



Lombard Elementary School District 44

# Board Highlights

[www.sd44.org](http://www.sd44.org)

.... from the December 13, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

## **Public Hearing**

The meeting began with a Public Hearing to approve the Illinois School Code Waiver to allow the District to combine 4 - half SIP days into 2- full SIP days. Our purpose is to continue to schedule professional development days at key times during the school year when teachers are in need of training, while being mindful of student attendance days and parent schedules. The Board approved the recommendation that the district re-apply for the Illinois School Code Waiver for alternative use of SIP days.

## **Recognitions**

Board President Simek acknowledged Sgt. Joe Menolascino and the 'Shop with a Cop' program. Sgt. Menolascino was present along with several members of the Lombard Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Ten children were selected and were afforded the opportunity to participate in this day project, which included breakfast, shopping, lunch, wrapping and a visit with Santa. The cost of the program is roughly \$500 per child and sixteen officers were involved.

Board President Simek also recognized Manor Hill School on their tremendous achievement and accomplishment of earning the title of "Top Five Schools in DuPage County". Three students from Student Council spoke on behalf of Manor Hill and presented the Board with a plaque to display.

## **Reports from Superintendent and Leadership Team**

Dr. Robey shared the second draft of the 2017-2018 School calendar. The plan will be to bring it to the January board meeting for board adoption.

The Board approved reimbursement for the doctoral programs for Assistant Superintendent Annetta Spychalski and Assistant Superintendent Aldo Calderin.

## **Finance and Facilities**

The Board approved the 2016 Tax Levy.

Assistant Superintendent Ted Stec shared that we had a lot of positives for our financial well-being with our recent audit. Recommendations were made with some things to improve on with internal controls, however would require more personnel. Assistant Superintendent Stec shared that Jim White has left the firm of Baker Tily.

[Continued...](#)

Assistant Superintendent Stec shared that copiers and printers have become a major concern over the years. Customer Service has become sub-standard. We will be switching out our printers replacing them with Konica-Minolta over winter break and adding a couple additional machines to meet our needs. The cost per month will remain the same. Minolta-Konica needs a consensus of the board to move ahead. The board was in complete agreement to move forward. Mr. Stec has made arrangements that we will be getting money for the old copiers.

Mr. Stec shared that we hit a minor snag with the demolition of Fairwood when an additional 6000-gallon tank was found on the site. The tank was drained and removed. All other demolition was pushed back a week in order to deal with testing of the soil. The building demolition is back on track and should be completed by January 1. Alpine is now working on another job. Stec has spoken to the Park District and they understand that we are following protocol.

### Teaching and Learning

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Annetta Spychalski shared that the Science Fair kick off Assemblies have just been completed for the March 4<sup>th</sup> Science Fair. The Science Committee has been studying the new NGSS standard, unpacking the standards and learning about the shifts in instruction. They have been studying the difference between our current science standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Due to the large amount of NGSS performance descriptors and the new way to teach science and STEM, we have decided to use a two-year transition to the new NGSS standards in the elementary buildings as well.

On December 13, the K-5 Science Committee members are visiting schools in Morton Grove and Skokie to view an engineering and STEM curriculum from ETA designed with the schools of engineering at Purdue University and Texas A & M. In the afternoon, the committee will dive into the units of instruction with the company and evaluate its effectiveness with the Equip rubric.

Maria Martin and Assistant Superintendent Spychalski have been researching Dual language programs. They recently attended the La Cosecha Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They learned about Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) and observed it in action. In addition they participated in a few local site visits with Carol Stream 93, Glen Ellyn 41 and Woodstock 200. The committee spent the day with Karen Beeman, consultant for dual language and is working with her on a timeline. In March or April we will present to the board our findings and what we think our program should look like. We are getting the word out to the parents for a seamless roll out.

The board inquired as to how the children are going to be selected. Ms. Spychalski shared that it will be done by lottery; Spanish speakers are automatically enrolled. Preference will be given to home school; rest of the slots are open to the district. Preferences will be given to siblings and teachers with students in the district.

Continued...

## **Special Services**

Director of Special Services, Kari Smith shared that we have been selected for the Award of Excellence in Inclusion and should be presented with this award by the end of February. As a result of this award, we were asked to have our EC program taped to be used in training videos; this occurred on November 29 and December 9th. We continue to meet with the architects in regards to the Highland Hills Property.

Ms. Smith shared that we continue to work with staff and IA's to plan for the January District wide Early Release and Institute Days. The keynote speaker for the January Institute Day will be Jonathan Mooney. Mr. Mooney is a writer and learning activist who will be speaking on supporting students with varying abilities through his personal journey.

CASE is moving forward with exploring an early childhood collaborative. The team will meet over the next two months to discuss and plan for the writing of the Bright and Early DuPage Implementation grant to support the development of the CASE EC Collaborative.

## **Information Services**

Director of Information Services, Alicia Duell shared that the Parent Survey has 780 responses to date and would be closing this Friday. The January Institute Day will include two teacher technology sessions (back to back). There will also be a Wellness block during the day.

## **Human Resources and Public Relations**

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Public Relations, Aldo Calderin shared that the Insurance committee recently met and had representatives from Gallagher Benefits (EBC) to share recommendations on how we could lower the overall costs for the individual and the board. Alternative solutions are requiring some hard and fast thoughts as to what our next steps are. It is our goal to put a plan in place to achieve this.

Our evaluation process is currently under review as it now takes hours and hours to complete the documents. There are solutions out there that are electronically based. We are looking at the potential to do this. Elmhurst, Wooddale and Wheaton have been doing this for many years. A committee of teachers and administrators will be looking at some demos. Our goal is to create as much efficiency as possible.

## **Suspension Report**

We had 9 'out of school' suspensions opposed to 10 at this time last year. SB100 has new guidelines that we need to adhere to.

Asst. Supt. Calderin and Supt. Robey have met with each building principal and discussed staffing for 2017-2018. We don't necessarily see any RIF for the upcoming year. There will be the need of an additional teacher at MD (5<sup>th</sup> grade bi-lingual). Administration will be looking for guidance from the board as to whether or not we should continue a fifth classroom going forward, since we have 5 sections of Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Our original discussion was K-2 classroom size was about 20 with the cap of 22. There is no hard and steadfast rule; space is a key also. The general consensus of the board was to keep it K-2 based on similar numbers. Research shows it to be a necessity with low income, Title I

Continued...

buildings.

Mr. Calderin also shared that the Library Learning Center Position will need to be re-evaluated; what will that look like in the future when the current staff member retires?

All schools participated in some fashion to the Lombard Fire Department Toy Drive.

### **Community Forum**

The Community Forum date has been changed to Tuesday, February 21, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Madison School Gymnasium. School board members, administrators, staff, parents, village and community members and students will be participants. Invites after break.