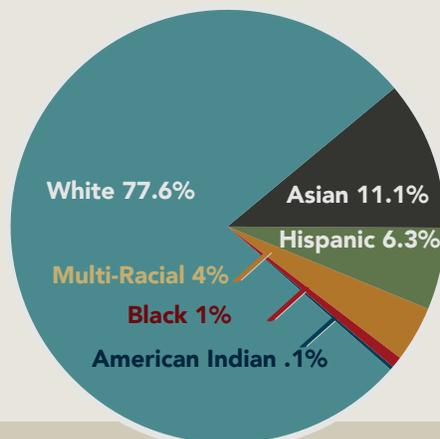
Northbrook SD28 • \$13,182

Teacher Retention 86.2%

Student Attendance 95%

Low Income 3.2%

Limited English Proficiency 3.1%



73% of Teachers Have a **Master's Degree or Higher**

**14.5**

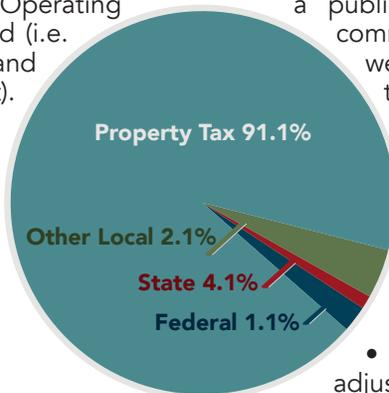
Average Years of Teaching Experience

Financial Reports:  
We earned the  
ASBO 2015-16 Certificate of  
Excellence in Financial Reporting  
for having met the  
program's high standards  
for accountability. We have  
been recognized with this  
award 12 of the past 14  
years. Scan this QR code with your  
smartphone to access D181  
financial reports.



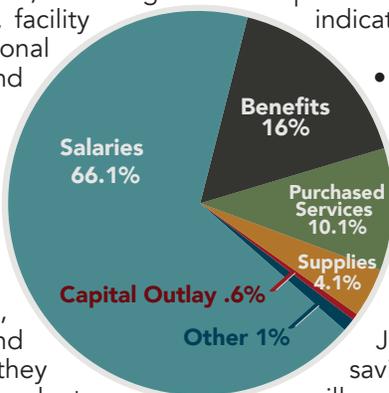
## 2016-17 Fiscal Year Revenues

As shown in the chart at right, approximately 91% of our revenue in District 181 Operating funds comes from property taxes (approximately \$58.1 million), the vast majority of which is from residents; the remainder is provided through commercial and industrial sources. In regard to remaining revenue sources in our Operating funds, 4.1% comes from categorical state aid (i.e. special education grants, transportation) and unrestricted state aid (flat amount per student). Additionally, 1.1% comes from federal aid (i.e. reading/math support grants for qualifying students in need of academic support). "Other Local" in the chart refers to revenue sources such as registration fees, food and milk fees, and rebates (i.e. federal E-Rate for telecommunications).



## 2016-17 Fiscal Year Expenditures

As shown in the lower chart at right, approximately 82% of our Operating funds budget is allocated for staff salaries (66%) and benefits (16%). The other 18% of our Operating funds cover a wide array of needs, including utilities, curriculum materials, transportation, facility repairs and improvements, staff professional development, contracted services, and technology purchases.



The D181 Foundation and school Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) play a critical role in providing materials, experiences, and services for our students and staff that create opportunities for enrichment and innovation. The Foundation, for example, co-sponsored the Family Education Series and Community Speaker Series. In 2015-16, they also awarded 11 grants to D181 staff valued at over \$25,000, and awarded 17 KIDS grants to District 181 students. The PTOs have provided playground equipment, student technology, school assembly speakers, and staff appreciation events, among many other services.

## Budget Basics

We anticipate a balanced budget for 2016-17, with approximately \$71 million in revenues and expenditures (including transfers and leases). The budget will be presented for Board approval in September following a public hearing to welcome any community comments, and it will be available on the D181 website. We work from a multi-year budget to align the District's projected financials with long-term planning.

