SD308
COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 27, 2023

Jason Hudson

VIA EMAIL – jasonfrst@yahoo.com

Re: FOIA Request 23-07

Subject: Please provide me board members Johnson and Ploger emails for the last 60 days. All inbox and sent emails for Jennifer Johnson board member and Jared Ploger board member.

Dear Mr. Hudson:

This letter will serve as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your 1/30/2023 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information. Attached is the information you requested. Redactions have been made due to the following exemption(s) under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act as follows:

Section 7(1)(b) - Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law, or a court order.

Section 7(1)(c) - Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.

Section 7(1)(f) - Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.

Section 7.5(r) - Information prohibited from being disclosed by the Illinois School Student Records Act.

The decision to withhold the information was made by me consulting with our District legal counsel. You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62706

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter. Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses>FOIA Requests Responses -2023 – click on the link for 23-07 for information on previous requests.*

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Andrea Wiaduch

Andrea Wiaduch
Finance Coordinator/
Freedom of Information Officer

SUBJECT: Notice about educational communications
FROM: MDR <ask@mdrprequalification.com>
TO: JARED-PLOGER@SD308.ORG
DATE: 12/01/2022 08:12



Dear Jarod Ploger,

I'm writing today on behalf of MDR, a D&B Company. For over 50 years we've been helping educational businesses better understand the opinions and needs of educators in schools and colleges. We're reaching out today to let you know that we'd like to send you emails inviting you to participate with feedback regarding educational products and services in the future.

From time to time, leading education publishers and service providers will seek your opinion on educational issues, products, and services. Your participation gives you an important voice in shaping new curriculum and services for schools and fellow educators as well as contributing to future services. At no time is your participation mandatory.

These established, well-known education businesses—including most of the leading publishers, education technology providers, and education associations—will also share relevant new product information and education news with you.

If you prefer not to receive communications from leading education businesses, please follow the instructions at the bottom of this message.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

MDR | A D&B Company
101 John F. Kennedy Parkway
Short Hills, NJ 07078

This is a commercial message.

If you prefer not to receive additional messages from this sender, please Click here and confirm your request.

SUBJECT: Fwd: December Staff Update
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/01/2022 09:11

Good Morning, BOE,
This is the December Staff Update that was sent to all staff this morning.
Thanks for reading,
Faith

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/01/2022 12:34

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education
Meeting
Date: December 5, 2022 (Monday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DNyA4_TjjsgawE4Bwu4p8dReaP44r8XkRnA1KN3-2FccEFq2crF6-2FwBe0ga01Um-2F-2FjzBw2nVfHbI6l0zWUvzIXjNA8j3VJLjskiRP7Q51BOw35dysSfO7plRBpll6VRse8JbRXUxn4hdrqOgPm3QOTDccE6klv9EqARR1fgbwDfvtATSpF3R1wQxFiRQKnBOHRExDFYV7kytNN1plack1dU6HanIIw-3D-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: Families In Need
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Allstaff <allstaff@sd308.org>
BCC: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/02/2022 11:37

Dear 308 Staff,

Our district community is fortunate to have local programs that are helping our students and families in need. Many of these programs rely heavily on the involvement and donations of the SD 308 community to help them fulfill the needs and wishes of local families.

There are numerous children and families left needing a sponsor this year, please consider getting together with colleagues, friends, or your family to provide gifts and household items for those needing some extra help this holiday season.

How you can help:

Programs listed below are doing their best to bring cheer to the community this holiday season and would really appreciate your support!

- **Community Cares** - Continuing the 38 year tradition of the Oswego Christmas Project known now as the Community Cares Holiday Project. Help bring cheer to local families by signing up to sponsor a family, or consider volunteering your time on December 17th to help with sorting gifts/and or making deliveries.

  Sponsor a Family
  Volunteer

- **Toys for Tots** - Now through December 9th, all 5 SD 308 Junior High schools are collecting toys to be donated to Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps in conjunction with the Oswego Fire Department. You can donate an unwrapped toy for a child ages 1-13 with a cost of $10 or more.

- **3:11 Project** - Did you know that the 3:11 Project was initially created because the founder wanted to help families during the holidays? This organization provides assistance year-round to area families. Help 3:11 Project in their mission to create holiday joy for local children. Use the link to sponsor a child, the deadline to drop off gifts is December 2nd.

  3:11 Project

Have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Evidence based funding spending plan
FROM: sheryl flynn [redacted]
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/02/2022 11:49

Hello Jared

I am wondering if you can assist me in finding what 308 spent on evidence based programming with the funds allocated to them by the state. I am specifically looking for special education funding. Any guidance will be appreciated.

Sheryl flynn

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: Evidence based funding spending plan
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: sheryl flynn [redacted]
DATE: 12/02/2022 12:38

Sheryl,

Thank you for your email. Just so I understand your question, properly. Are you asking for a breakdown of how we spent the extra funds from the Evidence Based Formula? In addition, are you looking for what increases were made in special education funding?

Thank you in advance.

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 11:49 AM sheryl flynn [redacted] wrote:

> Hello Jared
>
> I am wondering if you can assist me in finding what 308 spent on evidence based programming with the funds allocated to them by the state. I am specifically looking for special education funding. Any guidance will be appreciated.
>
> Sheryl flynn
>
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Questions for Monday's Board Meeting
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 12:57

In addition to what we discussed,

Item 7.1

If we don't levy, can we do the following:

Balance our budget?

Build a 20% fund reserve by 2026?

Build a general maintenance fund?

Item 7.2

What is our course load for Dual Credit compared to neighboring Districts that are outside of Waubonsee Community College?

Item 10.3

How much do we pay for our SRO compared to Yorkville, West Aurora, IPSD 204, Valley View, and Plainfield?

Is Plainfield still offering a part time SRO for free to Murphy?

11.5

So…do you have some general specifics on what we will have to do or won't be able to do if we do not pass this levy?

Thanks!

Jared

SUBJECT: RE: Questions for Monday's Board Meeting
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 13:44

Thanks Jared. I will research the answers and we will be able to respond. Have a good weekend!

Take care,
John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 12:58 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Questions for Monday's Board Meeting

In addition to what we discussed,

Item 7.1

If we don't levy, can we do the following:

Balance our budget?

Build a 20% fund reserve by 2026?

Build a general maintenance fund?

Item 7.2

What is our course load for Dual Credit compared to neighboring Districts that are outside of Waubonsee Community College?

Item 10.3

How much do we pay for our SRO compared to Yorkville, West Aurora, IPSD 204, Valley View, and Plainfield?

Is Plainfield still offering a part time SRO for free to Murphy?

11.5

So…do you have some general specifics on what we will have to do or won't be able to do if we do not pass this levy?

Thanks!

Jared

SUBJECT: Re: Evidence based funding spending plan
FROM: sheryl flynn [redacted]
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 15:04

Yes sir. Please and thank you. Also in a meeting(i think board meeting maybe SEL meeting) you mentioned that a HOH student receives more funding if the student is outplaced versus if the school maintains the student within the district and mentioned discussing further with legislators. I dont know the exact language that was mentioned. Does this hold true for autism students as well? And if so is there any State documents explaining this? If you dont know do tou know at the State level who I can speak with?

Sheryl

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 2, 2022, at 12:38 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Sheryl,
>
> Thank you for your email. Just so I understand your question, properly. Are you asking for a breakdown of how we spent the extra funds from the Evidence Based Formula? In addition, are you looking for what increases were made in special education funding?
>
> Thank you in advance.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 11:49 AM sheryl flynn [redacted] wrote:
>> Hello Jared
>>
>> I am wondering if you can assist me in finding what 308 spent on evidence based programming with the funds allocated to them by the state. I am specifically looking for special education funding. Any guidance will be appreciated.
>>
>> Sheryl flynn
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 15:05

Online Update: News from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Online Update

December 2, 2022

2022 Joint Annual Conference Coverage

Take a look back at the 2022 Joint Annual Conference that took place November 18-20 in Chicago. The Conference Overview includes highlights of events, Conference features, and summaries of the First, Second, and Third General Sessions. A number of awards presented to school leaders are also featured. A Conference Photo Gallery and highlight video of the three-day event are also available.

Panel Presentations Requested for 2023 Conference

School districts and related education organizations are invited to submit proposals for "Share the Success" panel presentations at the 2023 Joint Annual Conference. The 60-minute presentations should be based on actual school system experiences with insight and practical information on how to solve common problems and innovative programs succeeding in their districts. Those submitting panel proposals are advised to preview the Request for Proposals prior to completing the online submission form. Proposals must be submitted by March 6, 2023.

IASB Delegate Assembly Results

The 2022 IASB Delegate Assembly took place took place on November 19 in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference. Representatives from 409 IASB member school boards reviewed three new resolutions and amendments to five existing positions in the Association's Constitution. The Assembly approved a resolution on school district ratios of available funds to average annual expenditures. Amendments to existing positions were approved under topics of capital funding for school construction, school safety grant funding, periodic review of state and federal mandates, and financial contributions in school board elections. Delegates also approved Constitutional changes that will require future resolutions to pass with a 2/3 majority vote, and to allow the Resolutions Committee at its discretion to change the timeline for appeals.



IASB Board Meets Twice, Committees Assigned

Filing Period for School Board Candidates Opens December 12

November '22 Referendum Results

Joint Annual Conference Survey and Handouts Available

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62703-5929, (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148, (630) 629-3776

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.2.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/02/2022 15:48

December 2, 2022

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 12-18: Hanukkah
December 18: International Migrants Day
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

Today, December 2nd, is Special Education Day.
We would like to express our appreciation to the Special Education staff who work to address the unique needs of our students with disabilities and help ensure optimal educational outcomes for them.

Date	Day	Event
December 2 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall Co. Community Food Pantry Satellite Location Open at Old Traughber (Open to all!)
December 3 (12-4pm)	Saturday	Oswego Vocal Music Department Boosters Holiday Gift Wrap
December 5 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ Oswego East High School (Community Room) and streaming live online at www.sd308.org.
December 9	Friday	Crosstown Basketball @ OE Girls' Basketball Varsity Game @ 5:00 Boys' Basketball Varsity Game @ 6:30
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Weathering the Storm Click Here to Register
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	EL Parent Program Presented in Spanish: The Power of No: A small word that will give wellbeing to your mental health. El Poder del 'NO'. Una Pequeña Palabra que Te Dará Bienestar y Salud Mental
December 15 (5:00pm)	Thursday	Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry @ Lakewood Creek Elementary

December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break District Closed: 12/23, 12/26, 12/30, 01/02)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family-
As we near the holiday season, many of us look for extra ways to spread kindness and joy to others. Our district community is fortunate to have local programs that help our students and families in need, both now and throughout the year. Two of these organizations, the 3:11 Project and Community Cares, are asking for our help as they assist area families, many of whom are SD 308 families, with gifts for the holidays.
There are numerous children and families left needing a sponsor this year, please consider getting together with colleagues, friends, or your family to provide gifts and household items for those needing some extra help this holiday season. Community Cares is also looking for volunteers to assist with sorting and delivering gifts.

- **Community Cares** - Continuing the 38 year tradition of the Oswego Christmas Project known now as the Community Cares Holiday Project. Help bring cheer to local families by signing up to sponsor a family, or consider volunteering your time on December 17th to help with sorting gifts/and or making deliveries.
- **3:11 Project** - Did you know that the 3:11 Project was initially created because the founder wanted to help families during the holidays? This organization provides assistance year-round to area families. Help 3:11 Project in their mission to create holiday joy for local children. Use this link to sponsor a child, the deadline to drop off gifts is December 4th.

I am always so proud of this district community each time opportunities like this arise; when we all give a little it adds up to a lot! If you choose to assist with one of these two organizations, or the countless other ways you can give back to our community, I thank you. Now and always, you are valued and appreciated.
Take care.

~ John

Staff Info

Emergency Notification System - A test of our mass communications system for staff (Blackboard) will occur next week. Additional details will be sent out on Monday about the test message scheduled for Thursday evening. The communication system will send an email, phone call, and text message to all staff. If you don't receive the message on Thursday via all communication channels, and you've verified that your information is correct, you'll complete a simple online form so that HR and Communications staff can determine why the message failed to reach you.
The ability to communicate with staff is especially important when weather-related closures or other emergencies arise.
At this time, we ask that you please take a moment to go into the Employee Access system on the Intranet to

confirm that your contact information is correct by following these simple steps:

- Open Intranet
- Select “Employee Access”
- Select “My Information” from the left panel
- Select “Profile”
- Update your email and cell phone information if needed

Please watch your email on Monday for more details.

Crosstown Basketball Games: This year’s girls’ and boys’ basketball Crosstown games between Oswego and Oswego East High Schools will be on Friday, December 9th at Oswego East High School. The girls’ basketball varsity game will start at 5:00 with the boys’ basketball varsity game scheduled to tip off at approximately 6:30. The crosstown game has become very popular, selling out many years. Students, staff, alumni, parents, families, and the community are eager to show their school spirit and cheer on their favorite team. All tickets $5.00/person. NO Passes allowed. Tickets sold on GoFan: OEHS / OHS

Foreign Languages Available on Website: Did you know you can now translate the website into 33 languages? Simply click on the “Translate” button at the top right of the page and then choose the language you prefer.

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter “[redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

From the Schools

Oswego Vocal Music Department Boosters Holiday Gift Wrap - Saturday, December 3rd (12-4 pm) in the OHS Atrium- door 1. Enjoy LIVE holiday music by the OHS choir students as your gifts are wrapped for you! Hot cocoa and treats available for purchase. Goodwill donations to the OHS Choirs appreciated. Click here for details.

Thrift Day is being held at Oswego East High School on December 10th. This is an event that will serve SD 308 families through generous clothing donations provided by other members of the community. Click here for more details. ALL are welcome to participate….whether you are in need of new clothes or if you just want a wardrobe update! We encourage donations of gently used clothing of all sizes and styles: Baby/Toddler, Youth, Teen, and Adult. The clothes will be free, but cash donations will be accepted at the event!

A German Christmas – Celebrate an evening with Sankt Nikolaus, Krampus, Knecht Ruprecht, and Perchta with A German Christmas at Oswego East High School on Friday, December 9 @ 5:30-7:30. ($5/per person). Click here for more details.

Expanding Student Voice

Interviews were conducted by members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee this week to add seven

additional students to the group. Superintendent Dr. John Sparlin and Director of DEI Dr. Jadon Waller joined the students in reviewing applications and conducting in-person interviews with students. The goal of the committee is to grow membership in order to provide a vast representation of their student bodies at each high school, creating a conduit between students and district leaders. The committee meets on topics identified as most important by students through surveys. The group provides the student perspective, brings forth questions, concerns and feedback to the district's senior leadership team. From this committee, two Board of Education Student Ambassadors provide updates to the Board, and serve as the student perspective in discussion at Board meetings. The formation of this committee and the Student Ambassadors was started last year as part of the strategic initiative to include student voice in decisions that impact their educational journey.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

Congratulations to the November/December PRIDE winners! PRIDE stands for Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence and was established in 2015 to celebrate the many contributions made by teachers and employees around the district. **TEACHERS:** Stephanie Allen (Oswego East High School), Beth Prigodich (Oswego High School), Katelyn Willmann (Grande Park), Julie Wulff (Wolf's Crossing); **EMPLOYEES:** Kelley Budd (Lakewood Creek), Nicole Weaver (Fox Chase). These individuals will receive recognition at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 5. Thank you to Allied First Bank, Chick-fil-A, Huntington Learning Center, and Culver's for sponsoring this program.

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Livongo Health Benefit! If you have Diabetes or High Blood Pressure, Livongo empowers you with tools, insights, and expert support you need. Click Here for flyer. Livongo uses advanced technology, personalized recommendations, and real-time communication to provide you with the right information to help you reach your health goals. CLICK HERE to register and use the company specific registration code: CUSD308.

New FREE Healthcare Benefit for Staff Started 12/1 with First Stop Health (FSH)
Our district is proud to bring a free, convenient program providing employees and their families with easily-accessible medical care without any out-of-pocket costs!
All employees subscribed to district health plans for 2023 are automatically enrolled and eligible to take advantage of the program now! With a few simple clicks, a call, or use of the app on your phone, you can secure an appointment with a physician via phone or video for acute care situations and primary care. Services include evaluation of minor illnesses and injuries, medication refills, and primary care needs. Additionally, the service provides access to licensed counselors for phone/video mental health support sessions.

All immediate family members of eligible staff are also able to access this benefit, even when they're not enrolled as

dependents on your insurance plan!
With ERs and Urgent Care centers busy,overcrowded, with long waits, this FREE access to care is a huge benefit! No co-pays, deductibles or other required payments are collected! Only pharmacy co-pays will apply if/when medications are received.

Save time, travel, and the headaches of accessing care on weekends, holidays, and after hours with this service free to use 24/7! You can download the app, create your account online or simply call 888-691-7867 to request an appointment.

Common conditions treated via telemedicine:
• infections (e.g., urinary, ear, upper respiratory, eye, etc.)
• sinus- or allergy-related problems
• sore throat & cough
• colds & flu
• swelling and/or soreness
• nausea and/or vomiting
• rashes
• other minor illness & injuries

Reasons to speak with a counselor:
• stress
• anxiety
• depression
• grief
• marital/relationship issues
• drug/alcohol dependencies
Counseling visits include a licensed counselor conducting an initial assessment then a match with a Master's-level counselor who has expertise in the member's area of concern. Typical counseling sessions are 45-60 minutes.

To learn more, you can click HERE to watch a short video about telemedicine, and HERE to learn more about virtual counseling

CLICK HERE for Patient Dashboard (use SSN to login!)

For additional information please visit the district's website at https://www.sd308.org/Page/27054.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, Dec. 5, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Expenses for Triple I
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 16:38

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Please remember to bring me your reimbursements on Monday so I may reconcile the travel expenses for the conference.

Dominick - could you please send me the final resolutions from the delegate assembly so they can be posted on our website?

Thank you very much!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 12/02/2022 16:40
ATTACHMENTS (20221202-164058-0000251): "Superintendent's Update - December 2, 2022.docx" , "BOE Friday Update - CyberSecurity.pdf"

Good Afternoon,

Here is this week's update. Have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: School District 308 - Your Pension & Retirement Plan
FROM: "'Jessica Shaw' via BOE" <boe@sd308.org>
TO: Roy Boe <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/03/2022 19:30

Hi Roy,

You are cordially invited to attend a specialized consult designed to help you understand:

- Your Pension Plan
- 403b/457b Benefits
- Tax Savings - Through Your Employer-Sponsored Plan
- Your Retirement Plan

Learn more by **scheduling a complimentary appointment today** with a licensed representative appointed with carriers working in school districts across the country.

