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Photo: Arbor Day at Madison was a celebration of trees by students in Mrs. Pat Brody’s and Mrs. Linda Lewis’ first-grade classes. Students planted a tree, learned from the village arborist, and read a tree-themed poem, led by Mrs. Lewis.

On The Cover: In November, over 200 Hinsdale Middle School eighth graders toured Washington, D.C. sites, including the Capitol, the Smithsonian, Arlington, the Washington Monument and Ford’s Theatre.
Dear District 181 residents and staff:

Welcome to the District 181 Annual Report to the Community on the 2010-11 year. In the pages to follow, we have provided an overview of our operations, goals, and events. We hope you can spend some time with this publication, and we welcome your feedback.

I am writing on behalf of your elected Board of Education members. As 2011 was a Board election year, we had a change at the table in April. Terms of Linda Rio Reichmann, Roseanne Rosenthal, Mark Monyek and Andrew Schmidt ended, and Brendan Heneghan, Marty Turek, Glenn Yaeger and I joined the group. The current board also includes Sarah Lewensohn, Yvonne Mayer and Russell Rhoads, who are mid-way through their terms. We are all so very grateful for the work of our predecessors, who hired our new superintendent, Dr. Renée Schuster. Hiring a superintendent is one of the major tasks of the Board of Education.

We also set policy for the district in a process that invites community input. Additionally, we provide strategic direction and focus for the district.

The 2010-11 school year saw many points of pride in District 181. In this report, you will see coverage of the following:

• All nine schools received the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education.
• The Early Childhood Education Center opened at Oak School and drew nearly 50 preschool students.
• The Board presented a record number of Ambassador of Excellence Awards to students and staff for stellar accomplishments.
• Eight teachers from four of our schools earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
• The District embarked on a process to solicit feedback from staff, parents and other residents at four Community Engagement sessions.
• Forbes Magazine listed Hinsdale as one of 25 “Top Education Towns” for best return on educational tax dollar investment.
• The Lane School was selected to apply for U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School designation.
• The District launched a series of informational podcasts and implemented a paperless Board book.

And those are just a few of the highlights. I would like to welcome you to our meetings, our website, and our schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Nelson
District 181 Board of Education President
boe@d181.org

Message from the Board President

Photo: Prospect first-grade students Olivia Zelenka (left) and Elise Walch are catching butterflies at the Morton Arboretum for Mrs. Henry’s butterfly science unit.

### Residents, Staff Share Views on District 181’s Future

More than 200 residents and staff members offered their perspectives on challenges and priorities for the future at a series of Community Engagement meetings during the 2010-11 school year.

Two meetings in October 2010 covered the topics of student achievement and finance and asked participants to consider the continued relevance of the district’s mission and vision statements. Two meetings in March 2011 asked participants to help determine expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements and to offer opinions on foreign language instruction.

All sessions were open to district residents, business owners, and staff. Each meeting began with a presentation by Superintendent Renee Schuster.

“We are very pleased that more than 200 people gave up an evening to help shape the future of our elementary school district,” Dr. Schuster said. “I enjoyed interacting with residents and staff, and have learned in the process what our community values.”

### Key Results From the Fall Sessions

- **Participants would like to see more emphasis on writing instruction.**
- **All children in District 181 should be challenged academically.**
- **Foreign language instruction should begin before grade 5.**
- **All teachers should offer differentiated lessons.**
- **The district should maintain high expectations of students in learning and behavior.**
- **Parents expect District 181 to provide excellent curriculum and instruction.**
- **Residents would like more information about district finances.**
- **Opinion was mixed on considering a referendum.**
- **Residents would like to see a larger role for the foundation and the district’s PTO/A groups in the area of revenue enhancement as well as more aggressive pursuit of grant funds.**
- **Cutbacks suggested: teacher compensation, busing costs, class size, staff and administrative reduction, increased efficiency of operations, program reductions, flex, special education, and physical education.**

The March meetings further refined suggestions from the fall sessions. Expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements were reviewed and discussed.

### Results From the March Sessions

75 percent or more of the participants supported:
- Reducing Buildings and Grounds Department supplies budget
- Using medical insurance reserves to reduce insurance costs
- Consolidating bus routes
- Establishing a four-day workweek during the summer to trim energy costs.

More than half supported:
- Eliminating an administrative position
- Reducing instructional assistants due to declining enrollment

94 percent favored:
- Implementing the Cook County Rate Increase Factor in Tax Year 2010, to generate $450,000.