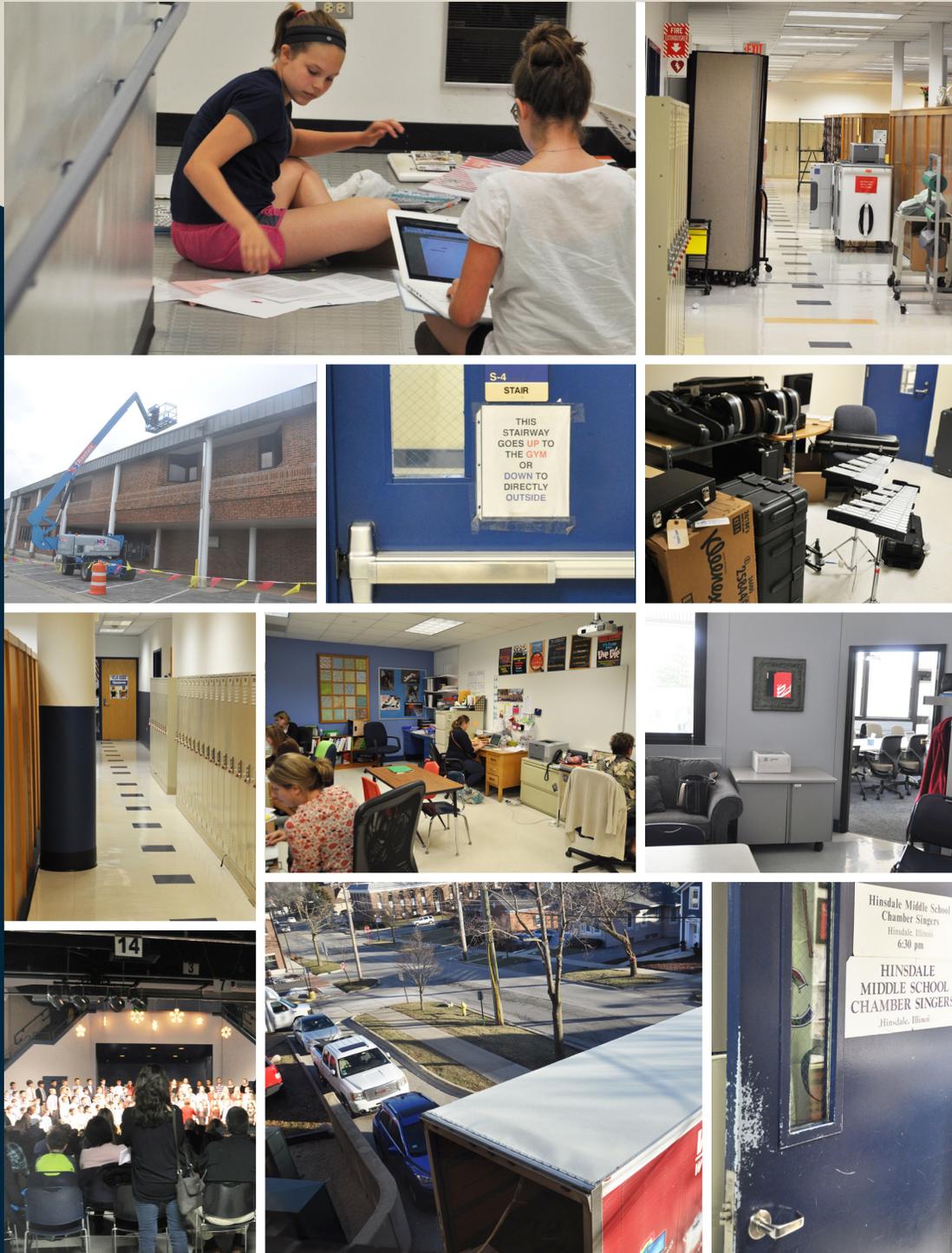
- In December 2015, the Board of Education approved a tax levy that followed the Consumer Price Index (.8%) plus partial new construction, electing not to levy the legal maximum from taxpayers.
- The District has earned a 3.8 out of 4.0 adjusted Financial Profile Score from the Illinois State Board of Education for 2016, placing D181 in the highest category ("Recognition"). The Financial Profile is one measure of a district's performance and provides a snapshot of the district's condition as assessed on indicators selected by the State.