Space is limited with the representatives working in your area for this complimentary event, we recommend scheduling your appointment today.

SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY APPOINTMENT WITH A LICENSED AGENT HERE

Jessica Shaw
My State Pension
mystatepension.com

My State Pension is not affiliated with, or contracted to provide services for, any government agency. We will connect you with one of our Licensed Agents and Registered Investment Advisors from our network of trained specialists in retirement planning for Education, State, and Municipal government employees.

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: School District 308 - Your Pension & Retirement Plan
FROM: Jessica Shaw <jessica@mystatepensionplan.com>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/03/2022 19:34

Hi Jared,

You are cordially invited to attend a specialized consult designed to help you understand:

- Your Pension Plan
- 403b/457b Benefits
- Tax Savings - Through Your Employer-Sponsored Plan
- Your Retirement Plan

Learn more by **scheduling a complimentary appointment today** with a licensed representative appointed with carriers working in school districts across the country.

Space is limited with the representatives working in your area for this complimentary event, we recommend scheduling your appointment today.

SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY APPOINTMENT WITH A LICENSED AGENT HERE

Jessica Shaw
My State Pension
mystatepension.com

My State Pension is not affiliated with, or contracted to provide services for, any government agency. We will connect you with one of our Licensed Agents and Registered Investment Advisors from our network of trained specialists in retirement planning for Education, State, and Municipal government employees.

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Concerns
FROM: Sarah Noll <snoll@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/04/2022 13:05

Hello Dr. Sparlin, Ms. Dalquist, and Mr. Ploger,

I hope you are all doing well. I would like to take a short minute to introduce myself. I have been a school social worker since 1999 when I began my internship at "Old" Traughber and Boulder Hill Elementary School. Dr. Karl Plank was the superintendent at the time, and I will never forget meeting him for the first time. Without any formal introduction, Dr. Plank greeted me by using my first name. I was in awe someone of such a high level of leadership would know the name of a brand-new intern. Obviously, 308 was much smaller at that time, but I was technically an employee of Kendall County Special Education Cooperative, which made his gesture even more impressive.

Since 1999, I have continued to work for either KCSEC or School District 308. I have had the honor of working with some amazing staff and leaders. In addition, I have also worked through some "world-class" challenges including the dissolution of KCSEC. Although it was difficult at the time, I am thankful for the opportunities it granted me to continue as a 308 school social worker. My husband and I moved to Oswego [redacted] I have truly been fortunate as a 308 employee and parent.

I am reaching out to all of you today because I have exhausted all of my resources at the building level, upper administration, and our teacher union. As I stated before, I have been with the district for many years. I have worked with a variety of personalities, and as a social worker, I like to pride myself in being able to work calmly through intense situations. However, the new addition of our current Program Administrator at Murphy Junior High School has created a hostile work environment that continues to impact many employees' abilities to effectively meet our student's needs.

We have been voicing our concerns regarding the actions of [redacted] since September, shortly after she began working in our building as a new employee of the district. I have **more than 40 pages of documentation** supporting our dissatisfaction. As of this past Friday, December 1, we had the Plainfield Police Department in our building as a result of threats she made in reference to [redacted] In return, [redacted] due to the hostile work environment should her presence continue in our building. There are several of us who have stated we do not feel comfortable or safe meeting in her presence, yet nothing has changed.

The following is a list of administrators who have been made aware of our struggles:

Laura Bingham, Murphy Principal
Shanell Lawson, Murphy Assistant Principal
Bill Gentzler, Murphy Assistant Principal
Collette Compasano, Building Union Representative
Sean Daleiden, Union Representative
Denise Hildebrand, Executive Director of Special Education
Dan Stockhausen, Associate Director of Special Education
Shannon Leuders, Director of Junior High School Education
Andrew Gothelf, Union Representative
Ken Miller, Executive Director of Human Resources
Claudia Ruiz, Assistant Director of Human Resources
Toni Galan, Director of Special Education
Sarah Berning, Lead Social Worker

I am very concerned about the toll the presence of [redacted] continues to take on the mental health of our staff. I am more than happy to speak to anyone to provide more details regarding our concerns. I ask

that you please not refer me to my principal, as others have when I reached out for support. She is well aware and is supporting us to the best of her ability.

Thank you,
Sarah

Sarah Noll, M.S.W.
School Social Worker
Murphy Junior High School
Last Names A-K
& Instructional Skills Program

snoll@sd308.org
630-608-5119

"Behavior goes where reinforcement flows"

Safety Concern for Yourself:
Linden Oaks Behavioral Health: 630-305-5027
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

Safety Concern for Someone Else:
911 - for a wellness check

SUBJECT: Fwd: Concerns
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/04/2022 17:48

Dr. Sparlin,

This is obviously outside of the Board's governance role. That said,also obviously if the police really are showing up to one of our Junior Highs due to employee on employee issues, that would cause us great concern.

When you have time, a follow up and whatever sides you feel I need to be aware of would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Homebound Students
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/04/2022 17:50

Dr. Sparlin,

This is not an emergency. I am merely writing this now so I don't forget to write. Please get back to me at your convenience.

Does 308 have a policy for Homebound Students?

Do we know if it compares to other comparable Districts near us and how they handle Homebound Students?

What kind of a population are we talking about with our Homebound students?

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Re: Expenses for Triple I
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/04/2022 18:06

Ursula,

I will not be seeking any reimbursements from the District. The District already covered the room and the Conference cost, correct? If so, do you need anything more from me for that?

Thank you!

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 4:38 PM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Afternoon Board Members,
>
> Please remember to bring me your reimbursements on Monday so I may reconcile the travel expenses for the conference.
>
> Dominick - could you please send me the final resolutions from the delegate assembly so they can be posted on our website?
>
> Thank you very much!
> Ursula
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change*

SUBJECT: Re: Evidence based funding spending plan
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: sheryl flynn [redacted]
DATE: 12/04/2022 18:21

Sheryl,

I hope this email finds you well.

For the breakdown on spending, I would suggest reaching out to Dr. Petzke. I can certainly forward this email to him if you are comfortable with that. That said, since the amount we are receiving from EBF is greater than the amount we have that is keeping us in the black, I would imagine his answer is probably to state that money is allocated into the general fund. What that means, in short, is that our budget is completely reliant on Evidence Based Formula funds. Since our District has been putting ZERO dollars into the maintenance fund, what we are doing is putting money into our rainy day fund instead of in our maintenance fund. If we put the money we are receiving into that maintenance fund and the money that fund needs, we would actually need to cut even more money and we would be in the red. We balance the budget at the expense of our maintenance fund. That said, Dr. Petzke runs our District's finances, not me.

For the DOH students, the state reimburses Districts when they outsource students to private facilities. They do NOT reimburse when they are outsourced to public schools that offer DOH services. Our Executive Director of SPED, Denise HIldebrand would have that information. Would you like me to forward to her that portion so she can let you know where it can be found in state statute?

As far as who to contact at the State level, state statutes would need to be brought to the attention of our State Reps and State Senators. One of the advantages 308 has is that we are covered by three different State Senators and three different State Reps. I have not reached out to the new members yet on the topic. It would appear also that this current session is not going to have a lot of action down there.

In regards to autism, I would also probably defer to Dr. Hildebrand as well. let me know if you are comfortable with me forwarding this to her.

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 3:04 PM sheryl flynn [redacted] wrote:

> Yes sir. Please and thank you. Also in a meeting(i think board meeting maybe SEL meeting) you mentioned that a HOH student receives more funding if the student is outplaced versus if the school maintains the student within the district and mentioned discussing further with legislators. I dont know the exact language that was mentioned. Does this hold true for autism students as well? And if so is there any State documents explaining this? If you dont know do tou know at the State level who I can speak with?
>
> Sheryl
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Dec 2, 2022, at 12:38 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

Sheryl,

Thank you for your email. Just so I understand your question, properly. Are you asking for a breakdown of how we spent the extra funds from the Evidence Based Formula? In addition, are you looking for what increases were made in special education funding?

Thank you in advance.

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 11:49 AM sheryl flynn [redacted] wrote:

> Hello Jared
>
> I am wondering if you can assist me in finding what 308 spent on evidence based programming with the funds allocated to them by the state. I am specifically looking for special education funding. Any guidance will be appreciated.
>
> Sheryl flynn
>
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: Expenses for Triple I
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/04/2022 18:44

Jared, yes, the conference cost and hotel have been paid already.
Most don't turn in anything else, but I wanted you to know that you would be entitled!

See you tomorrow!

On Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 6:06 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Ursula,
>
> I will not be seeking any reimbursements from the District. The District already covered the room and the Conference cost, correct? If so, do you need anything more from me for that?
>
> Thank you!
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 4:38 PM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Good Afternoon Board Members,
> >
> > Please remember to bring me your reimbursements on Monday so I may reconcile the travel expenses for the conference.
> >
> > Dominick - could you please send me the final resolutions from the delegate assembly so they can be posted on our website?
> >
> > Thank you very much!
> > Ursula
> >
> > --
> > Ursula Studer
> > Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> > Board of Education Secretary
> > Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> > 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> > Direct: 630-636-3084
> > Fax: 630-636-3665
> >
> > *Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change*

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

SUBJECT: Re: Concerns
FROM: Sarah Noll <snoll@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 10:36

Good morning,
Thank you so much for your response. It is very much appreciated. I am very happy to hear Ken will be coming over this afternoon and look forward to speaking with him. I just shared the documentation I have been collecting through Google Docs. Again, thank you for responding to my email and listening to our concerns.

Take care,
Sarah

Sarah Noll, M.S.W.
School Social Worker
Murphy Junior High School
Last Names A-K
& Instructional Skills Program

snoll@sd308.org
630-608-5119

"Behavior goes where reinforcement flows"

Safety Concern for Yourself:
Linden Oaks Behavioral Health: 630-305-5027
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

Safety Concern for Someone Else:
911 - for a wellness check

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 9:11 AM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning, Ms. Noll,
>
> Thank you for bringing your concern to us. We, of course, want to make sure that all staff feel safe. I met with Ken Miller this morning and he will be coming to your school today around 1:00 to speak with you.
>
> You mentioned that you had 40 pages of documentation. Would you be able to forward or send that documentation to me? It may be helpful in making future decisions.
>
> Thanks,
> Faith
>
> On Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 1:05 PM Sarah Noll <snoll@sd308.org> wrote:

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] Change to Active Agenda Item.
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 11:21

Dear Executive,

There has been a change to an active agenda item.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education Meeting
Date: December 5, 2022 (Monday)
Category: 10. Information
Item: 10.1 Financial Statements

See the item by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2BosPcu2wAP3VD0sZtqEPxHCsUDdY4cETScGgKWE3wm-2BJL4X9i0ggefUHMaypi4M4C-2BCMk__TjjsgawE4Bwu4p8dReaP44r8XkRnA1KN3-2FccEFq2crHdUDqs6t-2F6SehiyTD4kjKweb-2Fdx2-2FUZDKjSo2B27yvAaYoei7UUNCI6CkKwQ2V71nGk5-2FL-2FaOYyf-2B4DmPQxGW1luP4PTCXVhf1KAECvVojU652YBzXy8aRBJieLHMIM-2F46h-2BGi0Hnhfwgo7w5BGKGw7z7wQEM0ytysuTq3ptNHcjU06CLT62EH2T-2BFu2wto2s-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: BlackBoard Messaging Test- This Thursday
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 13:00

Good Afternoon SD 308 Staff,

This Thursday, Dec. 8 at 5:30pm a full staff test message will be sent using our BlackBoard mass communication system. This test will include utilization of a phone call, text message, and email. This system is utilized to communicate any weather-related closures or other emergencies to all staff.

The contact information included in Employee Access on the Intranet is what populates your contact information in the communication system.

At this time, we ask that you please take a moment to go into the Employee Access system on the Intranet to confirm that your contact information is correct by following these simple steps:
Open Intranet
Select “Employee Access”
Select “My Information” from the left panel
Select “Profile”
Update your email and cell phone information if needed

If you do not get the message on Thursday at 5:30pm through all communication channels, you will need to complete this form to provide feedback to the Communications and HR teams.
Thank you!
--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: RE: Questions for Monday's Board Meeting
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 13:32

Good afternoon Jared,

Here are the answers to your questions:

	Question	Response
	If we don't levy, can we do the following: Balance our budget? Build a 20% fund reserve by 2026? - Build a general maintenance fund? -	**We can balance our budget with cuts** **No** **No**
	What is our course load for Dual Credit compared to neighboring Districts that are outside of Waubonsee Community College?	Oswego • 15 Dual Credit courses Plainfield • 25 Dual Credit courses Indian Prairie (204) • 16 Dual Credit courses Lockport HS (2021/2022) • 17 Dual Credit courses Romeoville HS • 17 Dual Credit courses **Dual Credit Enrollments** **OHS:** 22-23SY - 567 21-22SY - 525 20-21SY - 528 19-20SY - 474 OE: 22-23SY - 587 21-22SY - 621 20-21SY - 435 19-20SY - 488 **What is our course load for Dual Credit compared to neighboring Districts that are outside of Waubonsee Community College?**

		Plainfield • 25 DC courses offered • Partnerships: Joliet Junior College, St. Francis • Wilco (Will County Area Career Center) ◦ Many DC courses offered in Plainfield take place at Wilco Indian Prairie (204) • 16 dual credit courses • 15 through College of DuPage, 1 through University of Illinois Lockport HS (2021/2022) • 17 total DC courses • 4 at Wilco • Agreements between JJC, CoD, St. Francis, Lewis University Romeoville HS • 17 total DC courses • 14 through JJC • 1 at Lewis University • 2 at College of DuPage
	How much do we pay for our SRO compared to Yorkville, West Aurora, IPSD 204, Valley View, and Plainfield?	None of these school districts list salaries in the agreement. The salary is determined by the corresponding village employment agreement(s).
	Is Plainfield still offering a part time SRO for free to Murphy?	Yes, Officer Steve Shervino has been with us since the 2021-2022 school year. The Plainfield junior highs were approved for an SRO to be at the Junior Highs once a week. Since Murphy JH is located in Plainfield, they benefited from that decision and were able to have the SRO once a week. Below is what Murphy JH recently shared in The BULLetin newsletter to families and students: *We have shared this information in the past, however, we wanted to continue to share information regarding our School Resource Officer, Steve Shervino. Officer Shervino, of the Plainfield Police Department, provides support to Murphy, typically on Fridays. He interacts with students and staff and visits the lunchroom as a positive model for our students. He has been a wonderful support to our Murphy community!* *Officer Shervino has been a police officer for 22 years. He served as a patrol officer for 6 years and a traffic officer for 1 year. He transitioned to working in schools as an SRO for Plainfield Academy for 5 years; a D.A.R.E. officer for 8 years; and this year has started his second year as a Middle School SRO.* *SROs support schools in a number of different ways. Officer Shervino collaborates with administration and staff to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. In addition to this, Officer Shervino works to foster positive relationships between our students, law enforcement and educators while promoting a positive school climate. He has/will provide education to our students on various topics including the dangers and legal consequences of vaping/illicit drug use; social media/Internet safety; personal safety, and so on.*

		So far this year. Officer Shervino has visited first semester 7th grade health classes to speak to students about the dangers of vaping. His presentation was very informative and our students asked great questions!
	So…do you have some general specifics on what we will have to do or won't be able to do if we do not pass this levy	**Not at this time. If we don't pass the levy then we will have to start looking at how much would need to be cut for next year to ensure a balanced budget** **We would need to reexamine what supports we can continue from ESSER funding such as academic interventionists, social workers, gifted specialists, and Junior High Counselors. Junior High athletics would also need to be reviewed.**

11.5 Jared – when we spoke you said you would ask the following question during 11.5: If we don't approve this levy what does it mean to 308?

I am prepared to answer that question with what we spoke about on the phone.

Thanks,
John
From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 12:58 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Questions for Monday's Board Meeting

In addition to what we discussed,

Item 7.1

If we don't levy, can we do the following:

Balance our budget?

Build a 20% fund reserve by 2026?

Build a general maintenance fund?

Item 7.2

What is our course load for Dual Credit compared to neighboring Districts that are outside of Waubonsee Community College?

Item 10.3

How much do we pay for our SRO compared to Yorkville, West Aurora, IPSD 204, Valley View, and Plainfield?

Is Plainfield still offering a part time SRO for free to Murphy?

11.5

So…do you have some general specifics on what we will have to do or won't be able to do if we do not pass this levy?

11.5 Jared – when we spoke you said you would ask the following question during 11.5: If we don't approve this levy what does it mean to 308?

I am prepared to answer that question with what we spoke about on the phone.

Thanks!

Jared

SUBJECT: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: "BOE@sd308.org" <BOE@sd308.org>
CC: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 14:41

Hello School Board Members,
I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.

December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance.
https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Message to HS Families
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 15:31

Good afternoon,

[redacted].

Hello High School Students and Families,

This is a reminder about the importance of not spreading sensitive or harmful content through social media and/or texts.

We are aware of an inappropriate recording circulating through students at both of our high schools today. This is unacceptable and may include consequences for students who continue to share and send the recording. The police have been notified and are monitoring the situation.

If you see, hear, or read anything inappropriate you are asked to report it to a trusted adult at school, and not to forward the message to others. We appreciate your assistance in helping to stop the dissemination of this recording, and any other inappropriate content.

Thank you.

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Medically Necessary Chair for Disability Refused to be Given
FROM: Lauren Soyk <[redacted]
TO: Kenneth Miller <kmiller01@sd308.org>, Jeff Soyk <[redacted]
latonya-simelton@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, dominick-cirone@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, jared-ploger@sd308.org, 308 Superintendent <superintendent@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 17:05

Hello,

We came over today to turn in my key, and to pick up the chair that is [redacted]. We were then told I would not be given the chair unless I gave back a Chromebook that I do not have. Last year as documented in multiple emails the plug was stolen out of my desk when my chair was cracked in half. Many other things were stolen out of my room that the district did not replace as well. I have documentation and pictures of all items along with correspondence with multiple members of the administration confirming the theft. This year my Chromebook was in the right drawer of my desk upstairs as I always used my MacBook. I did not clean out my desk. It was cleaned out for me when I resigned. I can tell you where I left it before I went on medical leave and resigned under pressure after a procedure this year. It has been stated in multiple emails where I had left the Chromebook. I am not in possession of it. This pattern of behavior has been harassing to me to say the least. It has caused me emotional distress, anxiety, and time that should be spent healing. It takes a lot for us to get over to the district due to [redacted] I will be at the next board meeting to discuss what happened last year while I was out on medical leave, and what has happened this year as well. Since it has been documented, heard by individuals and talked about with the administration I am unsure as to why now all of the sudden I am somehow being accused of having a chromebook. This feels incredibly discriminatory, and I am very uncomfortable. This has been a pattern of behavior that has been displayed to me by District 308. Please contact my husband at [redacted] to discuss when he can pick up my chair.

