





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
6010 S. Elm St., Burr Ridge

Our Vision

To be a school district where all children experience success and grow in excellence.

Our Mission

To educate each child in an environment of excellence that provides a foundation for contributing to a complex global society.

www.d181.org • On Twitter @CCSD181 • 630.861.4900



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

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Special Web Content

Visit our website at www.d181.org for bonus content, including photos, videos and more.

Featured on this page is a mural carried over each wall of the Monroe School Media Resource Center (MRC). The mural was painted by D181 art teacher Jean Fitzgerald prior to her being a District employee. The mural is designed to bring the outdoors in, with native area plants and animals depicted throughout the room. Included in the scene is the Illinois state bird (cardinal) and state insect (monarch butterfly).



Leadership • News from the Board of Education & Superintendent



The District 181 Board of Education includes (standing) Michael Nelson, Glenn Yaeger, Gary Clarin, Brendan Heneghan, (seated) Jill Vorobiev, Marty Turek, and Mridu Garg. • Superintendent Dr. Don White and Board member Glenn Yaeger share a smile as Dr. White signs his contract upon his hire in May 2014. • Board President Marty Turek, former Superintendent Dr. Renée Schuster and Prospect School Principal Anne Kryger present students with Ambassador of Excellence Awards. • Board member Mridu Garg (far left) participates in a Learning for All Family Education Series hands-on presentation on the Next Generation Science Standards with fellow parents. • Board member Gary Clarin helps facilitate a discussion at the Board's 2020 Visioning Night.

Connect with Your School Board

BoardDocs: Our electronic Board packet provides public access to Board meeting agendas, presentations, reports and minutes. To access BoardDocs, visit www.d181.org > Board of Education.

Board Meetings and Summaries: Business meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and take place at Elm School. Committee of the Whole meetings also begin at 7:00 p.m. and rotate among all District schools. For a schedule of Board meetings, visit www.d181.org > Board of Education > Meetings. A summary outlining action and key discussion is published after each meeting and posted on the website. Additionally, Board meeting audio is available on our website.

Email: The Board has a group e-mail address (boe@d181.org) and individual email addresses. Their contact information and procedures for Freedom of Information Act requests are listed on our website at www.d181.org > Board of Education.



www.d181.org

Our Board of Education is committed to collaboratively supporting students and staff while representing the community and being responsible fiscal stewards.

The Ambassador of Excellence program provides the Board an opportunity to recognize students who have brought positive attention to the District during the school year through the special honors they have received in local, state and national programs. In 2013-14, 200 AOE Awards were presented to students for success ranging from math and French top competitors to essay contest winners, from track and field conference champions to Special Olympics athletes.

Dear District 181 Community,

Welcome to the 2014 Annual Report for your elementary school district! This publication is one way we strive to help our community connect to the schools of District 181, by sharing news from the previous year and previewing the year ahead. Our hope is that you find the information not only educational, but also engaging and exciting because these pages showcase your neighbors, your schools, and the exceptional educational experience you help to support.

There is so much to highlight from the 2013-14 school year – the launch of a new reading curriculum, the collaborative success of a new teachers' contract, the redeploy of our website, the partnerships that resulted in outstanding opportunities for service learning. We hosted a new family education presentation series, we engaged in long-term visioning with our community, and we implemented the first-year steps of our Learning for All Plan.

One of the most significant events of the year was the water intrusion at Hinsdale Middle School that took place in January 2014. A facilities crisis caused by the extreme cold of this past winter was a challenge that we turned into an opportunity for learning, collaboration, community discussion, and facility improvements that will be a key focus area in 2014-15 and beyond. I invite you to read more on pages 10 and 11.

This will be my first full year in the District; I was hired in May 2014. My attention is first on the children we have the privilege of teaching, and it is clear that this community has the same focus, putting high value in education and eagerly supporting the outstanding staff who make District 181 an exceptional place to learn.