- The District's most recent financial audit showed no "material weaknesses" and all results were presented fairly. The five most recent audit reports are available for download on our website.
- We have continued to maintain a bond rating of AAA, the highest rating given by Standard & Poor's. Bond refunding in June 2016 generated a net present value savings of \$750,000, meaning that the District will collect \$750,000 less in actual dollars from taxpayers while paying off long-term debt. Over the last several years, D181 bond refunding has generated a savings equivalent to nearly \$10 million in today's dollars.

## Strategic Goals for Operational Integrity

The following goals have been established in the area of Operational Integrity as part of the District's Strategic Plan development. **(1)** Align financial budgets with the goals established in the Strategic Plan. **(2)** Evaluate the return on investment of programs and expenditures as it relates to student outcomes. **(3)** Maintain balanced and sustainable short- and long-term budgets. **(4)** Maintain quality facilities that support student learning. **(5)** Continue to stay informed about potential state and federal impacts on funding, and represent District needs and community expectations where possible.

# Operational Excellence • News from the Department of Business & Operations



The snapshots above show some of the interior and exterior spaces of the current HMS building. The issue of undersized classrooms at HMS is addressed in the new construction design concept through standardized room sizes. Overcrowding is currently handled through the annual rental of eight portable classrooms and would be eliminated by creating a new school with the appropriate number of learning spaces for the anticipated enrollment. Much-needed storage would be increased by thoughtfully planning locations throughout the proposed building for custodial supplies and equipment. Insufficient parking for staff and visitors, and related safety concerns, would be considerably improved through a two-tier parking deck to be funded in partnership with the Village of Hinsdale. (One of the two parking deck levels would be available for residents and Hinsdale visitors on schooldays, with both levels available on weekends, holidays, in the summer, etc.). Outdated systems (i.e. the 39 year-old roof), worn-out fixtures, and limitations in accessibility (i.e. narrow hallways) would be addressed, as well. Further, the current building's complex and inefficient layout would be replaced by a more functional and classic design.

## Next Steps in Addressing the Facility Needs of Hinsdale Middle School

As part of the March 15, 2016 General Primary Election, voters in District 181 were presented with a referendum question seeking authorization to sell up to \$65 million in bonds for the purpose of building a new school that would replace Hinsdale Middle School. The referendum was defeated by a vote of approximately 56% to 44%. Following that loss, we immediately concentrated our efforts on creating new opportunities to hear from our community so that we could better understand why the referendum was not successful, and how best to move forward, together, in addressing the needs of HMS.

Our listening effort included a 500-resident phone survey, an online survey completed by more than 1,500 respondents, conversations with the HMS staff and Board members, and engagement events to welcome in-person dialogue with parents, residents, and local business employees. We have used that data to inform administrative recommendations and Board decision making, in combination with the extensive engagement and research work completed prior to the referendum along with best practices in both education and school construction. We have listened, intently, and used that data to work with our project architect in revising the previous conceptual design and reducing the total cost.

At the time of printing this *Annual Report*, the Board of Education is being presented with reports on that work, and they are continuing to hold critical discussion on the

timing of when a referendum question may be presented to voters - likely in either November 2016 or April 2017.

As discussion and action continue, we invite you to join our Key Communicator e-mail group so that you can be notified of District news and events related to this HMS work and other District initiatives. To join, simply e-mail [bmccuiggan@d181.org](mailto:bmccuiggan@d181.org) and you will be immediately added to our e-newsletter distribution list. You can also find continually updated information on our website at [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org) > Our District > HMS Referendum.

Once a final timeline has been established, please be assured that we will be planning a variety of engagement events and opportunities to listen to and respond to your ideas, concerns, and questions. As those opportunities are identified, we will update the District website, send word through our e-newsletters, post updates on Twitter (@CCSD181), and work with local media to share the information with readers.

We are committed to clear, comprehensive, and timely communication and look forward to working together as community partners in creating solutions for students now and for many years to come.