Lauren Soyk

SUBJECT: Thompson Bus 20
FROM: April Russell [redacted]
TO: latonya-simelton@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, dominick-cirone@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, jared-ploger@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 19:47

Hello,

My name is April Russell and my [redacted] at Thompson Jr High. [redacted] takes bus 20 which has had considerable issues with running late and poor communication this year.

[redacted] stop is due to be picked up by 7:18am and in order to get to his stop on time which is a 7-8 minute walk he leaves home at about 7:05am.

On 11/30 we received a message at 7:02am that the bus route would be running "around 9am." I drove [redacted] to school this day since I happened to be off of work. At 8:17 we received another text that the route was starting at 8:15. My neighbors child came back home at 9:05 after the bus still had not arrived.

On 12/1 we received a text at 7:19am that the bus was running approximately 25 minutes late. The temperature was 16 degrees and with no notice it would not make sense to have our children walk back home 7-8 minutes to have maybe 9 minutes before they have to walk back so we told [redacted] to stay at the bus stop. The bus should have arrived by 7:43 am running 25 minutes late. I was on my way to work and the phone with [redacted] until 7:53 and the bus had still not arrived so he walked back home after being outside in 16 degree weather for 55 minutes total. He was to the point of tears he was so cold and I called him in for the day.

Other dates this year the bus 20 has ran late:

9/9/22: text at 7:29 that the bus was running 10 minutes late [redacted] was on the bus by the time this text came through)

9/12/22: text at 2:36 pm that the bus would be running 90 minutes late in the afternoon. The students were not told about this. When they went outside there was no bus and it wasnt until I reached out to [redacted] that he found out about the delay. My husband was able to pick him up so I don't know the outcome of this delay.

10/20/22: text at 6:48 that the bus route would start at 9am and another at 8:58 to say it was starting in 15 min and to proceed to the stop if transportation was still needed. This is an example of great communication and the person working that day did a wonderful job.

When I called [redacted] on 12/1, I expressed my concern to the school and they provided me with the number for transportation. The gentleman at transportation I spoke with was very nice but the explanation I received was really that there was nothing they could do as the call in for the driver comes in at 6 am and then they are scrambling.

As a person, I understand there are worker shortages and this situation will occur from time to time but as a parent Im asking for major improvement with communication and planning for the safety of these children.

If the employee call in comes in at 6am there should be a text sent out immediately to parents. Back up plans should be in place and proper communication of accurate pick up times so we don't have children outside for extended periods of time in extreme weather should not be too much to ask.

I know my frustration is shared by other parents of student who take Thompson bus 20 and we would greatly appreciate if a plan could be put into place to improve these issues.

Thank you,

April Russell

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 08:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

PRESS and PRESS Plus Issue 110: Timely Updates for Your Board

December 6, 2022 — noon

The long-awaited PRESS Issue 110 is here! Join the PRESS Editors on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, for a webinar to review new and updated material in response to bills passed during the second half of the 102nd General Assembly, regulatory updates, and miscellaneous and five-year review updates. Following the issue review, stay with us for an overview of customized PRESS Plus Issue 110.

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

How to Navigate Running for School Board: Understanding the Board Member's Role

December 8, 2022 — 6:30 p.m.

So, you want to be a school board member? This webinar is designed to provide school board candidates with an overview of an elected school board member's roles and responsibilities and an idea of what to expect if they are successful in the April election.

View Livestream

More Upcoming Events

IN-PERSON EVENT

South Cook Division Winter Breakfast

January 21, 2023 — 9:30 a.m.

Register Now

VIRTUAL EVENT

IASB Winter Book Study 2023

January 24 — February 21, 2023

Register Now



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Re: Proposed school tax levy increase - Meeting 12/5
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: abby jackson [redacted]
DATE: 12/06/2022 08:40

Dear Abby,

The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. Therefore, the following is only my opinion.

I have been calling for a list of cuts to be presented in multiple meetings. I have also personally been responsible for (the first time ever) for a five year projection that includes what our projections will look like with and without the levy and with and without EBF. I HEAR you loud and clear. That said, no one wakes up in the morning and says, let's increase the levy. There is no one out there who does that. The real question is should we increase the levy or cut what we provide. This District has already gone through a four year cycle of cuts. The Board continues to receive requests from citizens who want us to EXPAND services. Those aren't free! Those two things contradict.

This is why I have called for a complete conversation on this BEFORE the vote. I am the minority on both sides of this topic. Because, honestly, there is one side of this argument that believes we have no choice but to increase the levy in order to keep up with inflation. There is another side to this argument that believes we have no choice but to find a way to stay pat and make cuts. I believe we have gotten to a point where we have no choice but to have candid conversations where we put everything out there. I can not help that the media does not report that I have called for exactly that...multiple times! In fact, I have even said in an open meeting that the media will NOT report that I've said it. And sure enough...they don't and won't. Partially, because they are uncomfortable with me and that conversation!

It shouldn't be about all of this. It should be about kids.

Now, I've been VERY transparent with you. I am NOT afraid of any of these conversations. But I will end with this. There are no simple solutions. We are still feeling pain from the last time we conducted four years of cuts. No one is up there lightly making decisions. I appreciate you reaching out. I do. What we need from all is for them to demand the full story from all of those reporting on it and reporting it. Whether that be a social media group, or traditional media group. If those groups are expelling people because they say things uncomfortable, it is likely they have an agenda that doesn't want to have these conversations. I...am not afraid of having these conversations. At the end of the day, I am merely just like you and whatever we decide...we will decide together.

Take care.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 6:46 PM abby jackson [redacted] wrote:

> Dear Board Members,
>
> I am not able to attend tonight's meeting due to the flu in my house. However, I would like to provide comment on the tax increase you are voting on tonight. Homeowners are facing 9-10% increase in assessed values. We are also facing record inflation across all industries without a dime extra in pay. I find it appalling as a board you would consider adding more fiscal pain to this community. We don't have the extra money!!!!! Voting to increase taxes would only show how out of touch our voted representatives really are. Where is the plan to reduce costs like all other industries have been forced to do? Just a thought.
>
> A concerned citizen,

SUBJECT: Question
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: EHSC@lbl.gov
DATE: 12/06/2022 08:56

Hello.

Our District has a $250 million budget. About 80% of that budget is in labor costs. We have 23 buildings already in use. We do not need to build any new buildings currently. Our budget is tight. We currently have no funds for our maintenance fund. We have an active community member who believes we can forego any new resources by looking to your grant programs.

I am curious what detailed information you could provide on grant information. What is the largest grant amount a District has been awarded? What is the size of the largest District you have awarded a grant to? What is the realized cost savings for Districts in regards to their energy needs?

Thank you in advance.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

SUBJECT: Fwd: Message going to OHS
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 09:50

Sorry Jared, I grabbed the old email :)
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Theresa Komitas** <tkomitas@sd308.org>
Date: Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:47 AM
Subject: Message going to OHS
To: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Alison Swanson <ASwanson@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jploger@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>

Good morning,
We're in an All Principal meeting this morning and Dr. Sparlin asked me to share this message with you. This is going out from Chris Grays to parents shortly, and OPD will have a message going out soon too.
Good morning OHS students and families,

I'd like to take a moment to address reports being made to the school and help clear up misinformation.
I want to express our thanks to the students and parents who have come forward to provide tips and to share with us what they are hearing and seeing. It is very important to report anything that seems concerning in nature, school officials will investigate all reports and include police when appropriate. However, please do not turn to social media or utilize other communication channels to spread information that is either untrue and/or potentially harmful. This behavior hinders our ability to efficiently sort through and review reports to uncover factual and helpful information. We strive to keep the line of communication open between the school and parents, and will always reach out to you when a serious situation occurs that could impact the health and safety of students or staff. We partner closely with our school resource officers to investigate reported concerns, and to remain proactive in our effort to keep our school safe.
At this time we are working with the police and our staff to investigate the report of social media posts circulating which are causing concern amongst recipients. Oswego Police have investigated and found no evidence of a credible threat. They will be publishing a message regarding this soon.
Thank you for your cooperation and assistance as we work together to keep our building safe and focused on learning.

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Follow Up
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 11:48

Good morning,

The following message was sent to OHS parents this morning:

Hello OHS Parents, Students and Staff,

Oswego Police have notified us that the image spreading about school violence is an old image, being recirculated on social media. The image originated outside our district area.

There are no written threats on desks or walls in the school, and no credible threats directed to OHS at this time. Extra police are present at the school just to reassure everyone. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone focused on learning. Please continue to report anything you see or hear that is concerning to police or school officials.

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

Thank you,

John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: FW: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: "BOE@sd308.org" <BOE@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 12:40

FYI, forgot to include all in my reply.

Kristina Murphy

From: Kristina Murphy
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Subject: RE: Grants Rather Than A Levy

The funding is available now, so there should be no waiting. Please look at the application deadlines, as they are fast approaching. This funding will likely be awarded before the next election.

As mentioned previously, I would appreciate a list of the federal and state funding opportunities that the school district has applied for.

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.

I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).

https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Fwd: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 13:54

Do we know which of these we have looked into?

Thanks.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kristina Murphy** <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM
Subject: Grants Rather Than A Levy
To: BOE@sd308.org <BOE@sd308.org>
Cc: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, ustuder@sd308.org <ustuder@sd308.org>

Hello School Board Members,

I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.

December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).

https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: RE: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 13:56

I asked Dr. Petzke and Dr. Kincaid to provide me information on this email.

Thanks,
John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:55 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Fwd: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Do we know which of these we have looked into?

Thanks.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kristina Murphy** <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM
Subject: Grants Rather Than A Levy
To: BOE@sd308.org <BOE@sd308.org>
Cc: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, ustuder@sd308.org <ustuder@sd308.org>

Hello School Board Members,
I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.

December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance.
https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return

on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 13:56

Thank you.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 1:56 PM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> I asked Dr. Petzke and Dr. Kincaid to provide me information on this email.
>
> Thanks,
>
> John
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:55 PM
> **To:** John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
> **Subject:** Fwd: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Do we know which of these we have looked into?
>
> Thanks.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: **Kristina Murphy** <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> Date: Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM
> Subject: Grants Rather Than A Levy
> To: BOE@sd308.org <BOE@sd308.org>
> Cc: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, ustuder@sd308.org <ustuder@sd308.org>
>
> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
>
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 102-45
FROM: "Governmental Relations Department" <mbuch@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 14:07

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (102-45)



General Assembly Adjourns Fall Veto Session

On December 1, The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up a busy week of Fall Veto

Session. Without many or any gubernatorial vetoes to act upon, the General Assembly has turned Veto Session into an opportunity to revisit issues that warrant further attention. The issues that rose to the top of the agenda this fall were the SAFE-T (Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity Today Act) and the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The changes to the SAFE-T Act came about after the law got a great deal of attention on the campaign trail. The follow-up legislation, **House Bill 1095 (Slaughter, D-Chicago)** was seen as needed to address concerns before the January 1, 2023, implementation date. HB 1095 passed along partisan lines and will now head to Governor JB Pritzker's desk.

As jobless claims soared during the early throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, so did Illinois' debt to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. At one point, the debt to the fund was $4.5 billion. After a loan from the federal government and some additional revenue, the UI trust fund debt stands at $1.8 billion. However, after the passage of **Senate Bill 1698 (Holmes, D-Aurora)** Illinois has an agreement to pay back the debt and invest more in the UI fund in the future. SB 1698 passed with bipartisan support in a testament to the agreed bill process used by employer groups and those that represent employees. The appropriation of the money to clear the debt, Senate Bill 2801 (Holmes), has not yet passed the House but has cleared the Senate.

SB 2801 will be one of the many topics addressed by the 102nd General Assembly during a January lame duck session. The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to be back under the dome starting January 4 and wrapping up some time before the 103rd General Assembly is sworn in on January 11. While we do not yet know all that will be on the docket, we will do our best to keep you informed of all that is happening and all that will impact school districts.

Several bills that may impact schools were heard during the Veto Session. Below are three of those bills along with their status.

- **HB 4228 (Morrison, D-Highwood)** clarifies that School Districts are not subject to the requirements of the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act. **Passed by the Senate and awaiting action by the House.**
- **SB 1595 (Cunningham, D-Chicago)** extends various Tax Increment Financing districts across the State of Illinois. **Passed by the House and the Senate.**
- **SB 4244 (Lightford, D-Hillside)** removes the requirement that the township school treasurer shall be a resident of the township. **Passed by the Senate and awaiting action by the House.**

Advocacy Resources **Legislative Reports**

One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
DATE: 12/06/2022 14:19

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."
So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
>
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.

I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
>
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov
>
> The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-

schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Re: Question
FROM: Rengie Chan <wrchan@lbl.gov>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: EHSC@lbl.gov
DATE: 12/06/2022 16:06

Jared,

For all grant related questions, please email schoolsFOA@doe.gov

Also see:

Program website: https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
Dec 6 webinar slides: https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/School-FOA-Webinar-11-2022.pdf
School needs and benefits assessment resources: https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/school-needs-and-benefits-assessment-resources

- Rengie

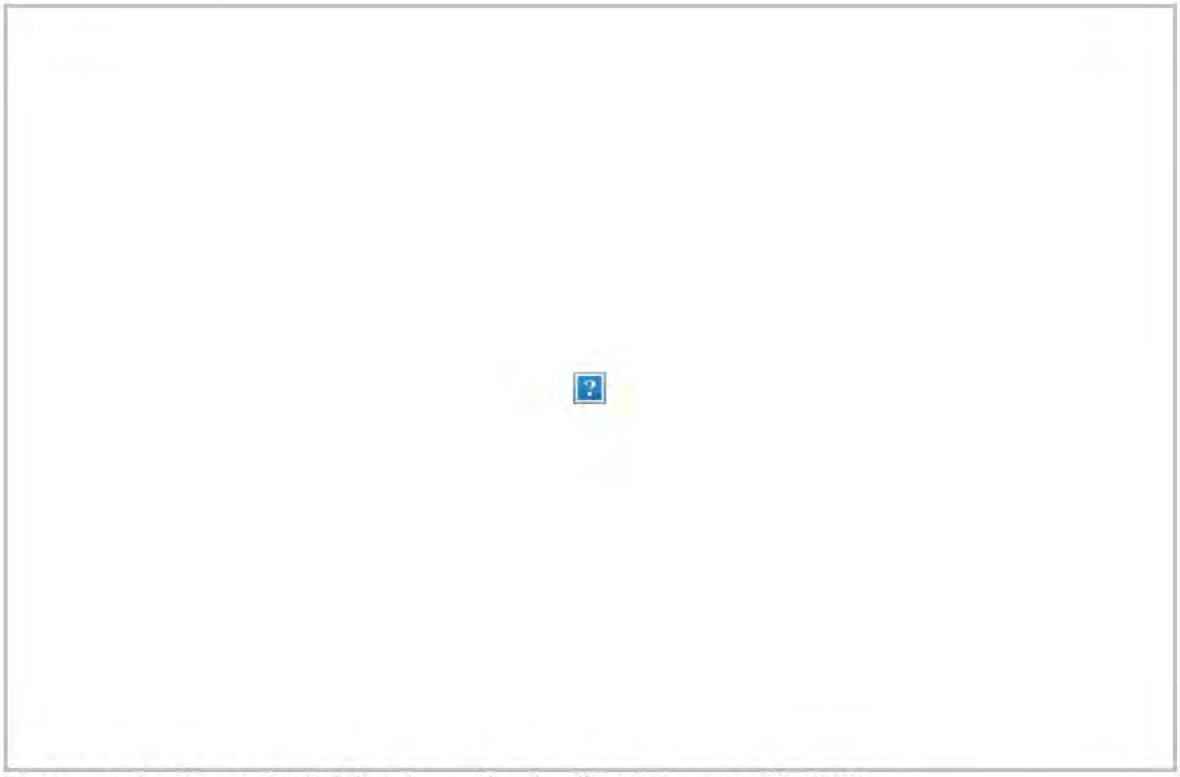
Wanyu Rengie Chan, Ph.D.
Pronouns: She/Her
Indoor Environment, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
415.377.8523 wrchan@lbl.gov
indoor.lbl.gov iaqscience.lbl.gov



On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 6:56 AM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Hello.
>
> Our District has a $250 million budget. About 80% of that budget is in labor costs. We have 23 buildings already in use. We do not need to build any new buildings currently. Our budget is tight. We currently have no funds for our maintenance fund. We have an active community member who believes we can forego any new resources by looking to your grant programs.
>
> I am curious what detailed information you could provide on grant information. What is the largest grant amount a District has been awarded? What is the size of the largest District you have awarded a grant to? What is the realized cost savings for Districts in regards to their energy needs?
>
> Thank you in advance.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared Ploger

SUBJECT: RE: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 16:31



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the

same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."
So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
> **To:** Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> **Subject:** Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Kristina,
>
> The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.
>
> I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?
>
> Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov
>
> The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance.
> https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/
>
> EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.
>
> Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?
>
> I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.
>
> Thanks,
> Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
> 2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
> *At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro*
> *Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro*
> *Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board*
> *Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee*
> *Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador*
> *Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force*
>
> Phone: (630) 363-4731
> www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
DATE: 12/06/2022 21:46

Kristina,

We don't have any money. So let's say we budget what we are supposed to for maintenance. Let me ask this question. What would that mean for our overall budget? That would mean we would be in debt.