In the many conversations I have had with stakeholders, we have spoken about the future and a desire to discover just how far this District can go and how high we can climb. Whether speaking with members of the Rotary, fire and police officials, parents, long-time residents or newly employed staff members, I hear optimism and enthusiasm as we work to continue building on our success. Together with our Board of Education, we are excited about the opportunities we have to create that vision together, as partners in District 181.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Don White". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Don White, Superintendent
dwhite@d181.org

Learning • News from the Department of Learning



Clarendon Hills Middle School students launch rockets made in science class. • Elm School third graders dress and speak as historical figures they researched as part of the annual Living Wax Museum project. • Hinsdale Middle School students engage in a school-wide service project to prepare meals in partnership with Feeding Children Worldwide and the Hinsdale Rotary. • To honor and celebrate the 2014 Paralympic Games, Walker P.E. teachers designed a multi-day series of activities mirroring the Games' events. Students are pictured experiencing a challenge simulating the wheelchair curling event. • Monroe School art club members complete the finishing touches on a cardboard game they designed, a project inspired by Caine's Arcade*. • To kick off their Season of Science, Madison School hosted the Northern Illinois University STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) program. A Madison student participates in one of the hands-on activity stations. • Oak School students perform original poetry via a live Internet broadcast. • Kindergartners at The Lane School gather observable data on live chicks; the chicken eggs were hatched in The Lane School Media Resource Center (MRC) as part of a special project led by MRC Director Stephanie Stieglitz.

* Caine's Arcade is a short documentary film by Nirvan Mullick released in April 2012 that featured an arcade created by then 9-year-old Caine Monroy out of cardboard boxes and everyday objects. Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caine's_Arcade.

We believe that a successful school system nurtures the potential in each student and strengthens the classroom experience to ensure that every child learns and grows every day.

Oak School was one of 16 schools from Illinois nominated to apply for the esteemed U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Award. Oak has been nominated as an Exemplary High Performing School for students' outstanding performance on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. Selections will be announced in September. If selected, Oak would be the fifth of nine schools in District 181 to earn the Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

Today's Classroom, Tomorrow's Leaders

Walking through the halls of our District 181 schools, an adult who has been out of school many years will see familiar sights. A quiet classroom as each student silently reads a book. A lesson in painting and how to play the recorder. A teacher leading the class in multiplication and division. There may be new sights, too. A student at a digital whiteboard demonstrating the rationale supporting her answer to an algebraic equation. Teachers collaborating during their plan period to review student assessment data. Students working in small groups on projects differentiated to specifically meet their instructional level and interests for that lesson. A pair of boys sharing their original poetry with the world through an Internet broadcast.

Today's classroom is rooted in the same fundamentals that took us all through our early years, but our students are also prepared for a 21st century their parents and grandparents could never have imagined. We know more today than we knew yesterday. We have better insight into how students learn and what they need to know to be ready for college and careers. That is the focus of the Common Core State Standards – to build upon the most advanced current thinking around the globe and move even the best state standards to the next level.

Some mistakenly believe the Common Core standards define how teachers should teach, when in fact the standards are designed to define what all students are expected to know and be able to do. Their focus is on outcomes. Our role as educators in a state where the standards have been adopted is to translate the standards into an engaging and effective curriculum. Our role is to support teachers in mastering the curriculum and strengthening their teaching practices. Our role is to select the resources (i.e. digital content, textbooks) aligned with that curriculum. Our role is also to create an assessment plan that combines quantitative and qualitative data to report and record our progress and student growth, refine our curriculum, instruction, and services, and assist teachers in effectively tailoring their instruction.

School systems throughout the country have been challenged to manage an unprecedented level of change. In addition to implementing new state standards, we are planning for

the new PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) state assessment that is replacing the 15 year-old ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test). As standards change, it is also important to systematically renew our curriculum and resources. In 2013-14, we implemented new reading resources. In 2014-15, we will be piloting new math materials and beginning the next phases of planning for a science curriculum and resource renewal.

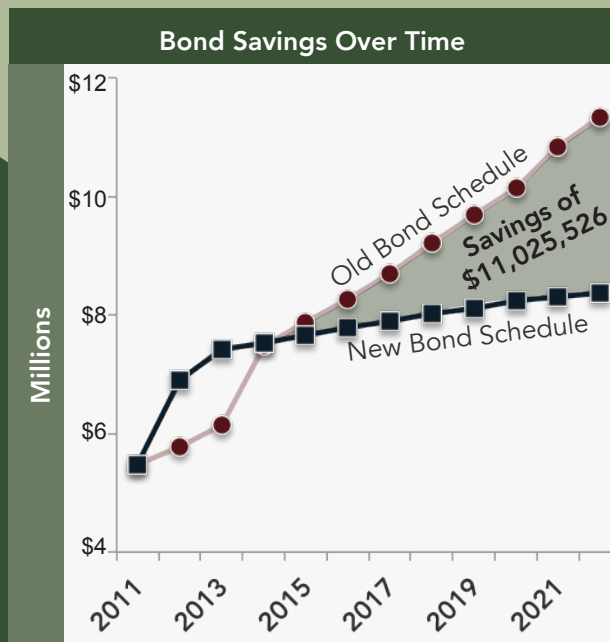
An important component of preparing our students for their future will also be addressing the technology that supports teacher instruction, student learning, and student engagement. We look forward to having a dialogue around developing a technology vision and long-term plan that is student- and teacher-focused.