## Key Findings from Post-Referendum Community Surveys

We identified these key findings from 1,500 online survey responses and 500 phone survey responses. **(1)** The vast majority of respondents recognized the facility needs of HMS, and they were aware of the March 2016 referendum. **(2)** Cost was the primary reason the referendum lost. **(3)** There were limited concerns with the design itself, but significant concerns with the design components, specifically the auditorium, fitness track, and turf. There was a strong desire to see these components eliminated or considerably modified to reduce the total cost and build a school more in line with CHMS and other middle schools. **(4)** While there were those who want a new HMS to be in a different location, the majority would like to see it remain in its current location. **(5)** There was no clear, specific desired cost but rather a largely held desire for the total cost to be reduced. **(6)** A smaller annual tax increase over a longer period of time was clearly preferred. **(7)** There was no clear, specific desire for when a next referendum should be run - moreso a desire to do it "right" - with broader support and unified Board support. **(8)** There was no one communication method that would be best for all. A mix of traditional communication vehicles (such as information in the newspaper) would need to be supported by newer communication tools (such as social media), along with opportunities for in-person meetings held in convenient, community locations.

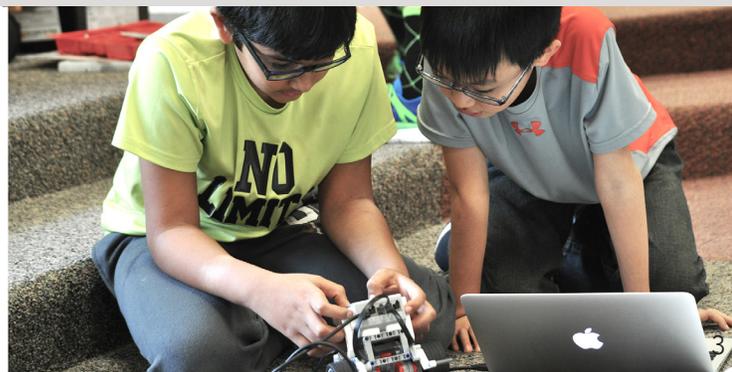
Keeping Up with HMS  
News: If you are interested in e-mail as a tool to keep up with D181 news related to a potential referendum and next steps for HMS, sign up for the D181 e-newsletter.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to join the e-mail group today.



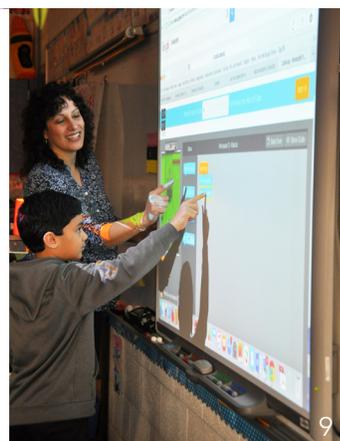
# Culture of Community • News from the Department of Communications & Our D181 Schools



## Student Learning in Action: Snapshots from the Year

(1) Thanks to a grant from the D181 Foundation, Prospect School art teacher Susan Tiemstra was able to invite into the District artist-in-residence Lloyd Hughes, who led students in the collaborative creation of an outdoor mobile, which is now located at the school's front entrance. ● (2) Members of the Hinsdale Police Department and Monroe School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) unveiled a new speed feedback sign on Monroe Street in September. The PTO funded the purchase of the sign, a decorative post, and related software as they had in April 2014, when they worked with the Hinsdale Police in funding the Village's first permanent speed feedback sign on Madison Street. ● (3) Students at The Lane School have the opportunity to participate in a Lego Robotics club that meets after school. Using computer programming and engineering skills, students direct their robot to follow specific directions for movement. Students are challenged to use patience, collaboration with classmates, and perseverance to control the robot's movement. ● (4) Prospect School held a fun

run and family gathering in the fall as part of a new school fundraiser - the "Dash n' Bash." The event raised more than \$69,000 and brought together students, parents, and many community partners who contributed financial and in-kind donations. ● (5) Each D181 school is enhanced by a strong and supportive PTO. The Presidents from each school PTO meet together monthly with District administrators and a Board liaison. We are grateful to the 2015-16 Presidents for their service! Pictured: Cheryl Butterbach, Pamona Namkung, Kathy Schilder, Elizabeth Veeseer-Sharer, Jennifer Katsoulis, Linda Davis, Laura Tortorello, Mary Henneman, Lauren Walsh, Nicolette Pollard, Trista Negele, Aaron Baar, and Board liaison Leslie Gray. Not pictured: Michelle Fischer, Monique Thanos, Claudine Roberts, Tami Carstensen, and Dyan Ruth. ● (6) The Elm School drama club performed "The Wizard of Oz" for classmates and family members. Over 40 students participated in the spring production. Elm School Secretary Edith Sharkey makes the stunning costumes for the drama club plays.