“Not only did we meet a Board of Education goal to promote community engagement opportunities and demonstrate transparency, we also gathered valuable feedback on many challenges facing the district,” Dr. Schuster said. Community engagement reports including patron comments and analysis of results are posted on www.d181.org, under Superintendent.
A Year-End Review

Education is a process of continuous improvement as textbooks, curriculum, classroom management and instructional techniques change to reflect research and effective practice. District 181 strives for continuous improvement in curriculum through regular review and updating of curriculum, training of staff, and collaboration with other districts to share ideas. Here are a few highlights of the 2010-11 school year:

- Selected writing instructional materials to pilot during the 2011-12 school year that will align with Common Core Standards
- Completed second year of using the InView assessment
- Continued to infuse technology into the classroom, aided by streaming video presentations of model lessons
- Earned AYP for the 2009-2010 school year
- Received a state Foreign Language Assistance Planning Grant
  - Trained principals in differentiated instruction, classroom observation techniques, student data system
  - Implemented a new student information system and grade book
- Trained teachers in brain-based learning activities, differentiation of instruction, writing, and interactive white boards
- Collaborated with District 96 on social emotional learning, curriculum, and student placement
- Aligned the MRC Learning Standards with the new Illinois Common Core Standards
- Hosted training on technology in the classroom for 300 art, music and PE teachers from area districts
- Connected HMS weather station with live video feed that is used by K-8 students
- Expanded SELAS (Social Emotional Learning) for Academic Success)section on www.d181.org
- Sponsored a districtwide SELAS Week
- Posted student summer activities on www.d181.org
- Adopted software to monitor students’ fitness
- Expanded mobile technology applications for student use
- Collaborated with the District 181 Foundation on science inquiry teacher training, the CHMS wind turbine, and screenings and discussion of “Race to Nowhere”
- Trained support staff in social emotional learning curriculum.

“All training is designed to support instruction, improve our learning environment, and give staff tools to assess student performance,” said Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Janet Stutz. “We want every child to attain his or her highest level of achievement in District 181.”

D181 Nets a ‘Three-peat’ All Schools on Honor Roll

For the third consecutive year, all nine District 181 schools were named Illinois Honor Roll Schools. The 2010 Honor Roll recognizes 834 schools in 364 Illinois school districts for making progress toward or maintaining academic excellence. All District 181 schools received the Academic Excellence Award, the highest designation. In this category, 90 percent or more of elementary students met or exceeded state testing standards in reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years. The 2010 Academic Excellence Award Schools include 6 high schools, 90 middle schools and 363 elementary and K-8 schools.

“Having every school represented in the overall average percentage of students in grades 3-8 who earned ‘Meets’ or ‘Exceeds’ levels on the April 2010 ISAT. The District 181 score, 97.59, is based on reading and math tests. The state average is 81.11 percent.

Scores Place D181 in Top Tier of State, County, Metro Area

To precisely focus teaching and learning, students in District 181 are assessed in many ways each school year. The one measurement common to all Illinois elementary school districts is the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Taken by students in grades 3-8, the ISAT measures reading, math, science, and social studies knowledge. These scores receive press and ranking agency attention annually. One such agency is SchoolSearch, a research and consulting firm that released its 2011 rankings in May. SchoolSearch compiles rankings from the overall average percentage of students in grades 3-8 who earned

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<tr>
<th>Metro Area Top 10</th>
<th>State Top 10</th>
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<td>1. Butler 53</td>
<td>1. Barteleio 57</td>
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<td>2. CCSD181</td>
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<td>5. Naperville 203</td>
<td>5. Kenilworth 38</td>
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<td>6. Elmhurst 205</td>
<td>6. CCSD181</td>
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<td>7. Case 63</td>
<td>7. Lincolnshire 103</td>
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<td>8. Glen Ellyn 41</td>
<td>8. Western Springs 101</td>
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<td>9. Indian Prairie 204</td>
<td>9. Western Springs 101</td>
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More than 900 students and guests joined in the September dedication of the Clarendon Hills Middle School wind turbine. The District 181 Foundation-funded turbine generates electricity and data used by science classes.

Curriculum

Launched electronic elementary report card
- Trained teachers in brain-based learning activities, differentiation of instruction, writing, and interactive white boards
- Collaborated with District 86 on social emotional learning, curriculum, and student placement
- Aligned the MRC Learning Standards with the new Illinois Common Core Standards
- Hosted training on technology in the classroom for 300 art, music and PE teachers from area districts
- Connected HMS weather station with live video feed that is used by K-8 students
- Expanded SELAS (Social Emotional Learning) for Academic Success)section on www.d181.org
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- Trained support staff in social emotional learning curriculum.