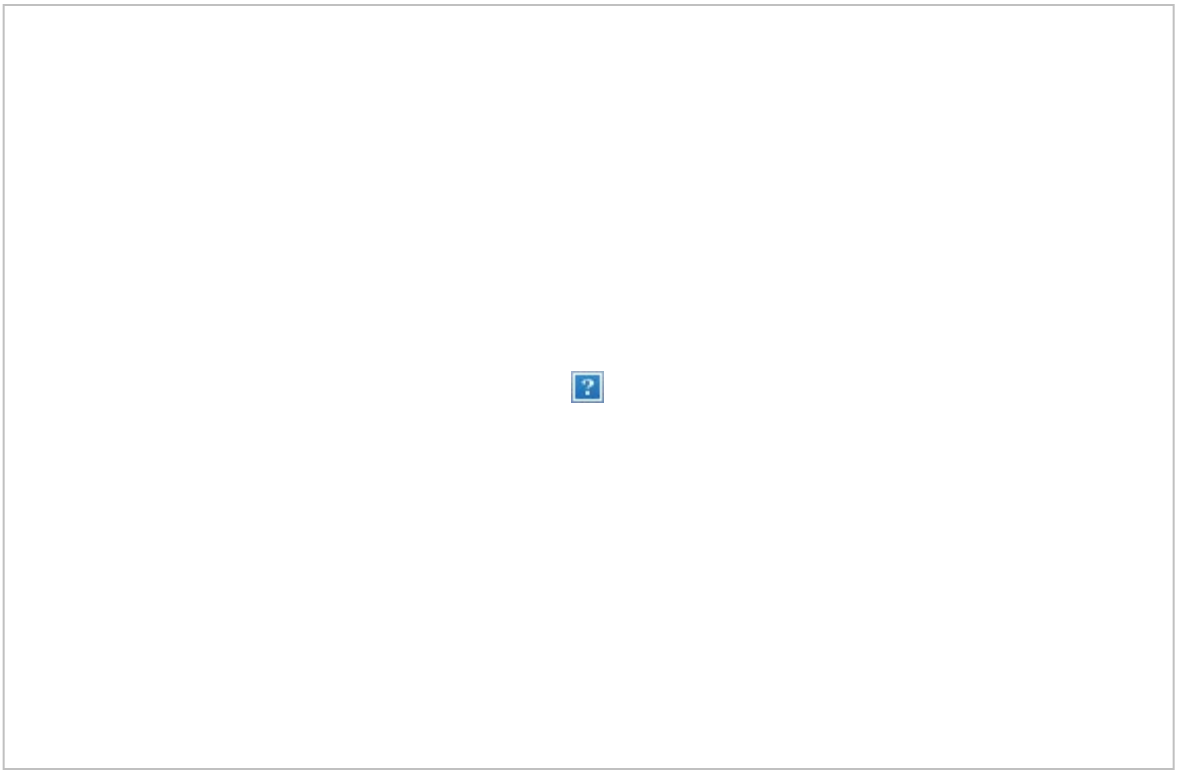
So, to help here, because this has been talked about many times in session. The District did NOT levy for three straight years. That Board back then did EXACTLY what people are calling for. That led to my time on the Board when I and my fellow Board Members then had to cut for four straight years. We still have not gotten over that pain. You are 100% correct, every building needs maintenance! That is why everyone should be extremely alarmed! When we cut for four years, I'm not trying to be smart here, but do you really think we didn't look at thermostats?

When we made those cuts, we had an Auditorium full of people, had hours worth of public comment and gave the public TONS of choices. Were you there? We cut 25% of our District Administration. Which is why ti takes longer to get answers. We have a skeleton crew. Do you remember those four years of cuts? Here's a direct quote from me during that time period (And realize, I have only been back on the Board since April of this year...8 months). "These cuts will hurt and they will cause pain for years. The sad part is that people will not realize much of the pain they are feeling are directly from these cuts."

So, I have to ask. You think we should do this all over again?

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."

So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following

scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,

Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
>
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
> **To:** Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> **Subject:** Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Kristina,
>
> The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.
>
> I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
>
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov
>
> The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/
>
> EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.
>
> Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?
>
> I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has

previously pursued.

Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
DATE: 12/06/2022 22:53

One last thing...that screenshot is the submission date for papers. Here is the wording on Funding:

Funding Notes:

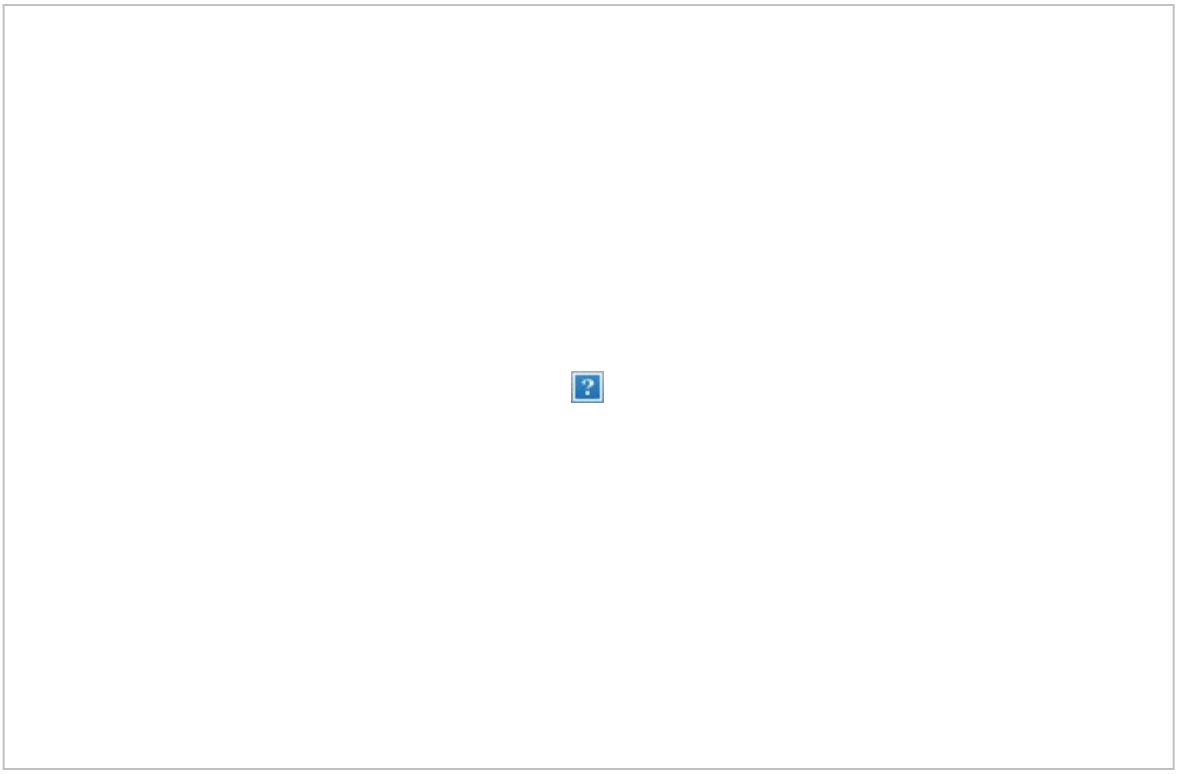
Approximately $80 million is expected to be available to support approximately 20 to 100 awards ranging from $500,000 to $15 million through this program.

Funding will generally be provided as cooperative agreement awards; however, the funding agency may support a limited number of projects through grant awards, as appropriate.

Award notifications are expected to be provided on June 16, 2023. Award negotiations are expected to occur between June 17, 2023, and September 15, 2023.

Award periods will last from two to five years, and project continuation will be contingent on satisfactory performance and other funding agency considerations.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or

car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."

So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,

Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
>
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
> **To:** Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> **Subject:** Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Kristina,
>
> The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.
>
> I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?
>
> Thank you.

Cordially,

Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
>
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov
>
> The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/
>
> EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.
>
> Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?
>
> I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.
>
> Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: RE: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 23:25

There are specific processes and timelines for federal and state grants. You have to submit the application by January. Then DOE has to review the application and select the projects that qualify for the funding, which is to occur by June 16th. The contracts will be finalized and approved by September. Does the school district have a staff person or consultant who specializes in this work?

Does the school district have a Capital Improvement and long-term strategic plan for budgeting? Grant funding should used to lessen the burden on the taxpayers, extend the reserves, and create long-term financial stability.

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:54 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

One last thing...that screenshot is the submission date for papers. Here is the wording on Funding:

Funding Notes:

Approximately $80 million is expected to be available to support approximately 20 to 100 awards ranging from $500,000 to $15 million through this program.

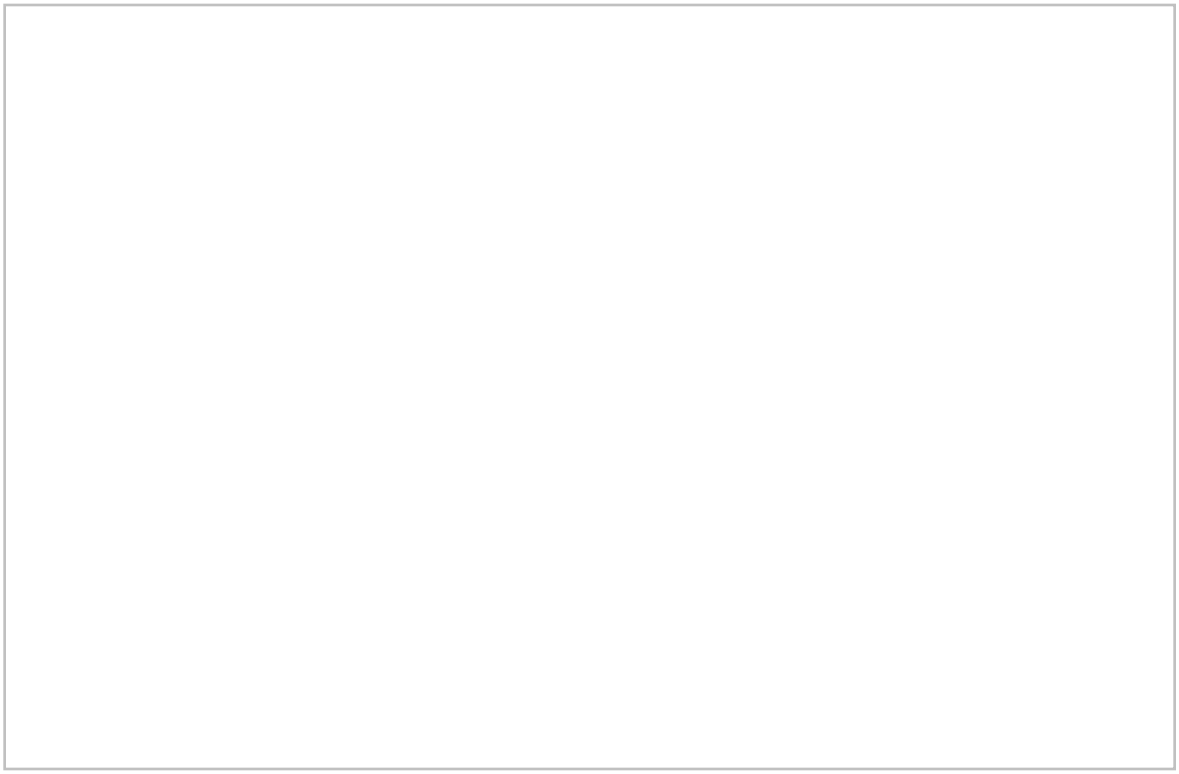
Funding will generally be provided as cooperative agreement awards; however, the funding agency may support a limited number of projects through grant awards, as appropriate.

Award notifications are expected to be provided on June 16, 2023. Award negotiations are expected to occur between June 17, 2023, and September 15, 2023.

Award periods will last from two to five years, and project continuation will be contingent on satisfactory performance and other funding agency considerations.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

>



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."
So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if

we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
> **To:** Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> **Subject:** Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Kristina,
>
> The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.
>
> I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?
>
> Thank you.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared Ploger
>
> On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:
>
> > Hello School Board Members,

I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.

December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize). https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: RE: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 23:52

I know the history of the financial issues. I know that they borrowed from the Plainfield school district. I know I have asked for transparency and financial responsibility. I also recall when we were redistricted from a Naperville school district. Our home values dropped, but our taxes increased.

I work with many tax-exempt institutions such as schools and municipal governments. I served on my condo board for 6 years. All have similar building and cash flow issues. I have seen mismanagement internally. The tough questions must be asked and all the numbers disclosed. I have to ask how other districts' financials are stable and secure, but Oswego is not. Had the district been applying to these grants over the years, we would be in a better position. Operational and maintenance costs would be reduced.

Grants can have a positive impact on the district's financials, but you must apply now. Waiting isn't going to solve the problem.

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 9:47 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

We don't have any money. So let's say we budget what we are supposed to for maintenance. Let me ask this question. What would that mean for our overall budget? That would mean we would be in debt.

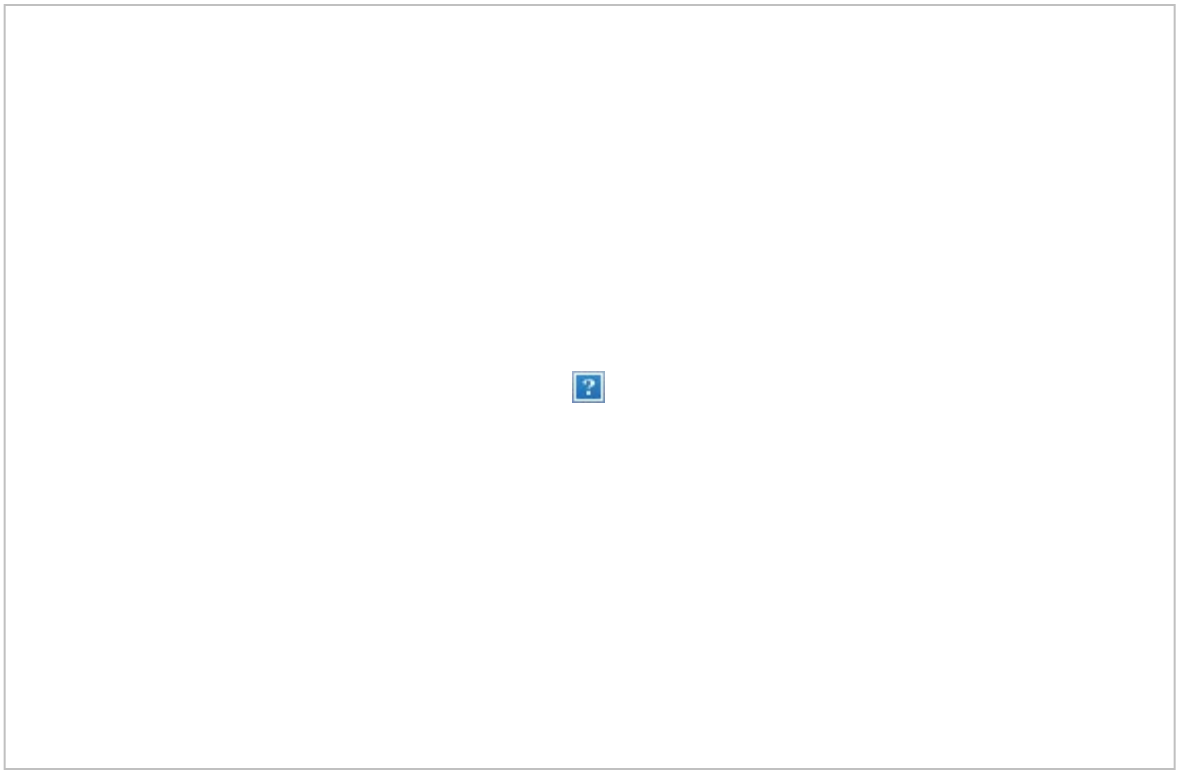
So, to help here, because this has been talked about many times in session. The District did NOT levy for three straight years. That Board back then did EXACTLY what people are calling for. That led to my time on the Board when I and my fellow Board Members then had to cut for four straight years. We still have not gotten over that pain. You are 100% correct, every building needs maintenance! That is why everyone should be extremely alarmed! When we cut for four years, I'm not trying to be smart here, but do you really think we didn't look at thermostats?

When we made those cuts, we had an Auditorium full of people, had hours worth of public comment and gave the public TONS of choices. Were you there? We cut 25% of our District Administration. Which is why ti takes longer to get answers. We have a skeleton crew. Do you remember those four years of cuts? Here's a direct quote from me during that time period (And realize, I have only been back on the Board since April of this year...8 months). "These cuts will hurt and they will cause pain for years. The sad part is that people will not realize much of the pain they are feeling are directly from these cuts."

So, I have to ask. You think we should do this all over again?

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."

So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
> **To:** Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> **Subject:** Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Kristina,
>
> The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.
>
> I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?
>
> Thank you.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared Ploger
>
> On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

Hello School Board Members,
I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.

December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions.
EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance.
https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
DATE: 12/07/2022 07:52

Kristina,

This is where the historical context of our District comes into play and this is why I continue to try and advocate for this District and tell people they should be alarmed! We don't have enough money to make it until the fiscal year ends. We already have to borrow money to make it until then. So when people say do not raise the levy, how will we make it until the funds you are suggesting come in?

In addition, NO, we have people who have taken on that role and a multitude of others! When we did not raise the levy for three years and the state did not expand revenues, we then cut for four years straight. Part of those cuts included 25% of our Upper Administration. When we have said in meetings (multiple times), that we are cutting into bone at this point, it is not a joke! I have often said the things we are doing are actually COSTING us money! That's not a joke either. Another way of saying it is poverty begets poverty.

When we have tried to hire and expand positions like this, we have gotten slammed in the media, while many have been silent in their defense....

WE need people engaged and supportive all the time! The atmosphere is very difficult within which to work in.