This level of change requires structural supports to ensure our staff members have the time to collaborate, plan, and participate in professional development. It requires a strong focus on using data to create opportunities for continuous improvement. This work also means that we need to ensure a strong partnership with parents. We must help our families be a part of the conversation and build their understanding. It is only together that we can successfully support the learning of every student in District 181.

This is the Learning for All Plan. Preparing students for a more rigorous curriculum built on improved state standards. Differentiating instruction and flexibly grouping students. Making data-driven decisions and providing opportunities for staff collaboration. Creating and refining the structural supports needed to make this vision a reality. Using the Response to Intervention/Instruction (RtI) process to review individual student data in partnership with parents. Helping our most advanced learners continue to excel at higher levels, while closing any gaps in achievement for those students performing below grade level.

With the deepest care for our students and with the partnership of our parents and community who support the nine exceptional schools of District 181, we embrace our mission - to educate each child in an environment of excellence.

Support • News from the Departments of Business & Operations



From 2010 through 2014, the District issued bonds to refund a portion of the 2004, 2005 and 2007 bonds. By initially making a larger contribution on our bond issues (shown as 'New Bond Schedule' above) and in combination with lower interest rates*, we were able to maintain a relatively flat payment schedule. The old bond schedule (shown above) would have increased payments from approximately \$5,000,000 to \$11,000,000. The new schedule increases from approximately \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 and levels off thereafter. Over time, the savings for taxpayers will be \$11,025,526. In today's dollars, the amount is equivalent to \$9,082,973 (as of May 1, 2014).

The debt obligations will be fully retired by the end of June 30, 2024. The tax levy to pay for the annual debt payment will be complete by 2022.

Separately the District will have a remaining bond issue that was generated from debt certificates. As of June 30, 2014, the outstanding debt is \$5,325,000. The payment comes out of the District's operating funds.

*In addition to these actions taken to create taxpayer savings, the District has a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's, which allows the District to obtain the most favorable interest rates. Further, the timing of our refunding was an ideal opportunity to capitalize on the bond market.

Budget Basics

- We anticipate presenting a balanced budget for 2014-15, with approximately \$60.9 million in revenues and \$60.9 million in expenditures. The budget will be presented for Board approval following a public hearing to welcome any community comments.
- We formerly worked from only a single-year budget. We have since moved to a three-year budget to align the District's projected financials with long-term planning. We are currently working within a five-year budget for an even stronger budget development cycle.
- 91% of District revenues in 2013 were generated by property taxes.
- 85% of District expenditures in 2013 support the salaries and benefits of our exceptional team of staff members.
- In December 2013, the Board of Education approved a tax levy that followed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 1.7%, electing not to "levy to the max" and instead asked District staff to consider additional cost containment measures to ensure a balanced budget.
- The District has earned a 3.7 out of 4.0 Financial Score from the Illinois State Board of Education.
- For the 9th consecutive year, the District has earned an Award of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This certificate is a prestigious national award recognizing standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports. The five most recent CAFR documents are available for download on our website.
- The District's annual financial audit showed no material findings in 2013 and all results were presented fairly. The five most recent audit reports are also available for download on our website.
- The District has continued to maintain a bond rating of AAA, the highest rating given by Standards & Poor's. It is anticipated that we will have paid down all long-term debt by June 2024.

We understand and value the support needed from our community to sustain a high quality school district and strive to maximize the impact of our resources.

In 2014-15, we will submit a comprehensive document that meets the highest standards in school business to be considered for the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials. The work to develop this publication is a collaborative effort that includes input and perspective from the Board of Education, administration, Business Office, and members of the District's Finance Committee.