(7) Students in five D181 schools, including Oak School (pictured) engaged in a video chat with nationally recognized award-winning artist and author Carmen Lomas Garza. The event was part of "Mexican Culture Through Art" - an enrichment program for fifth grade students, teaching Mexican culture and Spanish vocabulary through Garza's artwork, writings, and life stories. ● (8) More than 35 CHMS students participated in the cast and crew of the musical "Seussical, Jr." in the spring. ● (9) Differentiation Specialist Debbie Page-O'Connell worked with Walker School classes participating in the national event "Hour of Code," a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code, show that anyone can learn the basics, and support students' skills in problem-solving, logic, and creativity. ● (10) Oak School now-retired second grade teacher Kathy Mangan initiated a collection to help a remote Fijian island called Vanuabalavu, which experienced significant devastation caused by Cyclone Winston. The island's Adi Maopa School lost its roof, windows, desks,

tables, books and supplies. In total, the Oak community raised more than \$2,300 to help the school rebuild. ● (11) Students at The Lane School and Oak School had the unique opportunity to participate in the Google Expeditions Pioneer program in the fall. Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 used cardboard viewers with embedded phones to "visit" selected destinations via collections of virtual reality panoramas. Students held the devices to their faces as the phone's app showed 360-degree views of sites such as ocean reefs and ancient Greek structures. Each classroom teacher led the class from a tablet that mirrored the view and provided annotated details, points of interest, and questions. ● (12) Madison School teachers led a variety of activity stations at an evening family event dedicated to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). ● (13) HMS sixth grade social studies teacher Shannon Donovan led her classes in an activity to explore early human history using plastic replica skulls, provided by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

# Culture of Community • News from the Department of Communications & Our D181 Schools



## Student Learning in Action: Snapshots from the Year

(1) A member of the Clarendon Hills Fire Department was on hand at Walker School during Fire Prevention Week to provide a lesson to students on fire safety. ● (2) Elm School fifth graders welcomed parents and other special guests to join in learning about the U.S. Civil War. Students researched and presented information about the era through a variety of activity stations, a school tradition of more than 20 years. ● (3) Oak School first graders enjoyed a visit by "High Tech High Touch" called "Weather or Not!" Students had the opportunity to explore tornados, thunder, rain, and air pressure. ● (4) Monroe School students met Aaron Reynolds this fall, author of "Creepy Carrots" and "Chicks and Salsa." Reynolds read from his newest book "Nerdy Birdy" and answered questions about his work and life. ● (5) Students in Prospect School had the unique opportunity to experience how athletics are played by those with physical disabilities thanks to a visit from the South East Association for Special Parks And Recreation (SEASPAR). The organization's Recreation Coordinator

partnered with P.E. teachers to bring in equipment used in what is known as adaptive athletics, such as wheelchair basketball. ● (6) Students at The Lane School shared a variety of talents during a school assembly, including a performance by members of the orchestra. ● (7) HMS sixth graders participated in a presentation led by the National Hellenic Museum on Herakles with support from the school's PTO. The first-time event, a collaboration with social studies and language arts teachers, brought together student lessons about myths, the 12 Trials of Hercules, and the differences and similarities between Greek and Roman governments. The museum showcased replica artifacts and facilitated a mock trial. ● (8) Walker School students from kindergarten through fifth grade planted flower seeds in classroom greenhouses. Students then observed the plants grow and bloom, and at the end of the school year, the plants were transplanted and made a part of the Richmond Education Gardens and Apiary, which is in development in Clarendon Hills.