Here is some reading (and this is just the stuff that made the news...)

https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/aurora-beacon-news/ct-abn-school-district-308-cuts-st-0203-20210205-pumboc5cpfhchp66fgyyiv3szu-story.html
https://www.wspynews.com/news/local/sd308-school-board-may-take-vote-on-proposed-cuts-tonight-public-forum-will-again-be/article_a1905710-2df8-11e9-9d84-776a831351ce.html
https://wgntv.com/news/school-district-308-facing-11m-deficit-layoffs-possible/

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 11:25 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> There are specific processes and timelines for federal and state grants. You have to submit the application by January. Then DOE has to review the application and select the projects that qualify for the funding, which is to occur by June 16th. The contracts will be finalized and approved by September. Does the school district have a staff person or consultant who specializes in this work?
>
> Does the school district have a Capital Improvement and long-term strategic plan for budgeting? Grant funding should used to lessen the burden on the taxpayers, extend the reserves, and create long-term financial stability.
>
> Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:54 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

One last thing...that screenshot is the submission date for papers. Here is the wording on Funding:

Funding Notes:

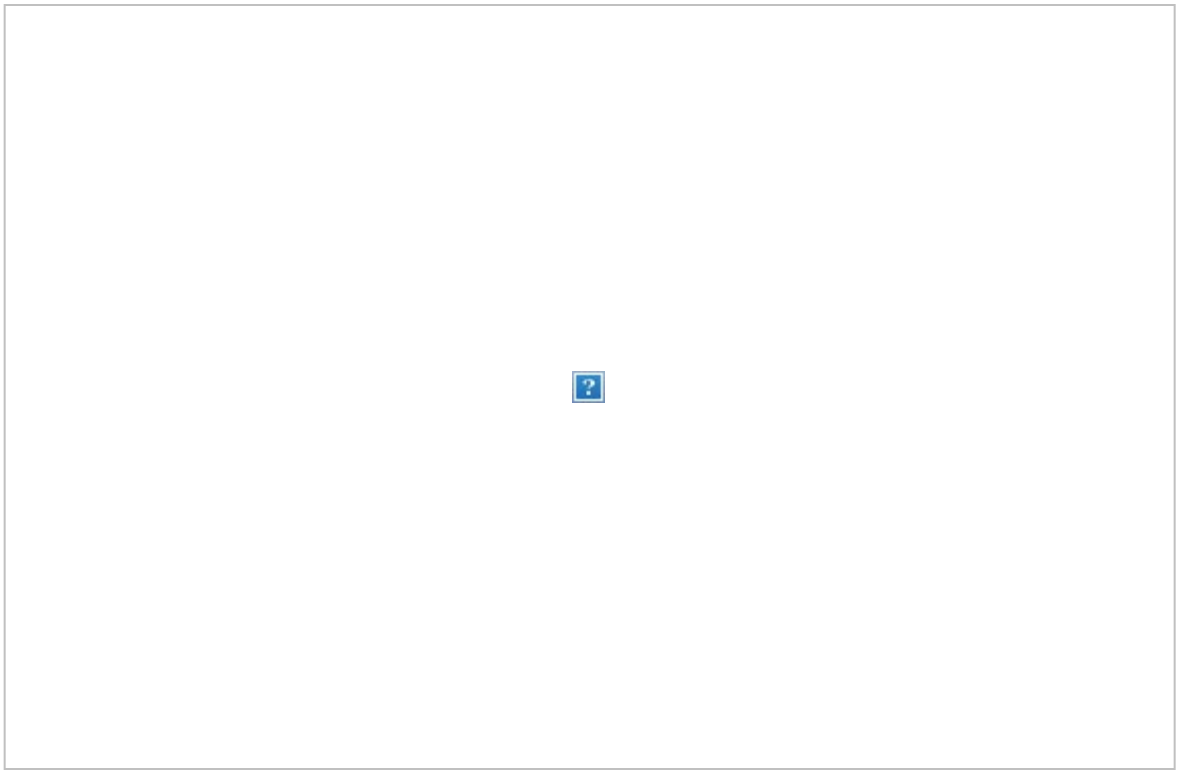
Approximately $80 million is expected to be available to support approximately 20 to 100 awards ranging from $500,000 to $15 million through this program.

Funding will generally be provided as cooperative agreement awards; however, the funding agency may support a limited number of projects through grant awards, as appropriate.

Award notifications are expected to be provided on June 16, 2023. Award negotiations are expected to occur between June 17, 2023, and September 15, 2023.

Award periods will last from two to five years, and project continuation will be contingent on satisfactory performance and other funding agency considerations.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."

So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend

from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,

Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
>
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).
>
> Kristina Murphy
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
> **To:** Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
> **Subject:** Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
>
> Kristina,
>
> The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.
>
> I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
>
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign.
> https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov
>
> The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/
>
> EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.
>
> Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?
>
> I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
DATE: 12/07/2022 08:11

Kristina,

What you speak of is TAWs. They occur EVERY year since our shortfalls started OVER a decade ago. I have lived in Lakewood Valley since 2006. We have never been a part of "Naperville," Schools. WE have always been a part of CUSD 308. In fact, this has been 308 school district LONG before then. What do you speak of?

I can answer the question pretty simply about Oswego. Name a District our size that is experiencing our growth that doesn't increase their levy? I can't come up with one. We DO apply for grants every year. At one point this area was the fastest growing area in the nation. When the boom busted, we had record debt: At one point (and I believe still) we were the second most in debt School District. Second only to of course CPS. This happened BEFORE my time on the School Board:

https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-illinois-school-debt-met-20160416-story.html

Our local Representatives helped enact this legislation because there was not enough money here to handle the growth. The solution was to go in debt and pay for growth with growth. It was shut off. When it shut off, those who were in power began to slash because they didn't want to pay the tab. It gutted the system. The problem was they still wanted to provide an excellent education. We have been working (you are correct) incorrectly! We have been basically in crisis mode and using duct tape to get by. That's not a secret.

There's a group running that want to slash and burn even more. I certainly hope not..but there's a chance you may get to relive it. I understand you are HIGHLY qualified. I do. We have had many highly qualified people come into this District. We lost a HIGHLY sought after financial person in this District who now makes a great deal of money for one of the elite Districts on the North Shore. I said at the time, pay and keep him. I was over-ruled. We can't keep good talent here. I still talk to him, consult him. His District is NOT in bad shape at all. He will tell you exactly what our problem is. We couldn't afford to not raise the levy. WE did it anyways. We are still suffering.

I understand no one wants that to be the truth..

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 11:53 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> I know the history of the financial issues. I know that they borrowed from the Plainfield school district. I know I have asked for transparency and financial responsibility. I also recall when we were redistricted from a Naperville school district. Our home values dropped, but our taxes increased.
>
> I work with many tax-exempt institutions such as schools and municipal governments. I served on my condo board for 6 years. All have similar building and cash flow issues. I have seen mismanagement internally. The tough questions must be asked and all the numbers disclosed. I have to ask how other districts' financials are stable and secure, but Oswego is not. Had the district been applying to these grants over the years, we would be in a better position. Operational and maintenance costs would be reduced.

Grants can have a positive impact on the district's financials, but you must apply now. Waiting isn't going to solve the problem.

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 9:47 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

We don't have any money. So let's say we budget what we are supposed to for maintenance. Let me ask this question. What would that mean for our overall budget? That would mean we would be in debt.

So, to help here, because this has been talked about many times in session. The District did NOT levy for three straight years. That Board back then did EXACTLY what people are calling for. That led to my time on the Board when I and my fellow Board Members then had to cut for four straight years. We still have not gotten over that pain. You are 100% correct, every building needs maintenance! That is why everyone should be extremely alarmed! When we cut for four years, I'm not trying to be smart here, but do you really think we didn't look at thermostats?

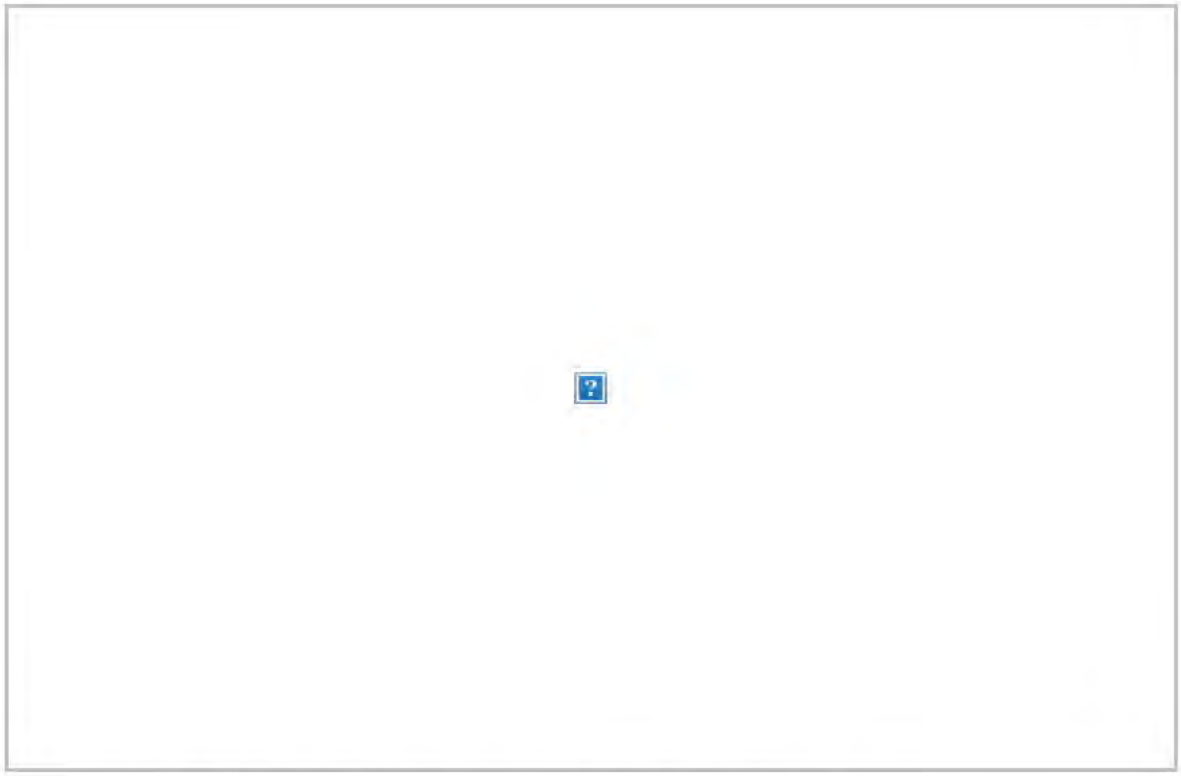
When we made those cuts, we had an Auditorium full of people, had hours worth of public comment and gave the public TONS of choices. Were you there? We cut 25% of our District Administration. Which is why ti takes longer to get answers. We have a skeleton crew. Do you remember those four years of cuts? Here's a direct quote from me during that time period (And realize, I have only been back on the Board since April of this year...8 months). "These cuts will hurt and they will cause pain for years. The sad part is that people will not realize much of the pain they are feeling are directly from these cuts."

So, I have to ask. You think we should do this all over again?

Cordially,

Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:



The grant that I sent the link for shows the deadline is January 26, 2023.

Why would a school district budget $0 for maintenance? Do you budget nothing for maintenance on your house or car? This seems like poor decision making. I have serious concerns about giving my money to people who aren't making responsible decisions.

Every building and vehicle will require maintenance and on-going operational costs (gas, for example). What about adjusting the thermostats, rather than cutting student programs? Have ComEd or Siemens performed a free energy assessment that will provide recommendations on to better operate your buildings to save energy and money?

Is a line item budget published online? A list of grants applied?

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

Just to clarify on this (and yes, we are looking into it). The deadline is April 21, 2023. Just making sure we are talking about the same one. We are correct? Our NEXT fiscal year starts July 1, 2023. The award is between mid June and September. In addition, I'm assuming we are still being asked to spend here then, correct? Based on the following wording? "Applicants must provide a cost share of at least 5 percent of the total project costs that must come from nonfederal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Additionally, priority will be given to projects that leverage private sector investment through energy-related performance contracting."

So, our current Maintenance Budget is $0. You stated we should not raise the levy or cut. I'm not trying to be difficult here but I have to ask. If we really are going to pull a $15 million grant, where are we pulling those funds from? Especially since if we don't raise the levy, we will have a negative balance going into the next fiscal year?

Does that make sense?

That said, I am all for saving money and I am all for grants. If we put forward for projects and guess wrong, realize we could be in BIG trouble short term and if we go with your Option C, no new levy, let me give you the following scenario. We have zero dollars in our maintenance fund. That is fact. When something goes wrong right now, we have to pull from our DSEB bonds. IF we spend those and something goes, we will have to spend from the general fund and we will have to make cuts, (again, if we go with your Option C). I'm NOT opposed to the grants. But remember, due to past cuts, we have not cushion. Not only does the investment side have to come from somewhere, but if something breaks down, where will those funds come from?

Again, asking honestly. That said, I DO have people looking into ALL of this.

Cordially,

Jared

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:52 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
>
> https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011
>
> The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.

I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
>
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
>
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign.
> https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar.

https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called “Decarbonization of Schools” which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,

Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P

2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois

At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro

Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board

Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee

Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador

Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731

www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: BOE Meeting Summary 12.5.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/07/2022 10:27

SD 308 Board of Education Meeting Summary

12.5.22

Video Link

3. Call to Order - Public Session (7:15 pm)

3.1 Roll Call

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

4. Recognitions

4.1 PRIDE Winners

Teachers of the Month:

Stephanie Allen, Interventionist, Oswego East High School
Beth Prigodich, English Teacher, Oswego High School
Katelyn Willmann, Interventionist, Grande Park Elementary, and
Julie Wulff, Speech and Language Pathologist, Wolf's Crossing

Employees of the Month:

Kelley Budd, Principal, Lakewood Creek Elementary, and
Nicole Weaver, School Psychologist, Fox Chase Elementary

5. Public Hearing

5.1 Public Truth in Taxation Hearing

5.2 Public Comment on Tax Levy

Several comments were made and can be heard on the recording

5.3 Close Public Hearing

6. Public Comment

6.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

Several comments were made and can be heard on the recording

7. Presentations

7.1 Budget Report- Envision 308 Finance Presentation

Dr. John Petzke presented the progress of Envision 308 finance goals and successes. At this time the administrative recommendation is "making progress".

7.2 Dual Credit and Articulated Credit Presentation

Presented by Exec Director of High School Education Mr. Dan Arntzen. The difference between Articulated Credit, Dual Credit, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, exams and resulting credits was discussed. Comparisons were made between the SD 308 offerings and area districts. Additional data requests were made regarding demographics of current students participating in these courses and also what capacity and qualifications our staff may have to expand.

8. Comments

8.1 Superintendent's Report

An overview was provided of the second Community Advisory Committee meeting held. The committee discussed drafts and changes to a revised mission statement, this will also be discussed at the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Tonight is our last 2022 board meeting, wishes for happy holidays! Opportunities to give this holiday season exist across the district- highlighting Community Cares and Toys for Tots collections currently underway.

8.2 Board Member Comments

Mr. Ploger shared from a legislative report regarding the state funding for schools next year and in the future. He shared information about programs at neighboring schools that pull together people to help combat misinformation and change within their community. He highlighted the length of meetings in SD 308, indicating they are very long in comparison with others- suggesting that questions be submitted ahead of the meeting to minimize discussion length.

Mrs. Johnson reiterated her pride in the student presentation at the conference and the follow-up discussion amongst district leaders statewide. Student voice may be the missing piece in pushing public education ahead. Challenge to school leaders to use and seek student voice in the classroom. Pointed out that the Board is asking questions and digging into contracts, financial statements, to make information and resources more accessible to the public and the board- many more things go on behind the scenes.

8.3 Board Committee Reports

Equity Committee: Discussion on the Equity Journey- a new component in the State Report Card. Noticed large gaps in the readiness going into K-1 between children: low-income, black students, special needs students, and EL students. The need to bring more intervention earlier to students, resources for MTSS Tier 1 and 2 practices. Students from demographic groups outside of White/Asian access AP and honors classes less- identify opportunity gaps. Student discipline data demonstrated disparity and a correlation between those with academic achievement gaps, low income, special education students and black males. Greater education, intervention, follow-up after incidents for prevention. Board request to look further into a mentoring program involving community members.

Policy Committee: IASB Press Plus presented and answered questions about existing policies, Press resources, and onboarding to the product over the next year.

8.4 Student Ambassador Report

Students provided an overview of their presentation at the school board/administrator conference and communication with other school leaders and students across the state. A large number of students expressed interest in joining the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee, interviews were conducted and selections were made based upon the needs of representation on the committee. They congratulated all students who applied and showed interest in being part of the committee.

9. Approve Consent Agenda

9.1 Minutes from previous Meeting

9.2 Acknowledgement of Freedom of Information (FOIA) Request

Motion to approve consent agenda- passed 7-0

10. Information

10.1 Financial Statements: November

Finance Statements

Statements with Variance

10.2 Vendor and Contract Review

10.3 Intergovernmental Agreement Update on High School Student Resource Officers

11. Action Items

11.1 Approval of Bills for Payment

Motion Approved 7-0

11.2 Approval of Cyber Security Contract with DarkTrace

Memo Regarding Services

Motion Failed 4-3

11.3 Approval of Cyber Security Contract with Fortis

Motion To Table Indefinitely Approved 5-2

11.4 Approval of Property Tax Appeal Intervention

Motion Approved 7-0

11.5 Approval of 2022 Tax Levy

Motion Approved 6-1

11.6 Approval of Student Information System

Motion Approved 7-0

11.7 Approval of Building Administrator Contract

Motion Approved 6-1

11.8 Approval of Personnel Report

Motion Approved 5-1-1

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:12pm

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: NOT a priority!
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/07/2022 10:44

I want to stress that subject line. At your earliest convenience.

Do we have a historical working cash fund balance for each of the Fiscal Years going back to 2008? IF we do, do we know the percentage of the overall budget it is also?

I want to stress this is NOT a priority!

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #40
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/07/2022 14:03

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

December 07, 2022

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over homework
- In your district: philosophy of education
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Campaign for initiative to allow municipalities to create school districts submits signatures in Nevada
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over homework

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

Does homework help?

Geoff Johnson writes that homework is ineffective. Johnson says homework is not equitable because only some students can work in positive learning environments. He also says homework often causes students to practice problems incorrectly and can cause students to become overworked, unhealthy, and stressed.

Eva Moskowitz writes that homework can reduce educational inequity and help students understand that they don't need an adult to help them learn. Moskovitz says homework assignments communicate to students that they should be learning outside of school and are capable of learning independently.

Geoff Johnson: Piling homework on kids is a mistake that undermines work/life balance | Geoff Johnson, *Times Columnist*

"Even before I realized years ago that my students were not deriving much, if anything, of educational value from homework, I could never grade homework assignments equitably, because each student's homework was being attempted in home environments that could be vastly different. As we discovered during the pandemic shutdowns, and the subsequent reliance on online lessons, education at home is not conducted on an even playing field. Some parents simply did not have space available at home to set up quiet spaces where students could focus on their work uninterrupted by the distractions common to every household. Even if that was possible, homework that was intended to facilitate practice, such as working on solutions to math problems or reviewing a poem or prose piece, could result in a student simply practising mistakes over and over again. In other words, class work being extended into a non-learning environment with no support from the teacher who assigned the work was defeating the gains accomplished in class that day. Then class time needs to be devoted to correcting individual homework mistakes before progress can be made on that day's lesson. If work/life balance is important for adults, it's just as important for kids from kindergarten to Grade 12."