District Improvements

- Parking lot light bulbs throughout the District were replaced with LED lighting as an environmentally friendly practice that will also improve the lighting efficiency and reduce long-term costs. State grants were used to offset a portion of the project financing.
- We are updating the furniture in our schools' Media Resource Centers (MRCs) (libraries) during each of the next three years. We will be replacing the tables and chairs with lightweight, stackable, flexible pieces better suited for student and staff collaboration. A team of MRC Directors collectively determined which schools were most in need of furniture updates. For 2014-15, the MRC furniture is being replaced at Elm School, Monroe School, and Hinsdale Middle School. The D181 MRC is a place of inquiry, discovery and excitement. Students explore literature, discover and practice new skills, and learn to express themselves in safe and welcoming environments. The MRC is the information center of each school, providing books, technology, and other resources. MRC Directors teach all students, introduce and facilitate the use of technology, select and administer resources, and collaborate to implement the D181 information literacy standards. The MRC program is fully integrated into the school's curriculum with individual, grade level, and school-wide learning activities.

Creative Cost Savings

- One key way to reduce costs in a school district is to partner with neighboring districts in major projects with mutual interest. In 2013-14, we worked with Hinsdale Township High School District 86 and Maercker School District for new software for our Business Office and Human Resources Department. Together, we engaged in research, bidding, purchasing, and training to save time and resources for all three districts. The new software is expected to greatly improve the efficiency over the 15 year-old system it is replacing.
- A major infrastructure improvement we completed during 2013-14 was a change in our telephone system. We replaced dated equipment, created a consistent phone number structure, implemented four-digit dialing for faster service, and enabled call-forwarding across the District, all while reducing the overall cost of our phone operations.
- This year, we updated Intergovernmental Agreements with the Clarendon Hills Park District for our shared spaces, including a modification that addresses reimbursement for utilities throughout the year, with additional support during the summer's air conditioning season.
- District 181 schools are exceptionally fortunate for the support of individuals and organizations that work to enhance students' educational experience. This year, a parent-led effort at Clarendon Hills Middle School resulted in the installation of a wood floor in the school's gymnasium. The \$126,495 project was privately funded by contributions from parents, residents, and businesses.

Safety Enhancements

We will be piloting two security improvements during the 2014-15 school year.

- In May 2014, we successfully applied for the Illinois School and Campus Safety Grant Program from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The grant funds, totaling \$96,000, will be used for the implementation of an electronic building access system for staff. This improvement will create stronger security controls by eliminating standard key-based entrances and limiting building access. Further, the system works in conjunction with those used in our neighboring districts, allowing for mirrored procedures for our fire and police officials.
- We are reviewing our visitor procedures and piloting the installation of a visitor ID scanning device. This device helps to ensure that visitors who come into our schools are safe for entrance and that confirmed adults are picking up students who leave school before dismissal (i.e. for a doctor's appointment). The device prints a visitor badge that includes the guest's photo, which will help our staff easily identify visitors in the building and ensure they have checked in at the main office.
- We have allocated specific funds to support safety improvements over each of the next three years. We are grateful to the fire and police officials in our District, and in particular the members of our Safety & Crisis Committee. Their exceptional dedication to our schools and community continues to foster a safe learning environment for District 181 students.

Facilities • News from the Departments of Business & Operations



In January 2014, a series of water intrusion events caused by extreme cold weather resulted in significant damage to the Hinsdale Middle School facility, which houses more than 800 students in Grades 6-8. District Buildings and Grounds staff and outside service professionals worked to address the immediate building needs; the school was closed for several days in mid-January to allow for deep cleaning and environmental testing. To reduce the amount of time HMS students were out of school, the Board of Education approved a split schedule with Clarendon Hills Middle School that began on January 23. The split schedule had CHMS students attending in the morning and HMS students attending in the afternoon. HMS was warmly welcomed at CHMS. Staff at both middle schools (pictured above) demonstrated exceptional collaboration, sharing classrooms, materials, and resources. School leaders re-created student schedules, developed new transportation plans, and determined new room assignments, among many other critical tasks. Families, Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) volunteers and colleagues throughout the District provided support and assistance. School resumed at HMS and schedules returned to normal on February 4. Daily updates were sent to the entire District community throughout the facility crisis and were also posted online. The day-to-day timeline of events can still be found on our website: www.d181.org > Schools > HMS > Facility Updates.

Our Buildings and Grounds Department oversees nine neighborhood schools located on approximately 70 acres. Their focus is safety, efficiency, and helping to create a positive learning environment.