The hard work and achievement of every student, teacher, and parent within our District and is evidence of District 181’s vision that every child will experience success and exhibit excellence,” said Superintendent Renée Schuster.

Seven District 181 schools are among 43 in Illinois that achieved the Academic Excellence Award for seven years: Clarendon Hills Middle School, Elm, Madison, Monroe, Oak, Prospect and Walker. The Lane is one of 40 schools that achieved the top rank for the past six years. Hinsdale Middle School is one of 159 schools earning it for the third time.

For a listing of all Honor Roll Schools, go to www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu.

State Top 10

1. Barteleio 57
2. Butler 53
3. Avoca 37
4. Northbrook/Glenview 30
5. Kenilworth 38
6. CCSD181
7. Lincolnshire 103
8. Western Springs 101
9. SchoolSearch compiles rankings from the overall average percentage of students in grades 3-8 who earned

Scores Place D181 in Top Tier of State, County, Metro Area

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“Meets” or “Exceeds” levels on the April 2010 ISAT. The District 181 score, 97.59, is based on reading and math tests. The state average is 81.11 percent.

School Search Awards

District 181 again received the Bright Red Apple Award from SchoolSearch in February 2011. Only 73 of 868 school districts in Illinois earned the 2011 award, which is based on five categories. These include: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary.
District 181 also earned the Bright A+ Award in September 2010. Only 57 school districts in the state, those in the top 5 percent, were selected.

Elm School received the SchoolSearch Best of the Best Award because 100 percent of its students in grade 3 met or exceeded state testing standards.

Top Town for Schools

Hinsdale was one of 25 villages and towns selected for a May 2011 Forbes Magazine listing of “Top Education Towns” where “your housing dollar buys the most in the classroom.” The magazine teamed up with GreatSchools to analyze student standardized statewide test scores from 200,000 public schools in 17,589 towns and cities in 49 states, according to the article. Data from the National Assessment for Educational Progress also was used in the comparison. Hinsdale, which garnered an overall rank of 18 and a score of 92.25 of 100, appears in the list of homes with median prices between $600,000 and $799,999. To read “The Best Schools for Your Real Estate Buck,” go to http://www.forbes.com/2011/04/25/best-schools-for-real-estate-buck.html. The online story was published April 26, 2011. The analysis eliminated towns with under 10,000 residents or fewer than five schools as well as large, unified school districts, such as Los Angeles, due to “difficulties of ranking schools by town or city.”

Elm School's fourth-grade students shared their tour of Washington D.C. and musical performance with Congresswoman Judy Biggert. She answered students' questions about Washington and her job and praised their talent and knowledge of their country.

Pupil Personnel Services

Pupil Services supports the following groups: students with disabilities who have Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs); students with 504 Plans; students who receive Response-to-Intervention services; English Language Learners; students with health and medical needs; economically disadvantaged children, students who receive the benefits of Title I funds; and any student with a unique learning need. Pupil Personnel Services Department initiatives during 2010-11 included:

- The separation would result in a significant increase in federal funds for students with disabilities sent directly to District 181.
- Funds would be used for the addition of staff to provide direct support to teachers, having a direct impact on the analysis of student performance data, instruction and interventions.

Inclusionary Practices

Responsible inclusion is the focus of the program. A continuum of services is provided to meet a variety of student needs in the least restrictive environment.

- The continuum of services for students with disabilities includes: inclusion in general education with supports; co-taught classes by a general education teacher who teams with special education teacher; pull-out intensive instruction classes in addition to general education classes whenever feasible; specialized classes; schools and programs outside the district.
- A team of teachers for each school was trained in “high impact” classroom strategies, a scheduling model to maximize staff supports to children and instructional design tools.
- Coaching occurred for model classrooms that staff can observe.
- Response-to-Intervention (RtI) This is a multi-tiered support system for students who are identified for additional interventions through “benchmarking” assessments.
- Additional instruction and intervention is provided to selected students, enabling them to perform better immediately.
- RtI coaches for each school were trained to help lead intervention teams.
- Includes instructional and behavioral interventions. Staff received training in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a positive behavioral support program integrated into instruction in a flexible way.

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

The Early Childhood Program, which includes children with special needs as well as typical peers, moved to Oak School. Morning and afternoon sessions served over 45 students. The program’s main objectives: foster early literacy skills, social skills development, and language communication development in a child-centered environment.