Why homework matters | Eva Moskowitz, *The Fordham Institute*

"It is important to remember that kids only spend a fraction of their time in school. The learning that does or does not take place in the many hours outside of school has a monumental effect on children's academic success and is a root cause of educational inequity. The pandemic gave us a stark demonstration of

this reality. Achievement gaps widened between affluent and low-income children not only because low-income students received less in-person or high-quality online instruction during the years of disrupted school, but also because children of college-educated and affluent parents were already less dependent on schools for learning. Affluent children are far more likely to have the privilege of tutors or other types of supplementary instruction, as well as a family culture of reading, and opportunities to travel, visit museums, and more. Homework is a powerful tool to help narrow these inequities, giving children from all backgrounds the opportunity to keep learning when they are not in school. … Homework cultivates these mindsets and habits. Indeed, when teachers don't assign homework, it reflects an unconscious conviction that kids can't learn without adults. Kids internalize this message and come to believe they need their teacher to gain knowledge. In reality, they are more than capable of learning all sorts of things on their own. Discovering this fact can be both incredibly exciting and deeply empowering for them."

In your district: philosophy of education

We recently asked readers the following question:

What book or essay best reflects your philosophy of education?

Thank you to all who responded. Today, we're sharing a handful of those responses. If you have ideas for a question you'd like to see us ask, reply to this email to let us know!

A community member in Indiana wrote:

> "New to all this but in my limited research I like the book The Core: Teaching Your Child the Foundations of Classical Education."

A school board member in Illinois wrote:

> "Classical and Contemporary Readings in the Philosophy of Education."

A school board member in New York wrote:

> "Out of The Box: How Innovative Learning Models Can Transform K-12 Education."

School board update: filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Louisiana school board elections on Dec. 10

Most states held school board general elections on Nov. 8, and won't hold elections again until 2023. In Louisiana, however, school board primaries took place on Nov. 8, and general elections will take place Dec. 10. Under Louisiana's unique majority-vote system, all candidates running for local, state, or federal office appear on the same primary ballot regardless of their partisan affiliations. If no candidate wins a simple majority of the votes cast, the top-two finishers advance to a general election (what other states might refer to as a runoff).

We're covering the following elections on Dec. 10:

- Caddo Parish Public Schools (Districts 7 and 12)
- Calcasieu Parish Public Schools (Districts 2, 14, and 15)
- East Baton Rouge Parish School System (Districts 4, 7, 8, and 9)
- Jefferson Parish Public School System (District 6)
- St. Tammany Parish Public Schools (Districts 2, 9, and 10)

Campaign for initiative to allow municipalities to create school districts submits signatures in Nevada

In Nevada, a campaign supporting an initiative that would allow municipalities to opt-out of county school districts filed about 220,000 signatures for verification. If enacted, the initiative would amend state statute to allow municipalities to opt-out of a county school district to create a new community school district.

The Community Schools Initiative PAC filed the initiative. County clerks will verify the signatures. The initiative needs 140,777 valid signatures to proceed to the legislature. If the legislature approves the initiative, and the governor signs it into law, the initiative is enacted. If no action is taken in 40 days, the initiative will go before voters on the 2024 ballot.

Republican Joe Lombardo won the Nov. 8 Nevada gubernatorial election, defeating incumbent Democrat Steve Sisolak. As a result, Nevada will, in January, change from a Democratic trifecta to a divided government. Democrats control both chambers of the legislature.

Supporters say Nevada school districts, which are mostly county-based, have

become too large. On its website, the Community Schools Initiative PAC says: "Nevada school districts are currently dictated by county boundaries, not the community or population demand. This has resulted in disproportionately large school districts and our students, parents, families, and teachers have had to pay the price."

The initiative says: "Individual municipalities or municipalities working together may, in some instances, prefer to form more appropriately-sized school districts, because communities may determine that they can better represent and serve children, parents, and families in smaller administrative units."

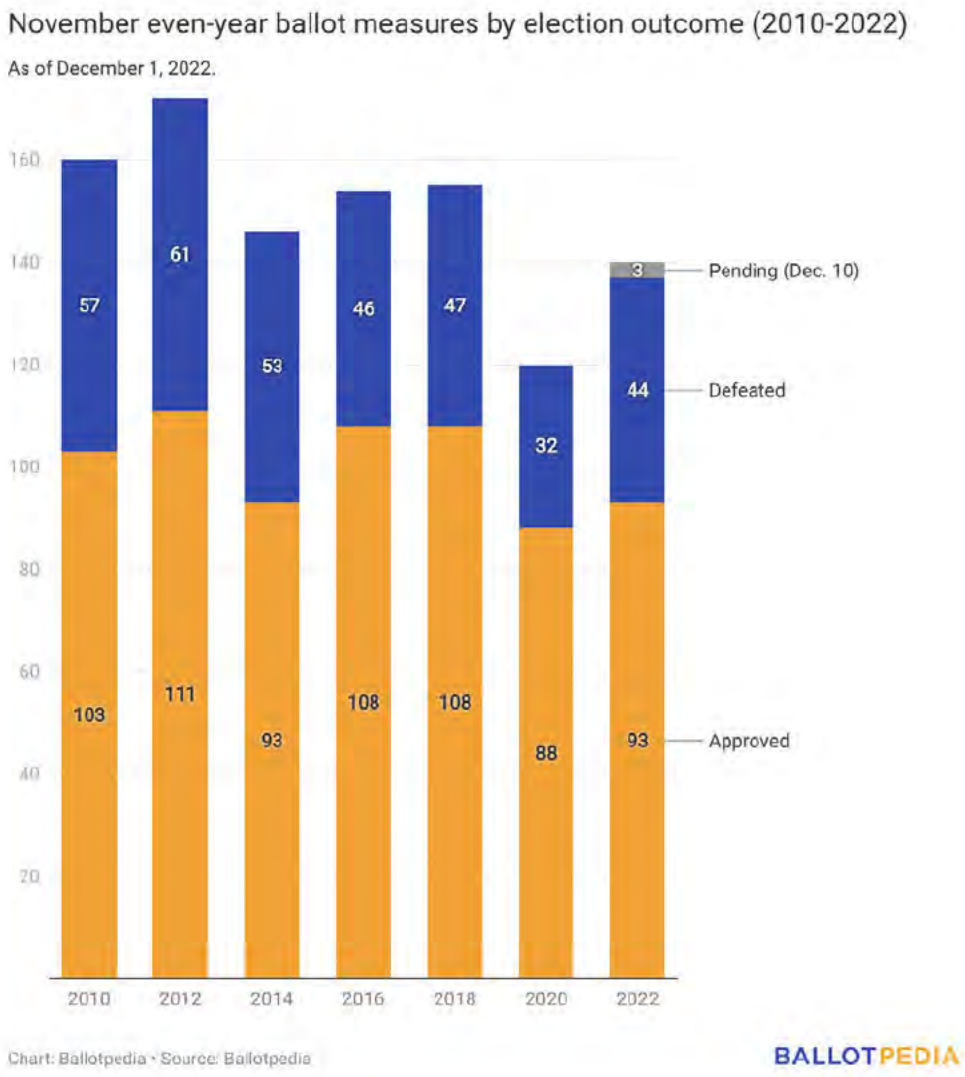
Opponents say the initiative would not resolve underlying issues hampering Nevada's education system. Clark County School District Jess Jara said: "Educating our students adequately requires an honest, reasoned, equitable, accountable, and sustainable strategy supported with optimal funding for the new pupil-centered funding formula to produce outcomes other than Nevada's current 49th in the nation funding levels. This initiative achieves none of these."

The Clark County School District, which has over 300,000 students, is the largest in the state and the fifth-largest in the nation.

The number of school districts in Nevada tumbled following the passage of Assembly Bill 1 in 1956. According to University of Las Vegas Professors Magdalena Martinez and David Damore, "During a 1956 Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, 208 legally active local school districts were eliminated and consolidated into 17 county-based districts."

Nevada counties have until Dec. 23 to certify the submitted signatures.

Nationally, from 2010 and 2020, the average number of statewide ballot measures in an even-numbered year was 164.



Louisiana voters will decide the last three statewide measures of 2022 on Dec. 10.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- "Kids Seem to Be a Paycheck": How a Billion-Dollar Corporation Exploits Washington's Special Education System | *ProPublica*
- Late mail-in vote count topples five conservative school board candidates | *Maryland Matters*
- DeSantis helped flip school boards. They're now making a mark. | *The Washington Post*
- Graham County Education Board member wins by 1 vote in recount | *BPR*
- Boise's teenage trustee says he's 'in exactly the right spot' | *Idaho Ed*

News

- Political rancor has had chilling effect on public education, survey finds | *EdSource*
- The Promise of Habit-Based Learning | *RealClearEducation*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Derek Tisinger, who defeated incumbent Cynthia Brakeman in the general election for Kern High Board of Trustees Trustee Area 1, and incumbent Beverly Slough, who defeated Racheal Hand in the general election for St. Johns County School Board District 1.

Here's how Tisinger answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Individual rights and personal choice. Keep politics and social agendas out of our classrooms. Children belong to their parents and not the government. I am strongly Pro Life. I believe school choice is important for holding or schools accountable in quality education for our children, and also empower our under served communities."

Click here to read the rest of Tisinger's answers.

Here's how Slough answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Providing an excellent education to every student in our county is the focus of my service and candidacy.

Recruiting and retaining the most qualified teachers possible to accomplish this goal is a major focus.

Safety and security of our students is always top of mind."

Click here to read the rest of Slough's answers.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click here to take the survey. And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, share the link with the candidates and urge them to take the survey!

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2022 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2022. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: RE: Concerns
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 08:34

Good morning Jared,

We have worked on this situation and it sounds as if this has been addressed. The following is a reply we received back from Sarah.

Thanks,
John

Hi Faith,
I really appreciate you reaching out and offering your support. Also, thank you, Ken, for coming over and speaking with us on Monday. The climate of our building and team has improved significantly over the past 2 days. Thank you all for your support!

Take care,
Sarah

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 5:48 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Fwd: Concerns

Dr. Sparlin,

This is obviously outside of the Board's governance role. That said,also obviously if the police really are showing up to one of our Junior Highs due to employee on employee issues, that would cause us great concern.

When you have time, a follow up and whatever sides you feel I need to be aware of would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Cordially,

SUBJECT: Re: Concerns
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 11:02

I appreciate all that everyone does!

Take care.

Cordially,
Jared

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 8:34 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good morning Jared,
>
> We have worked on this situation and it sounds as if this has been addressed. The following is a reply we received back from Sarah.
>
> Thanks,
>
> John
>
> Hi Faith,
>
> I really appreciate you reaching out and offering your support. Also, thank you, Ken, for coming over and speaking with us on Monday. The climate of our building and team has improved significantly over the past 2 days. Thank you all for your support!
>
> Take care,
>
> Sarah
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Sunday, December 4, 2022 5:48 PM
> **To:** John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
> **Subject:** Fwd: Concerns

SUBJECT: Fwd: BOE/Superintendent Meeting Summary - 08.31.22
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 14:51
ATTACHMENTS (20221208-145127-0000255): "Board Agreements Updated June 18_2022 (1) (2).docx" , "2.160.FINAL.11.16.20.pdf" , "2160_E_03_2020.doc"

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ursula Studer** <UStuder@sd308.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 1, 2022 at 12:33 PM
Subject: BOE/Superintendent Meeting Summary - 08.31.22
To: <boardmembers@sd308.org>
Cc: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Below please find a summary of today's meeting:
Attendees:
Dr. Sparlin
Faith Dahlquist
LaTonya Simelton
Eugene Gatewood
Ursula Studer

Reflections from August 8 and August 22 BOE Meetings
In an effort to streamline our Board meetings, please review the **attached Board Agreements.** We will follow those to ensure that we are still effective, but also most efficient in order to end meetings on time.
Conversation on a comprehensive/strategic Org Chart/Staffing Plan, prioritizing positions for the vision of the District/Strategic Plan.

Prescott Mill and OE Parking Lot
Dr. Sparlin will look into the cost for a gravel lot, yearly upkeep cost and how long it would last before we would need to asphalt it.
The Village has done their part by enforcing parking restrictions in the Subdivision. We could use the money that they paid us for the OEHS land ($75,500).

Culture and Climate Vision Statement
It was suggested to amend the statement based on the Culture and Climate survey to make sure that it is in alignment with the results we desire and the goals we will be working towards.
The statement should be based on our values for this area.

Vendor Contract Descriptors
A vendor report was requested as a posting on the website or a report to the Board of all vendors that are approaching or exceeding the amount in our Policy, which is currently at $25K. If this amount is amended in the Policy, then the vendor report would be adjusted to the same amount.

IASB Response regarding Attorney Questions
Please see the Q&A below from LaTonya's email with Lori Grant from IASB. It provides a response to questions from the last meeting. **Policy 2:160 and the checklist 2:160-E is attached** for your review. Board members, please email LaTonya if you have more questions after you review the information received. Our options can be discussed at a future Board meeting to determine next

steps.

Conflict of Interest

Sometimes law firms represent one or more districts and the village/municipality in which the districts are located, or they do piecemeal work for each entity. Whether there's a conflict of interest for the lawyer is very fact-dependent, but one could arise if the village/municipality does business with the district. There's no blanket prohibition on lawyers from doing work for both, but they need to conduct an analysis for each situation. In some situations, even if there is a conflict of interest, the represented parties can waive any potential conflicts or otherwise consent to the representation.

Who does the attorney work for – who hires the attorney?

The Board attorney's client is the board of education as an organization (not any one board member). The board hires the board attorney. See policy 2:160, *Board Attorney*. It is not uncommon for the board attorney to have the most contact with the Superintendent in assisting the board with legal matters. The Superintendent is often the primary point of contact. Occasionally, a board attorney will represent the board and district employees, for example in the context of litigation in which the board and employees are named as defendants. It would be up to the Superintendent if he or she wants to hire their own attorney in negotiating their employment contract – many superintendents reach out to IASA's General Counsel for support in that area. There could also be disputes between the board and superintendent when the superintendent may want to seek a personal attorney (such as a contested evaluation or termination of employment contract).

Billable Hours vs. In-house

This really can vary from law firm to law firm. Best practice is to have something in writing memorializing the relationship, whether it be an agreement for legal services or an engagement letter. See policy 2:!60, *Board Attorney*. An agreement or letter that details the services, fees, expenses, and billing format will help the board to monitor legal fees. There is more information about this issue in 2:160-E, *Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney*.

Next step recommendations – The board would like to know the best next steps in approaching this situation, and awaiting response from IASB before moving forward.

2:160-E, *Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney*, is a great resource on the steps a board can take in selecting counsel, and it includes suggested questions for law firm interviews. Some boards, especially those in larger districts, hire multiple firms to cover different pieces of the district's legal work, for example, using one firm for special education matters and another for labor matters.

Monthly or Quarterly Attorney Expenditure Report

It was requested that the Board receive an itemized list detailing funds paid to the attorney's.

Support for Transportation

A link has been created for parents to ask their questions. They are then prioritized and answered by staff in order to lessen the load on our transportation staff.

Have a great rest of the week!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change

SUBJECT: Vendor List
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 15:11

Dr. Sparlin,

After reviewing the contract from the Dec. 5th Meeting I want to know if we can discuss our Attorney contracts or lack thereof in Closed Session at our next meeting?

Thank you!

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Call
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 15:13

Ursula,

If you get a chance, can you give me a call? Not an emergency.

Thank you!

Jared

SUBJECT: Fwd: Inquiry response
FROM: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 15:16

IASB response - Attorney Questions.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
> **Date:** August 31, 2022 at 10:24:29 AM CDT
> **To:** John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
> **Subject: Fwd: Inquiry response**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
> > **Date:** August 30, 2022 at 3:39:54 PM CDT
> > **To:** latonya-simelton@sd308.org
> > **Subject: Inquiry response**
> >
> > **Hi LaTonya,**
> >
> > **See answers to your questions below from our Policy services department regarding board attorney:**
> >
> > **Conflict of Interest**
> >
> > Sometimes law firms represent one or more districts and the village/municipality in which the districts are located, or they do piecemeal work for each entity. Whether there's a conflict of interest for the lawyer is very fact-dependent, but one could arise if the village/municipality does business with the district. There's no blanket prohibition on lawyers from doing work for both, but they need to conduct an analysis for each situation. In some situations, even if there is a conflict of interest, the represented parties can waive any potential conflicts or otherwise consent to the representation.
> >
> > **Who does the attorney work for – who hires the attorney?**
> >
> > The Board attorney's client is the board of education as an organization (not any one board member). The board hires the board attorney. See policy 2:160, *Board Attorney*. It is not

uncommon for the board attorney to have the most contact with the Superintendent in assisting the board with legal matters. The Superintendent is often the primary point of contact. Occasionally, a board attorney will represent the board and district employees, for example in the context of litigation in which the board and employees are named as defendants. It would be up to the Superintendent if he or she wants to hire their own attorney in negotiating their employment contract – many superintendents reach out to IASA's General Counsel for support in that area. There could also be disputes between the board and superintendent when the superintendent may want to seek a personal attorney (such as a contested evaluation or termination of employment contract).

Billable Hours vs. In-house

This really can vary from law firm to law firm. Best practice is to have something in writing memorializing the relationship, whether it be an agreement for legal services or an engagement letter. See policy 2:!60, *Board Attorney*. An agreement or letter that details the services, fees, expenses, and billing format will help the board to monitor legal fees. There is more information about this issue in 2:160-E, *Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney*.

Next step recommendations – The board would like to know the best next steps in approaching this situation, and awaiting response from IASB before moving forward.

2:160-E, *Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney*, is a great resource on the steps a board can take in selecting counsel, and it includes suggested questions for law firm interviews. Some boards, especially those in larger districts, hire multiple firms to cover different pieces of the district's legal work, for example, using one firm for special education matters and another for labor matters.