D181 covers approximately 559,261 sq. ft. and 70 acres. Our nine buildings include roughly 480 classrooms and offices. There are 45 B&G staff members, not including seasonal workers. They help to manage facility rentals for more than 40 community groups each year. Built in 1924, Madison School is our oldest facility still used by the District. Built in 2000, Clarendon Hills Middle School is our newest facility.

Finding Opportunity in a Facilities Crisis

On January 4, 2014, two days before school resumed following winter break, Hinsdale Middle School (HMS) experienced what would be the first in a series of water intrusion events caused by the extreme cold weather. Burst pipes, frozen gutters, and other factors resulted in flooding and water damage that affected all three floors of the school. Restoration professionals worked with the District's Buildings and Grounds staff to address the immediate building issues. HMS was closed to students and staff to allow for deep cleaning throughout the building. We also worked with an environmental firm in conducting repeated testing following the discovery of mold.

Members of the Facilities Committee*, the District's architecture and roofing contractors, administrators, and school staff worked together with the Board of Education to consider various options to address the building concerns and HMS students being out of school. During emergency meetings held on January 20 and 21, the Board approved measures to strengthen the deep cleaning efforts and also discussed a variety of options to solve the challenge of the school closure. Ideas included a schedule of alternating student attendance days with Clarendon Hills Middle School (CHMS), dividing students among the District's other buildings, and holding classes at a local university.

The Board's decision was a split schedule with CHMS that began on January 23, with CHMS students attending in the morning and HMS students attending in the afternoon. Staff at both middle schools demonstrated exceptional collaboration, sharing classrooms, materials, and resources. School leaders re-created student schedules, developed new transportation plans, and determined new room assignments, among many other critical tasks. Families from HMS and CHMS showed great patience and understanding. Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) volunteers and colleagues throughout the District provided support and assistance and Board members provided expertise on site as HMS. Daily updates were sent to the entire District community and were also posted online. The day-to-day timeline of events can still be found on our website: www.d181.org > Schools > HMS > Facility Updates.

While the split schedule was not an ideal learning environment, the challenge was turned into an opportunity, with an overwhelming show of support from the community. HMS students and staff were warmly welcomed into

CHMS and the spirit of partnership was evident even after Hinsdale Middle School re-opened and schedules resumed to normal on February 4. Work to address the facility continued throughout the 2013-14 school year, with most major projects concluding by the end of spring break.

The next significant challenge for the Board came in April 2014 as the discussion centered on the school's 36 year-old metal roof. The Facilities Committee worked diligently to review roof assessment materials and help present various options to the Board, ranging from a full roof replacement to minor repairs. The Committee highlighted that while the work of restoration professionals and District staff had made significant improvements to the building's cleanliness, a variety of other concerns exist in the building, such as a lack of space, building layout and design that is not conducive to student learning, and dated mechanical systems. The Board approved measures to improve the existing roof as a short-term option with the intent of seeking community input into various long-term options that could address the many other building concerns.

Following the work to assist in addressing the immediate needs of HMS, the Facilities Committee returned their attention to the design of a multi-year master facilities plan that would provide a comprehensive and District-wide analysis of all buildings, including program and space needs, enrollment trends, exterior structures, and mechanical systems. Staff members have already provided input into their building needs via an online survey. Those results will be combined with a variety of internal and external evaluations in the master plan. The analysis is currently in development and will be presented to the community in the coming months.

We need to determine the best solution for addressing the long-term facility needs of Hinsdale Middle School as well as our other eight schools. We also need to ensure we are fiscally responsible to taxpayers and have the support of our stakeholders. With a comprehensive and multi-year plan in place, we look forward to providing opportunities for you, our community, to share your input in the work around long-term facility considerations.

*The Facilities Committee includes Board members, staff, parents, and residents. They are tasked with providing strategic guidance and community perspective while assisting in the development of facility materials and resources.