District 181 Foundation

The District 181 Foundation inspires community involvement in education through programs that enrich the educational experience of our elementary and middle school students. Funding for these programs is made possible through the generous contributions of individuals and businesses in our community.

2010-11 Highlights

Believe in Green

Exhibits, speakers, recycling, science showcase, recycled art contest, performances. Over 12 tons of electronics were recycled.

Rotary Run

Chosen as a beneficiary for the run for the first time. Over 1,000 District 181 students and families participated. The Lane and CHMS had the highest participation percentages.

Race to Nowhere

Over 2,000 students and parents watched this thought-provoking documentary. The Foundation funded screening fees.

Understanding Afghanistan

Nationally recognized expert spoke to parents and students about the challenges in Afghanistan.

KIDS Grants

Foster service learning with small grants to KIDS can use to put their community service ideas into action. This year 15 grants were awarded, supporting student initiatives including Link with Pink, Pakistan Flood Relief, and air cleaning plants. Funding provided by Hinsdale Bank and Trust.

Inquiry Grants

A new program to support scientific inquiry methods in the classroom. Ten teachers attended a 5-day training program in June at Brookfield Zoo.

Teacher Grants

Encourage classroom creativity and innovation.

Recent grants include funding for Illinois History from A to Z, Boosting Brain Organization, a three-season green house.

Science Initiative

This year’s grants included funding for Prospect School’s water retention system and software to provide data from the CHMS wind turbine districtwide. Other science initiatives: Elmhurst Prairie Garden and the Weatherbug Station at HMS.

Your donations inspire students & teachers to innovate. www.d181foundation.org
Eight more teachers in Community Consolidated School District 181 have achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, considered to be the highest credential in the teaching profession.

The District 181 staff were among 771 Illinois teachers earning certification in December 2010. There are currently 91,000 board certified teachers in the nation.

The newly-certified District 181 staff and their areas of certification are: Jeffrey DeGraff, Clarendon Hills Middle School, mathematics • Dr. Kara Kennedy, Clarendon Hills Middle School, generalist • Bethany Martino, Madison School, generalist • Beth Kunes, Madison School, literacy: reading-language arts • Eric Lovitsch, Madison School, exceptional needs specialist • Ruth Ann Korwel, Prospect School, music • Michelle Woodring, Walker School, library media.

"Educational research shows that the quality of the teacher has the greatest impact on student learning. Teachers who attain National Board Certification must demonstrate excellence in teaching," said Superintendent Renee Schuster.

"District 181 is proud of our teachers who have reached this highest level of teacher certification and we appreciate all they do for our students." National certification is a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). It is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that requires between one and three years to complete. It measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do. NBPTS is a nongovernmental, nonprofit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental organization.

"The NBPTS process really made me push myself beyond my comfort zone to try new methods and strategies," said Ruth Ann Korwel. "It has helped me become more diverse in the approach, materials, and technology I use in the music room. The best thing is, I'm confident to try new things!" she said.

A study conducted by the National Research Council links National Board Certification with increased student achievement, teacher retention, and professional development.

Since 2000, a total of 26 District 181 teachers have earned National Board Certification. Other national board certified teachers are: Rita Anderson, Elizabeth Bellinger, Jill Berry, Marianne Biedrzycki, Amy Lippard, Mary Jo Guzaldo, Yvonne Horings, Justin Horne, Jessica Houston, Susie Lebensorger, Theresa McGhee, Terry Melbourn, Dr. Debbie Nederhouser, Brenda Sanders, Kathy Schram, Heather Scott, Steve Tabisz and Jennifer Wilton.
Madison

Prospect

The Lane

Walker

Monroe

Oak

Elm

For their final meeting of the year, the 2010-11 PTO/A Presidents gathered at KLM Lodge to introduce their successors and reflect on a successful year of fundraising, classroom support and programs. (Standing, from left) Dr. Renee Schuster, Caroline Godellas, Janice Flood, Julie Liesse, Board of Education Liaison Yvonne Moyer, Lynne Bloomfield, Lee Ann Wright, Dayna Murphy. (Sitting, from left) Michele Goggin, Ann Lorenz.

Melanie Morrissey, Kim Williams, Devon Allen, Jen Secola, Marni Paulman. Not pictured: Tiffany Czukichak, Tami Finley, Julie Halter, Marcie Purcell, Stephanie Stapleton.

Half Page

The Lane School has submitted its application for U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools designation. The announcement of the 2011 schools is expected in September. The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior or that show dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

District 181 News Briefs

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