Lori Grant
Director, Field Services
Illinois Association of School Boards
One Imperial Place
1 East 22nd St., Suite 310
Lombard, Il 60148-120

Email: lgrant@iasb.com
630/629-3776 ext. 1232
Fax:630/629-3940

The vision *of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.*

image001.jpg

SUBJECT: RE: Homebound Students
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 16:43

Good afternoon Jared,

Here is the answer to your questions:

District 308 complies with Section 14-13.01(a) of the School Code which indicates that services are to be provided when a homebound or hospitalized student is unable to attend school due to a condition certified by a medical statement that indicates that the student will or is anticipated, due to the student's medical condition, to be out of school for a minimum of 10 days of school with at least two days at a time multiple times during the school year for two weeks or more or on an "ongoing intermittent basis," which are expected to total 10 days or more. As these services are required by law, SD308 complies with the School Code and does not have a policy. SD308 has developed a process to ensure tutoring services are provided in a timely manner. We utilize both in-person tutors (typically SD308 certified staff members) and subscribe to an online tutoring support system to meet student needs when we lack the staff to complete in person tutoring. This process is comparable with neighboring districts.

As of December 8th, we have served 195 students in our hospitalized and/or homebound programing. We anticipate no less than 300 students will be served in this programming over the course of the 22-23 School Year.

Thank you,
John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 5:50 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Cc: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Homebound Students

Dr. Sparlin,

This is not an emergency. I am merely writing this now so I don't forget to write. Please get back to me at your convenience.

Does 308 have a policy for Homebound Students?

Do we know if it compares to other comparable Districts near us and how they handle Homebound Students?

What kind of a population are we talking about with our Homebound students?

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: RE: Vendor List
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/08/2022 16:52

Good afternoon Jared,

I have added this to the agenda for my meeting with Mrs. Simelton for next week. Have a nice evening.

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 3:12 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Cc: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Vendor List

Dr. Sparlin,

After reviewing the contract from the Dec. 5th Meeting I want to know if we can discuss our Attorney contracts or lack thereof in Closed Session at our next meeting?

Thank you!

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Re: [redacted]
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 12/08/2022 21:38

Thanks [redacted]

I'll begin looking into it. Sorry for the frustration. Hope the family is well outside of this issue.

Take care.

Cordially,
Jared

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 8:02 PM [redacted] wrote:

> Hello,
>
> Please be advised that [redacted] is NO LONGER allowed to purchase lunch if he does not have funds. He has already gone negative in his account by nearly $20. Last time, he was negative by nearly $50. This is like giving a teenager [redacted] an unlimited credit card.
>
> If he is allowed to purchase when his account is negative, we will not be paying for it moving forward.
>
> If he has money in his account, he may purchase. If not, he does not have permission.
>
> I've included the board members on this email so that our school policy can be reviewed and revised. Parents should have full authority on whether or not their child is able to purchase when their account goes in the negative since we are held in full responsibility of the account. An option to turn off pregame should be considered and upheld. Additionally, the law surrounding this is vague and open to interpretation.
>
> Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and support.
>
> [redacted]

SUBJECT: Re: [redacted]
FROM: Shelli Kelsey [redacted]
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/09/2022 08:29

Thanks Jared!!

I really appreciate hearing back from you. Thanks for looking into this. I'm happy to talk about it in more detail if it's helpful.

Shelli

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022, 9:38 PM Jared Ploger [redacted] wrote:

> Thanks Shelli,
>
> I'll begin looking into it. Sorry for the frustration. Hope the family is well outside of this issue.
>
> Take care.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 8:02 PM Shelli Kelsey [redacted] wrote:
>
> > Hello,
> >
> > Please be advised that [redacted] is NO LONGER allowed to purchase lunch if he does not have funds. He has already gone negative in his account by nearly $20. Last time, he was negative by nearly $50. This is like giving a teenager [redacted] an unlimited credit card.
> >
> > If he is allowed to purchase when his account is negative, we will not be paying for it moving forward.
> >
> > If he has money in his account, he may purchase. If not, he does not have permission.
> >
> > I've included the board members on this email so that our school policy can be reviewed and revised. Parents should have full authority on whether or not their child is able to purchase when their account goes in the negative since we are held in full responsibility of the account. An option to turn off pregame should be considered and upheld. Additionally, the law surrounding this is vague and open to interpretation.
> >
> > Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and support.
> >
> > Shelli and John Kelsey
> > [redacted]

SUBJECT: (105 ILCS 123/) Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act
FROM: Amanda Sitar <asitar@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "Alexakos, Patricia" <Alexakos-Patricia@aramark.com>, Andrea Wiaduch <awiaduch@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/09/2022 08:34
ATTACHMENTS (20221209-083431-0000257): "image002.png"

Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey,

We understand your frustrations and would like to assist in any way we can.

Please see the email below regarding the law you are referring to called the Hunger-free Students' Bill of Rights Act, as well as, additional explanation from the Illinois State Board of Education, which states that we cannot deny a student meals if they ask, regardless of negative balances or inability to pay. We are mandated to follow this law.

We can, however, deny them any a la carte (extra -- i.e. chips, cookies, water, extra entrees, etc.) purchases if they have a negative balance.

We do offer meal applications for Free/Reduced meals if you would like to apply. https://www.sd308.org/foodservice

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Take care,
Amanda
--

Amanda Sitar MBA CSBO
Director of Finance

Oswego Community School District 308

SD308 OSWEGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good afternoon,

So the law you are referring to is the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act. Basically what this law is saying is that once a child's outstanding balance reaches $500 and the district has made reasonable efforts to collect the debt from the student's parent or guardian for at least one year, the district can seek an offset under the State Comptroller Act. If this is something you are wanting to do you would need to reach out to the Comptroller's Office.

However, this law does also state that you cannot deny a student a federally reimbursable meal at any point. So if you do reach out to the Comptroller's office and the debt is being handled through their process, you are still required to provide that student a meal when requested.



Thank you,

Abbey Johnson, MS

Principal Consultant

Nutrition Programs

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street

Springfield, IL 62777

Phone: 217-782-2491

From: Shelli Kelsey[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 8:02 PM
To: foodservice@sd308.org; Alexakos, Patricia <Alexakos-Patricia@aramark.com>
Cc: latonya-simelton@sd308.org; eugene-gatewood@sd308.org; jennifer-johnson@sd308.org; dominick-cirone@sd308.org; LDoyle@sd308.org; jared-ploger@sd308.org
Subject: Logan Kelsey

CAUTION: This email was sent from an external sender. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please be advised that [redacted] is NO LONGER allowed to purchase lunch if he does not have funds. He has already gone negative in his account by nearly $20. Last time, he was negative by nearly $50. This is like giving a teenager [redacted] an unlimited credit card.

If he is allowed to purchase when his account is negative, we will not be paying for it moving forward.

If he has money in his account, he may purchase. If not, he does not have permission.

I've included the board members on this email so that our school policy can be reviewed and revised. Parents should have full authority on whether or not their child is able to purchase when their account goes in the negative since we are held in full responsibility of the account. An option to turn off pregame should be considered and upheld. Additionally, the law surrounding this is vague and open to interpretation.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and support.

Shelli and John Kelsey

[redacted]

Take care,
Amanda
--

Amanda Sitar MBA CSBO
Director of Finance

Oswego Community School District 308

SD308 OSWEGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Re: (105 ILCS 123/) Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act
FROM: [redacted]
TO: Amanda Sitar <asitar@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "Alexakos, Patricia" <Alexakos-Patricia@aramark.com>, Andrea Wiaduch <awiaduch@sd308.org>, [redacted]
DATE: 12/09/2022 08:58

Hello Amanda,

We should be able to deny his ability to purchase if we are responsible for the account. He has access to food, but the school offerings are more appealing.

We do not qualify for free and reduced lunch. I would never allow my child to have an open credit card that he can purchase whatever he wants with. This needs to be modified. He has autism and often times does not connect his choices to the consequences. He has access to food and we often make his lunch which we find still in his backpack.

This is something that needs to be addressed by the district and at the state level. If parents are financially responsible for the accounts, they should have the ability to turn off the accounts. This is similar to the teen credit cards out there. We have full control over whether or not that card is on and active.

Thank you,

[redacted]

On Fri, Dec 9, 2022, 8:35 AM Amanda Sitar <asitar@sd308.org> wrote:

> [redacted]
>
> We understand your frustrations and would like to assist in any way we can.
>
> Please see the email below regarding the law you are referring to called the Hunger-free Students' Bill of Rights Act, as well as, additional explanation from the Illinois State Board of Education, which states that we cannot deny a student meals if they ask, regardless of negative balances or inability to pay. We are mandated to follow this law.
>
> We can, however, deny them any a la carte (extra -- i.e. chips, cookies, water, extra entrees, etc.) purchases if they have a negative balance.
>
> We do offer meal applications for Free/Reduced meals if you would like to apply. https://www.sd308.org/foodservice

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Take care,
Amanda
--

Amanda Sitar MBA CSBO
Director of Finance

Oswego Community School District 308



Good afternoon,

So the law you are referring to is the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act. Basically what this law is saying is that once a child's outstanding balance reaches $500 and the district has made reasonable efforts to collect the debt from the student's parent or guardian for at least one year, the district can seek an offset under the State Comptroller Act. If this is something you are wanting to do you would need to reach out to the Comptroller's Office.

However, this law does also state that you cannot deny a student a federally reimbursable meal at any point. So if you do reach out to the Comptroller's office and the debt is being handled through their process, you are still required to provide that student a meal when requested.

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/09/2022 15:06

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Online Update

December 9, 2022

School Board Candidate Petition Filing Opens December 12

Candidates seeking a seat on their local board of education can begin filing nominating petitions on Monday, December 12. The last day for candidates to submit petitions is December 19. IASB has put together a list of key dates for school board candidates. Additional election information for candidates can be found on the IASB website. The four-part "How to Navigate Running for School Board" webinar series is also available and includes videos on the topics of petition circulation and filing, the Statement of Economic Interests, and understanding the board member's role.

IASB Legislative Report

The latest IASB Legislative Report looks back on the Fall Veto Session, including changes to the SAFE-T Act and legislation to pay off dept to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Also highlighted is the upcoming lame-duck session scheduled to begin on January 4 before the 103rd General Assembly is sworn in. Watch the IASB Governmental Relations staff discuss the veto session in this legislative update video.

Board of Directors Minutes

Minutes from August 27, 2022 meeting of the IASB Board of Directors are now available on the IASB website.



[What School Leaders Are Reading Fall 2022]

[IASB Welcomes Three New Staff Members]

[IASB Board Meets Twice, Committees Assigned]

[Filing Period for School Board Candidates Opens December 12]

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.9.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/09/2022 16:54

December 9, 2022

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 18-26*: Hanukkah
*Sorry for the misprint last week!
December 18: International Migrants Day
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

Date	Day	Event
December 9	Friday	Crosstown Basketball @ OE Girls' Basketball Varsity Game @ 5:00 Boys' Basketball Varsity Game @ 6:30 Tickets must be purchased in advance- buy here!
December 13 6-7:00pm - Virtual	Tuesday	Parent University: Managing Mental Health Around the Holidays. Suicide Awareness and Prevention (presented by SCRC) Click Here to Register
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Weathering the Storm Click Here to Register
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	*The Power of No, A Small Word That Will Give Wellbeing To Your Mental Health* Parent Presentation in Spanish: El Poder del 'NO'. Una Pequeña Palabra que Te Dará Bienestar y Salud Mental
December 15 3-6pm	Thursday	Creations by Pathways - Holiday Shoppe 4175 Route 71, Door #2
December 15 (5:00pm)	Thursday	Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry @ Lakewood Creek Elementary
December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break Buildings/District Closed: 12/23, 12/26, 12/30, 01/02)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Please enjoy this week's Video Message from Dr. Sparlin!

Giveaways included!!

Staff Info

Emergency Notification System - A test of our mass communications system for staff (Blackboard) was sent out last night through BlackBoard, the district's mass communication system. If you did not receive a phone call, text message and email, please click here, to provide feedback to the Communications and HR teams.

The ability to communicate with staff is especially important when weather-related closures or other emergencies arise. To verify that we have the correct information on file for you, we ask that you please take a moment to go into the Employee Access system on the Intranet to confirm that your contact information is correct by following these simple steps:

- Open Intranet
- Select "Employee Access"
- Select "My Information" from the left panel
- Select "Profile"
- Update your email and cell phone information if needed

Contract staff members are not automatically included in Blackboard Communications staff groups. Therefore, if you did not receive the Emergency Notification Test Message, please register under this link to be included in our "community member" group in the system.

Crosstown Basketball Games: There are still some tickets available for tonight's Girls'/Boys' Crosstown doubleheader. Tickets are only available via GoFan.co. NO Passes allowed. Please have tickets purchased prior to arrival at the game. Tickets sold on GoFan: **OEHS / OHS**

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter "[redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Winter Building Closures:

- In order to realize significant energy savings, buildings will be closed December 27 - 29, 2022 and January 3 - 6, 2023. Building and district leadership and office staff will work remotely during this time.

Bus Stop and Route Consolidation

Bus route ridership studies were recently conducted to determine opportunities for consolidation of stops and routes to help reduce delays. Any changes to stops and/or routes will be shared with families prior to the conclusion of

winter break and will begin when school resumes in January.

From the Schools

A German Christmas – TONIGHT! Celebrate an evening with Sankt Nikolaus, Krampus, Knecht Ruprecht, and Perchta with A German Christmas at Oswego East High School on Friday, December 9 @ 5:30-7:30. ($5/per person). Click here for more details.

Tomorrow! Thrift Day at Oswego East High School: Tomorrow, Dec. 10, Oswego East High School's Key Club is hosting a community-wide Thrift Day. This is an event for all community members to come and take any clothing items they would like, free of charge. There are a variety of sizes, ranging from children's clothing to adult clothing. Please enter through door 46 and visit the Silver Gym at Oswego East High school between the hours of 11:00am and 3:00pm to do some thrifting! Cash donations will be accepted at the event to fund more projects like this and to make donations to organizations in the community, but are not necessary. Thank you for your support!

Creations by Pathways - Holiday Shoppe: Thursday, December 15 (3-6pm) - 4175 Route 71 (DAC), Door #2. Creations by Pathways is the student-led Micro-Business of the Pathways Transition Program. They are 18 to 22 year olds transitioning between high school and adult life. *Creations by Pathways* students make dog treats, crafts, and bath products to sell at craft shows and online and use the money for special activities, outings, and items needed for the program. This year they went bowling and have a trip to the mall planned for later this month. All products are created and customized by our students.Click Here for flyer.

PRIDE
(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Free, Convenient Telemedicine and Counseling! Starting December 1, 2022, employees enrolled in SD308s HMO, BCO/ PPO or HCA/PPO plans were automatically enrolled in First Stop Health, a telemedicine and virtual counseling healthcare service. Both services are provided to medical-enrolled employees and their immediate family members for FREE! Your immediate family members (e.g., spouse, parent, child, etc.) can be included on your First Stop Health plan, they do not need to be enrolled on the medical plan with you. Download the mobile app or visit the secure, patient dashboard which is accessible online: https://app.fshealth.com. Use your SSN to login! Or call 888-691-7867 to request your telemedicine or counseling visit.

Livongo Health Benefit! If you have Diabetes or High Blood Pressure, Livongo empowers you with tools, insights, and expert support you need. Click Here for flyer. Livongo uses advanced technology, personalized recommendations, and real-time communication to provide you with the right information to help you reach your

health goals. CLICK HERE to register and use the company specific registration code: CUSD308.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 9, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live
  - *BOE Meeting Summary: 12.05.22 Meeting*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Re: Call
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/12/2022 08:35

Good Morning! Hope you enjoyed watching the Crosstown Game :-)

I promised I would let you know [redacted]!

Thank you for your concern and I hope you have a great week!!!
Ursula

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 3:13 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Ursula,
>
> If you get a chance, can you give me a call? Not an emergency.
>
> Thank you!
>
> Jared

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change

SUBJECT: These are a few of our favorite things.
FROM: SuperEval <info@SuperEval.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/12/2022 17:00

View this email in your browser

SuperEval®

December 2022



“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”
— C.S. Lewis, British Writer



Six Elements of Successful Schools – Collaboration is Key

Successful schools make for successful students. While there is some room for debate, highly effective schools tend to have a few key factors in common, including creating collaborative and supportive environments that allow both students and staff to reach their full potential. When it comes to transforming your school district, consider the following steps to help get your school moving in the right direction.

Read the Six Elements of Successful Schools



Best of 2022: Most Read SuperEval Articles

'Tis the season for 'best of the year' lists! From top songs, to movies, to news stories, you're likely to see some of these lists pop up before the end of the year. We wanted to join in on the fun and thought it would be interesting to take a look at our most popular blog articles. Enjoy this curated list of our top three articles of 2022 and the top three articles of all time!

View Our Most Read SuperEval Articles of 2022



Supporting Small and Local Businesses During the Holidays

When searching for the perfect gifts for family and friends, keeping your holiday shopping small and close to home this holiday season can have a significant impact on your community. Although shopping online or at major retailers is convenient, consider these five reasons to shop small and local this season.

Read the Five Reasons to Shop Local During the Holidays

Need Help With SuperEval?

Our award winning help desk is here to provide you assistance.

Email us at support@SuperEval.com or call us toll-free at 1-844-312-EVAL.

Learn More About Our Help Desk



Our Mission

To strengthen teams through self-reflection, deeper conversations, and continuous growth.

Questions?

Send an email to Bob Hartz at BHartz@SuperEval.com.

Get in touch with SuperEval

About | Contact | Support

SuperEval

Copyright (C) 2022 SuperEval. All rights reserved.
You are receiving this message because you are a current user of SuperEval, subscribed to our

mailing list, or attended a conference and registered to receive information from us.

Our mailing address is:
SuperEval
678 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Re: Call
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/12/2022 21:18

Ursula,

Please get rest!! Please!

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 8:35 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning! Hope you enjoyed watching the Crosstown Game :-)
>
> I promised I would let you know how [redacted]
>
> Thank you for your concern and I hope you have a great week!!!
> Ursula
>
> On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 3:13 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Ursula,
> >
> > If you get a chance, can you give me a call? Not an emergency.
> >
> > Thank you!
> >
> > Jared
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change*

SUBJECT: The student loan payment pause has been extended. What's next?
FROM: "Info SLHG" <info@contactslhg.com>
TO: Jared-Ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/13/2022 08:03

Good Morning Illinois public school employees,

In August of 2022, the federal government announced the Debt Relief Program, which aims to forgive up to $20,000 in federal student loans for eligible borrowers. Legal challenges to that program have resulted in the extension of the student loan repayment pause.