Educators • News from the Department of Human Resources



Madison School students show their plaque after winning this year's Battle of the Books, a friendly competition among the District's seven elementary schools that challenges students' knowledge of select fiction and non-fiction books. • Elm School P.E. teacher Mary Rizzo leads an activity during the American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser and awareness event. • Monroe School art teacher Theresa McGee talks with students; McGee earned the 2014 Art Education Technology Outstanding Teacher Award from the National Art Education Association and was chosen to attend the Apple Distinguished Educator Global Institute. • Walker School Principal Eric Chisausky helps recognize a student who participated in the Spelling Bee event. • Clarendon Hills Middle School Media Resource Center Director Sally Duffy explains the process for participating in the "Million Words" reading challenge. • Orchestra teacher Gretchen Pearson assists a student as she warms up for a concert. • Instructional Assistant Janet Lebeck works with a student in the Early Childhood Education program for three and four year-olds. • P.E. teachers Ruth Jewell and Marianne Biedrzycki are shown with awards they received from the Hinsdale Rotary; they were named Paul Harris Fellows and recognized for their exceptional efforts to promote health and wellness in schools and the Rotary Run event. • In February, 30 D181 staff members visited Fermilab to kick off the renewal of our science curriculum. The intent of the visit was to learn more about the Next Generation Science Standards. The staff participated in hands-on learning activities, toured the facility, and engaged in a round table discussion with engineers and scientists.

Our team of committed and talented education professionals is dedicated to the students we serve and to continuous improvement for the betterment of our schools and our staff.

Staff Statistics:
The average D181 teacher has over 14 years of experience. More than 80% of District 181 staff members have a Master's degree or higher. We have an average teacher:student ratio of less than 17:1 and an average class size of 21 students. Since 2003, District 181 has 28 teachers who have received National Board Certification, the highest mark of teaching excellence.*

Positive Collaboration Results in Successful Teachers' Contract

In 2013-14, perhaps the most critical staff news was the work to develop a new contract with and for our teachers' union, the Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills Teachers' Association (HCHTA). On May 29, 2014, the District 181 Board of Education unanimously approved a new two-year contract that was approved by the teachers with a nearly unanimous vote. The process was extremely collaborative and resulted in a contract that the team agreed is truly a "win-win" for all stakeholders.

"The Board of Education values the highly talented and dedicated teaching staff of District 181," remarks Board Vice President Jill Vorobiev, a member of the negotiating team. "We wanted to ensure that the contract reflected our respect for their professionalism while being responsible to the community. The contract also supports the Board's commitment to providing staff with the necessary structural supports to implement District and legislative initiatives and continue fostering an environment of excellence in education."

HCHTA Co-Presidents Sarah Hoffman and Heather Scott note, "The teachers of District 181 are very pleased with the new contract. The process was a great partnership."

HCHTA and District representatives had an initial negotiations planning meeting in September and began meeting formally in February. Teachers Matt Haeger and Erika Sajpel, Negotiations Chairs for HCHTA, explain that the group's decision to use interest-based negotiations made for a more open and productive dialogue from the start. "All meetings were together in a large group or as sub-committees. The round-table format allowed us to address topics more openly and problem solve as a team."

Assistant Superintendent for Learning Dr. Kurt Schneider agrees. "Through this process, we have worked toward the same goal like we do on all other important District issues. We listened to one another's stories and made a very conscious effort to understand the other perspective."

One of the most significant components of the contract is the formation of a new committee that will begin meeting this fall. The Compensation Review Committee will review the teachers' salary schedule and other forms of compensation. A team of representatives from the Board, administration, and HCHTA will consider how these contract features should be designed in a 21st century education system.

Staff professional development is also an area of major focus of the contract. "We are committed to being up-to-

date with current best practices and working with the Board and administration in putting the structural supports in place to allow for ongoing professional development," explains Hoffman and Scott. "It is important that teachers have opportunities to plan and discuss together how we can best serve students and be most effective in the classroom." Dr. Schneider says he is confident the professional development plan will be a positive step forward. "We now have a modernized, data-driven professional development plan with a goal-oriented focus that is more consistent and clear." The plan also aims at reducing the amount of substitute teacher use by moving more staff development time outside of the school day.

Superintendent Dr. Don White commends both groups for their successful efforts, which concluded shortly before his appointment to the District. "I am excited to be part of a team so committed to building a positive climate and working together to resolve challenges. This has been a model of the kind of work we want to continue cultivating - open, collaborative, and centered around providing the best possible education for students. We hope to mirror a similar process this year when we begin negotiations with the Hinsdale Education Support Staff for their contract."



The Lane School Principal Casey Godfrey participates in a celebration of Indian culture as part of the school's International Days event.

*Source: 2012 and 2013 Illinois State Report Cards.