(9) Playwright Greg Cummings visited HMS in October to watch students act in the first-ever performance of a new one-act play he wrote, thanks to an arrangement made by teacher Steve Tabisz, who had directed students in a previous Cummings play two years prior. Cummings also led an improv workshop for the drama class. ● (10) Elm School welcomed parents to join in a round of cosmic bowling, an annual tradition to mark the end of the students' bowling unit in P.E. class. ● (11) Eighth grade students from CHMS walked to neighboring Prospect School to share their original children's books written as part of the Language Arts curriculum. All books had a theme of compassion to relate back to the Rachel's Challenge program, which encourages acts of kindness. ● (12) Monroe School enjoyed hands-on learning with the DuPage Children's Museum. Museum educators partnered with parent volunteers and teachers to lead a series of activity stations on the topic of simple machines. Working in cooperative groups, students measured and recorded their observations of levers, pulleys,

gears and other machine components at work. ● (13) The Kids Care Club of Madison School collected items from residents to support the needs of HCS Family Services in Hinsdale. Students worked in groups with a parent leader to pick up canned goods, toiletries, and other non-perishable items donated by their Madison School neighbors. In total, the students gathered more than 540 pounds of goods. ● (14) Throughout the 2015-16 school year, second graders from Madison School and Monroe School wrote letters to one another as part of a pen-pal project to strengthen students' writing skills. The pairs met for the first time in June at the Hinsdale Public Library. Students enjoyed guided conversations, then participated in a variety of activity stations organized by library staff. ● (15) The CHMS Peer Leadership Club worked with the PTO to create boxes of essentials for individuals struggling with homelessness. Students also included notes of kindness. The packing was done in support of the organization GiveABox.Org, which was founded by an area resident.

Community Consolidated School District 181  
Administration Center  
115 West 55th Street, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514  
630.861.4900 • www.d181.org

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Hinsdale, IL

# POSTAL PATRON

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Receipt does not ensure residency within Community Consolidated School District 181.

## Community Consolidated School District 181

Website.....www.d181.org  
Phone.....630.861.4900  
Twitter.....@CCSD181  
Boundary Map.....www.d181.org > Our District  
D181 Foundation.....www.d181foundation.org  
E-Newsletter Sign-Up..E-mail bmcguiggan@d181.org

Aug. 23.....First Day of School (Full Day)  
Sept. 5.....Labor Day\*  
Oct. 10.....Columbus Day\*  
Oct. 28.....End of 1st Quarter, Middle School  
Nov. 3.....End of 1st Trimester, Elementary  
Nov. 4.....Institute Day\*  
Nov. 21-22.....Parent-Teacher Conferences\*  
Nov. 23-25.....Thanksgiving Break\*  
Dec. 22-Jan. 6.....Winter Break\*  
Jan. 9.....School Reopens  
Jan. 16.....Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day\*  
Jan. 20.....End of 2nd Quarter, Middle School  
Feb. 20.....Presidents' Day\*  
Mar. 2.....End of 2nd Trimester, Elementary  
Mar. 3.....Institute Day\*  
Mar. 24.....End of 3rd Quarter, Middle School  
Mar. 27-31.....Spring Break\*  
April 14.....Non-Attendance Day\*  
May 26.....Institute Day\*  
May 29.....Memorial Day\*  
June 5.....Grading Day\*  
June 8.....Early Dismissal - Last Day (if no emergency days)  
End of 3rd Trimester & End of 4th Quarter

\*No school for students

### District 181 E-Newsletter Sign Up

Are you interested in staying current on D181 news, events, and opportunities for involvement? We encourage you to sign up for our e-newsletter. Send an e-mail to bmcguiggan@d181.org to join today!

### Community Speaker Series

The Speaker Series is a collaborative initiative to bring the community together for free educational opportunities and is sponsored by Hinsdale Township High School District 86 and District 181 with support from The Community House and the D181 Foundation.

### *Fostering Healthy Childhood & Teen Success - Moving Away from Stress, Anxiety, Depression, and Exhaustion Toward Wellness and Joy* with Dr. Madeline Levine

October 27, 2016 • 9:30-11am • The Community House  
October 27, 2016 • 7-8:30pm • The Community House

### *Mindful Parenting: Mindfulness Strategies and Solutions* with Dr. Kristen Race

February 7, 2017 • 7-8:30pm • The Community House  
February 8, 2017 • 9:30-11am • The Community House

### SCREENAGERS

#### with Filmmaker Dr. Delaney Ruston

May 2, 2017 • 7-9pm • The Community House  
May 3, 2017 • 9:30-11:30am • The Community House