Engagement • News from the Department of Communications & Our Partner Organizations



Parent and Community Engagement in Action

- Following a new initiative coordinated by the Hinsdale Police Department, members of the Monroe School PTO made a donation to the Village of Hinsdale for the purchase of a speed feedback sign outside the building, which is designed to encourage drivers to slow down as they pass the school.
- Jim 'Basketball' Jones visited several D181 schools in 2013-14 for assemblies focused on respect and responsibility; his high energy presentations also included a variety of interactive basketball tricks.
- To celebrate Read Across America and the life and work of Dr. Seuss, Elm School welcomed guests for a special reading celebration with the kindergartners. Three representatives from the SpringHill Suites Marriott in Burr Ridge served as readers.
- Oak students test a wedge created by a 3-D printer as part of a partnership between the MRC and Hinsdale Library.
- A community member shares information with Madison School first graders about his career as an architect. The visit was part of a "job fair" research and interview activity for the students to create an "All About" book.
- A Hinsdale Hills Middle School student poses for a photo with her family after eighth grade graduation.
- Clarendon Hills Middle School held its first annual Pizza Wars / Eagle Jam Fundraiser in May, welcoming over 600 participants and ten pizza vendors. The night included exciting student performances with pizza taste-testing and fan votes for the favorites; Home Run Inn pizza was the top winner.
- A Walker School parent volunteers at the Spelling Bee, calling out words for the participants.

We are a District not of staff and students alone, but also of parents, residents, business leaders and community representatives who are partners in providing our students with all they need to excel.



- District parent Barb Maduzia leads the "Mexican Culture Through Art" program for 5th grade Spanish classes at Prospect School.

- A parent volunteer plants flowers outside the Prospect School entrance. PTOs help contribute to the beautification of our school grounds.

- A local veteran shows a Clarendon Hills Middle School student the uniform of military personnel during the school's daylong celebration of the 1960s, the culminating project of a unit focusing on that era of American history.

- A Monroe School volunteer helps lead a student through a science project.

- Members of the Hinsdale Rotary and police departments partner with parent volunteers and school staff in annual bike safety checks.

- Elm school students and music teacher Kristin Robinson deliver gifts to Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. The students led a service project to create a music CD to help lift the spirits of the hospital's pediatric patients. The project was funded by a KIDS Grant from the D181 Foundation.

- Presidents of the school PTOs from 2013-14 gather for a photo following their final meeting of the year. The Presidents meet monthly to collaborate and discuss District matters together with the superintendent and a Board of Education representative. Back row from left to right: Kathy Adelman, Julie Kelly, Erin Doppke, Ami Merz, Kelly Gilbert, Kim Anderson, Sandy Bonino, Shelly McMillin, Karin Rohn; Front row from left to right: Charity Muscarella, Karen Choi, Elena Baroni, Denise Kavuliak, former Superintendent Dr. Renée Schuster, Cathy Ponakala, and Board member Mridu Garg; Not pictured: Cathy Dietrich, Kim Shean, Natasha Alden Isenhardt, and Lisa Deering.

Community Consolidated School District 181
Administration Center
6010 South Elm Street, Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630.861.4900 • www.d181.org

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Aug. 25	First Day of School (Full Day)
Sept. 1	Labor Day*
Oct. 13	Columbus Day*
Oct. 24	End of 1st Quarter, Middle School
Oct. 31	End of 1st Trimester, Elementary
Nov. 4	Institute Day / Election Day*
Nov. 7	1st Quarter Report Cards
Nov. 14	1st Trimester Report Cards
Nov. 24-25	Parent-Teacher Conferences*
Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving Break*
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break*
Jan. 5	School Reopens
Jan. 16	End of 2nd Quarter, Middle School
Jan. 19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
Jan. 30	2nd Quarter Report Cards
Feb. 16	Presidents' Day*
Feb. 20	End of 2nd Trimester, Elementary
Feb. 27	Institute Day*
Mar. 6	2nd Trimester Report Cards
Mar. 27	End of 3rd Quarter, Middle School
Mar. 30-Apr. 3	Spring Break*
April 6	School Resumes
April 10	3rd Quarter Report Cards
May 15	Institute Day*
May 25	Memorial Day*
June 1	Grading Day*
June 4	Half Day; AM Kindergarten Attends
June 5	Half Day (last day with no emergency days) PM Kindergarten Attends
	3rd Trimester Report Cards
June 12	4th Quarter Report Cards

*No school for students

Community Consolidated School District 181

- www.d181.org
- 630.861.4900
- Twitter: @CCSD181
- Boundary Map: www.d181.org > Our District
- D181 Foundation: www.d181foundation.org
- To sign-up for our e-newsletter, email: bmcguiggan@d181.org

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