Per The Department of Education: " *The student loan payment pause is extended until 60 days after the Department is permitted to implement the debt relief program, or the litigation is resolved. If the program has not been implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, 2023, payments will resume 60 days after that* "

What to look out for:

If your loan balance would be fully forgiven with the Debt Relief Program:

The program could provide forgiveness from $10,000 to $20,000 to eligible borrowers. If that covers the totality of your remaining balance, you'll have to wait until the result of the ongoing litigation. We'll keep you up to date about any new developments.

If your balance is larger than $20,000:

Check your eligibility for the other forgiveness programs available. Many programs have been available for more than ten years and some have no limit on the amount forgiven after the requirements are met. Some of the available programs are:

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) - Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) - Income-Driven Repayment Forgiveness (IDRF) - And more.

These are all federal programs that have no cost to apply. However, learning the criteria and understanding your options can require some time. Therefore, learning what you're eligible for and being pointed in the right direction can't hurt.

TSLHG works closely with educators and other public service institutions to provide a complimentary consultation to whoever is interested in learning their options, what they're eligible for, and what is the best strategy to obtain student loan forgiveness (if eligible). You can schedule an appointment at a time of your convenience with the options below.

Schedule your appointment

Continue with phone

The Student Loan Help Group | FL DOACS License *#TC5038*
O. 844.599.5589 | F. 561.207.8007
tslhg.com

TSLHG

*The Student Loan Help Group assists consumers with all federal student loan filing services. TSLHG is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Zenmax inc. dba The Student Loan Help Group, 11911 US-1 #201-39, North Palm Beach, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408, United States

You may unsubscribe or change your contact details at any time.

SUBJECT: Re: (105 ILCS 123/) Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 12/13/2022 11:05

[redacted]

I am going to ask to have this explained to me personally. I would be VERY frustrated. Let me know when you can sit down and discuss further.

Again, sorry.

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 8:44 AM [redacted] wrote:

> Thank you for your response,
>
> This has been an on-going issue for several years now, and we continue to be told that nothing can be done about it. We have requested for this entire school year that [redacted] not be allowed to purchase when he is at a negative balance....Once again today I received the notification below...as you can see, al a cart was added even though he has a negative balance...This has happened 17+ times this school year. Once again, I request that my child not be allowed to purchase anything other than a single meal when his account is negative. At no point should [redacted] be allowed to purchase second meals, chips, pop, and energy drinks when in a negative balance.
>
> ---
>
> Hello [redacted]
>
> This is the receipt for transactions in your PushCoin account on December 12, 2022 at 12:42:02 PM CST.
>
> Merchant: Oswego CUSD 308
> Cashier: Maria @ "Oswego High 3"
>
> *** Charge $6.15 ***
>
> Transaction ID: [redacted]
> Debited [redacted])
> Wallet balance -$25.95
>
> 1. Taco Meal - $3.15
> 2. KickStart - $3.00
>
> If you have questions or would like to dispute a transaction, forward this receipt along with your inquiry to foodservice@sd308.org
>
> To fund a student Wallet or change your notification settings, login to your PushCoin account at https://www.pushcoin.com/

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #41
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/14/2022 14:03

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

December 14, 2022

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over teachers' union leadership
- Where the nine governors-elect stand on education
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over teachers' union leadership

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues

school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

In a recent interview with *Semafor*, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo criticized the leadership of teachers' unions and said, "The most dangerous person in the world is Randi Weingarten. It's not a close call." Weingarten is the president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teachers' union in America. This week, we'll look at responses to Pompeo's statement.

Ira Stoll writes that Weingarten and other teachers' union leaders are not as powerful or influential as Pompeo says. Stoll says that union leadership represents members and cannot force union policies top-down. He also says responsibility for building curriculum in many states and localities falls to state officials and school board members, not teachers' unions.

Natalya Murakhver writes that teachers' union leaders, including Weingarten, opposed the interests of parents and students and played a large role in lobbying for policies that kept schools closed and students masked during the coronavirus pandemic. Murakhver says such policies contributed to lower math and reading achievement.

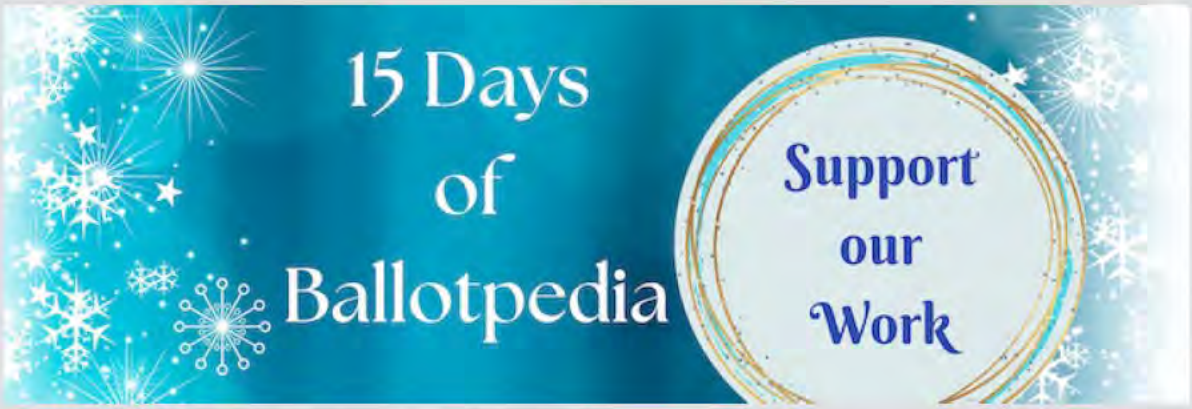
Is Randi Weingarten Really "The Most Dangerous Person in the World"? | Ira Stoll, *Education Next*

"On the substance, Pompeo is off base in a lot of important ways. He singles out Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, by name without mentioning the president of the larger National Education Association. He doesn't mention that rather than imposing her own views, top-down, on the union, Weingarten is elected to represent union members, some of whom are far to her left, and most of whom may be more invested in pay and pension issues than the substance of the social studies curriculum. Weingarten didn't invent the 1619 Project; Nikole Hannah-Jones did. Of all the factors influencing education outcomes in America, teacher-union political power is only one among many. Plenty of jurisdictions with strong unions also have strong math and reading test scores. And in plenty of other places, decisions about textbooks and curriculum are made largely not by the unions but by Republican state and local elected officials. The governments that collapsed most dramatically in recent memory were Communist ones, such as Poland and the Soviet Union, where workers were forbidden from organizing labor unions that were independent of government control."

Mike Pompeo is right: Randi Weingarten IS a danger to our children | Natalya Murakhver, *The New York Post*

"The pandemic lockdowns pulled back the curtain and exposed us to the harsh truth. Suddenly, as parents found themselves fighting on the frontlines to reopen our nation's schools, we were faced with an unfamiliar — and to many of my

fellow liberal Democrats unexpected — adversary. While we may have previously believed we share the same values — commitment to diversity, freedom of choice and all basic civil liberties — it turned out the fake values the unions espoused were not what we thought. Furthermore, they held all the cards while parents were left holding their inconsolable children. … So you'll understand why Mike Pompeo's comment that Randi is the most dangerous person in the world resonated with me. Randi and her fellow union leaders are the ones who kept our schools closed, our children masked and our communities divided during the darkest times of our lives. They had countless opportunities to lead, to help to unite. But they chose to destroy instead. The result? Math tests scores decreased by the largest amount ever. Decades were taken off reading scores. The union, meanwhile, wants fewer tests, less accountability, and an overall lowering of academic standards."



Where the nine first-time governors stand on education

On Nov. 8, voters elected 36 governors—nine for the first time. Of the nine first-time governors, six are Democrats and three are Republicans. Most of the governors-elect will assume office in January 2023, and they will begin carrying out their priorities—which, for all governors, includes making changes to state education policies.

Governors play a central role in influencing education policy. But that hasn't always been the case. According to education and government scholar Arnold Shober, before the 1970s, "many governors felt comfortable leaving education to school boards and state superintendents because states provided relatively modest payments to districts."

Today, governors set a vision for education in their annual State of the State Addresses. Governors also propose state budgets that include education financing, and approve the final version of the budget the legislature passes. In many states, governors appoint state superintendents or state board of education members.

In the sections that follow, we'll briefly look at what the new governors-elect have said about their K-12 public education priorities.

Arizona

Gov.-elect Katie Hobbs (D) defeated Kari Lake (R) 50.4% to 49.6%. Hobbs is the Arizona Secretary of State. Doug Ducey (R) was term-limited.

Hobbs' education plan includes universal Pre-K, hiring more school counselors and social workers, investing in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers, and making charter schools more accountable to taxpayers.

Hobbs opposes Arizona's recently-implemented Empowerment Scholarship Account program. The program allows all K-12 students to use taxpayer-funded education accounts to attend schools or pay for curriculum or tutoring outside the public school system. Hobbs said: "This voucher system we are under now doesn't provide real choice in educational opportunity for most families. It diverts resources from public schools and provides a subsidy for already wealthy children whose parents could already afford private education for them."

Arkansas

Gov.-elect Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) defeated Chris Jones (D) 63.1% to 35.1%. Incumbent Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) was term-limited.

Huckabee Sanders titled her education plan Arkansas LEARNS. The plan calls for improving access to Pre-K (Literacy), curriculum transparency and choice (Empowerment), rewarding quality teachers with higher pay (Accountability), preparing students for the workforce (Readiness), expanding access to high-speed internet (Networking), and school safety and mental health (Safety).

Hawaii

Governor Joshua Green (D) defeated Duke Aiona (R) 67.2% to 32.8%. Green, who was sworn into office on Dec. 7, was the Hawaii Lieutenant Governor. Former Gov. David Ige (D) was term-limited.

Green said he would "develop and fund a universal public Pre-K program" and "expand literacy programs for students who need extra help reading." Green also said he would "hire and retain quality, experienced teachers by offering competitive pay, benefits, and affordable housing" and "conduct a comprehensive review of Department of Education spending to identify and direct more resources into our classrooms."

Green said: "Finding the right superintendent who sets the right culture for the DOE is critical; and my preference for this position would be an individual who has an education background, has experience within the DOE system or one similar to it."

Maryland

Gov.-elect Wes Moore (D) defeated Dan Cox (R) 59.8% to 37%. Incumbent Larry Hogan (R) was term-limited.

Moore's education plan includes fully funding Maryland's Blueprint for Education, a 2021 law that increased education funding by $3.8 billion a year over 10 years, raising teacher salaries and strengthening collective bargaining, providing free Pre-K, and encouraging students to go into STEM fields and funding dual enrollment and apprenticeship programs.

Massachusetts

Gov.-elect Maura Healey (D) defeated Geoff Diehl (R) 63.8% to 34.7%. Healey is the state attorney general. Incumbent Gov. Charlie Baker (R) did not seek re-election.

Healey's education plan includes fully funding the Student Opportunity Act, a 2019 law that would add $1.5 billion to Massachusetts schools over seven years, hiring more school counselors and social workers, updating school buildings, and promoting "policies and legislation that will create a pipeline to better recruit, retain, and promote educators of color."

Nebraska

Gov.-elect Jim Pillen (R) defeated Carol Blood (D) 59.9% to 36.2%. Pillen is an elected member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Gov. Pete Ricketts (R) was term-limited.

Pillen says: "Our mission in education is to prepare our children for the future, not introduce political ideology. As the parent of a high school junior, I join thousands of Nebraska parents in opposing the proposed State Board of Education 'health standards,' which sexualize students and supplant parental values with a radical view."

Pillen supports charter schools and believes the school funding formula should change: "I'm not talking about defunding. I'm talking about changing the funding. So let's just keep it simple math. A billion dollars of state funds divided by the number of students, and the funding follows a student to the school district. So it's per student funding, not per district funding. "

Nevada

Gov.-elect Joe Lombardo (R) defeated incumbent Gov. Steve Sisolak (D) 49.7% to 46.6%. Lombardo is the Clark County Sheriff.

Lombardo said he will "implement school choice initiatives that empower Nevada families" and "re-prioritize and re-institute pivotal educational programs like Read by Grade Three that have been proven to give students a better chance at success." Lombardo also supports "expanding vocational training and workforce development programs" and working with the legislature to "to repeal 'restorative justice' measures, which have made our schools demonstrably less safe." In 2019, the state enacted a law requiring schools to provide a "plan of action based on restorative justice before expelling a pupil."

Lombardo also wants to evaluate "potential ballot initiatives that would allow for the break up of the Clark County School District and other school districts that are underperforming."

Oregon

Gov.-elect Tina Kotek (D) defeated Christine Drazan (R) 47.1% to 43.4%. Kotek is a former state representative. Incumbent Governor Kate Brown (D) was term-limited.

Kotek said she would "improve Oregon's graduation rates to 90% for all student groups by 2027" and ensure "all children are reading by third grade." Kotek supports real-time assessments over standardized testing and opposes "any effort to undermine public schools by providing taxpayer dollars to private schools in the name of 'school choice.'" She also called for all high school students to take a financial literacy and life skills course to learn skills like budgeting and resume writing.

Kotek said, "I have always supported maintaining rigorous standards for reading, writing, and math. But we don't need to keep adding on more and more standardized testing beyond what is necessary to monitor student progress. We need to let teachers teach – and our students will benefit from more instructional time."

Pennsylvania

Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro (D) defeated Doug Mastriano (R) 54.8% to 43.4%. Shapiro is the current state attorney general. Incumbent Gov. Tom Wolf (D) was term-limited.

Shapiro supports "fully funding and fixing up our schools, prioritizing mental health, empowering students with vocational, technical, and computer training, and ensuring parents have a real voice in their children's education." Shapiro also said he will "ensure that every school building in the Commonwealth has at least one mental health counselor, and end our reliance on standardized testing so we can create more time for kids to learn and more flexibility for teachers to teach."

Shapiro supports lifeline scholarships, a policy that would allow some students

from low-performing schools to use state money on educational expenses, including private school tuition. Shapiro said, "I'm for fully funding public education. I'm for making sure we give parents the ability to put their kids in the best situation for them to be able to succeed. And I'm for making sure we add scholarships like lifeline scholarships to make sure that that's additive to their educations." In April, the Pennsylvania House voted 104-98 to establish the Lifeline Scholarship program. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill in June, but the full Sente has yet to act on it.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- The 10 Most Significant Education Studies of 2022 | *Edutopia*
- A Fast-Growing Network of Conservative Groups Is Fueling a Surge in Book Bans | *The New York Times*
- Florida proposal would add political parties to school board races | *Click Orlando*
- Oklahoma attorney general greenlights religious charter schools | *K-12 Dive*
- The End of High-School English | *The Atlantic*
- Teen brains aged faster than normal from pandemic stress, study says | *The Washington Post*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from incumbent Khem Irby (D), who won the general election for Guilford County Schools school board District 6, and Robert Barr (R), who was one of four candidates who won election to Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools school board District 2 (four seats were up for election).

Here's how Irby answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**

"I am personally passionate about being able to



provide the best possible education with the resources that are given to us. I am committed to working with and advocating along side my colleagues for a greater investment for public good of education. Our policies must show children that we want them to be successful and that we respect and support educators for being the experts in a successful educational system. Policies will show the community that we care about the future of Guilford County, safety in schools, the overall well-being of our staff, educators and students, and ending the pipeline to prison which plagues many school systems around the country. I believe that education is the responsibility of the entire village and it will be successful in this light as we continue to build relationships and invite new partners to the table to share their ideas. I see Guilford County as an up and coming model for families to build a future for success and wealth for those who have been marginalized."

Click here to read the rest of Irby's answers.

Here's how Barr answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Making sure all of our kids have the support and resources to learn. I grew up in public housing, raised by a single parent, and economically disadvantaged. However, because of the support of a guidance counselor and a program called Upward Bound that helped my mother and I navigate the educational system I was able to achieve some success. I have a Masters Degree from Wake Forest and a Bachelors Degree from Winston-Salem State University. Through education and the proper support, all children can learn. I am a big advocate of parental involvement and engagement. Parents are a crucial and critical part of children learning."

Click here to read the rest of Barr's answers.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2022. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Re: Spreadsheet shared with you: "Available Visits"
FROM: "Casey O'Connell" <coconnell@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/14/2022 15:41

Hi Jared-

I wanted to let you know that I signed up for you to come to Homestead tomorrow from 2-3. When I just looked at the sign-up, I saw Wolf's Crossing was in my spot. I am not sure what happened, but I put it in my calendar a long time ago so I am thinking that it was erased by accident. I have signed up again for April 3.

Thank you.

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 3:02 PM Jared Ploger (via Google Sheets) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:

> Jared Ploger shared a spreadsheet
>
> Jared Ploger (jared-ploger@sd308.org) has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:
>
> Available Visits
>
> Open
>
> Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
> You have received this email because jared-ploger@sd308.org shared a spreadsheet with you from Google Sheets. Google Workspace

--

Casey O'Connell
Principal
Homestead Elementary School

(630) 636-3110

HOMESTEAD students are ***independent*** **problem solvers** who **think critically and creatively** to ***continually grow*** their **academic, social,** and **emotional skills.**

SUBJECT: Re: Spreadsheet shared with you: "Available Visits"
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: "Casey O'Connell" <coconnell@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/14/2022 19:55

Casey,

I feel terrible about that! I'm not sure what happened either. Let me know if you'd like me to get there sooner. I really do appreciate everything you are doing over at Homestead! It is GREATLY appreciated!

Please let me know.

Cordially,
Jared

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 3:41 PM Casey O'Connell <coconnell@sd308.org> wrote:

> Hi Jared-
>
> I wanted to let you know that I signed up for you to come to Homestead tomorrow from 2-3. When I just looked at the sign-up, I saw Wolf's Crossing was in my spot. I am not sure what happened, but I put it in my calendar a long time ago so I am thinking that it was erased by accident. I have signed up again for April 3.
>
> Thank you.
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 3:02 PM Jared Ploger (via Google Sheets) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:
>
> > Jared Ploger shared a spreadsheet
> >
> > Jared Ploger (jared-ploger@sd308.org) has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:
> >
> > Available Visits
> >
> > Open
> >
> > Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
> > You have received this email because jared-ploger@sd308.org shared a spreadsheet with you from Google Sheets.
> > Google Workspace

--

Casey O'Connell
Principal
Homestead Elementary School
(630) 636-3110

HOMESTEAD students are ***independent*** **problem solvers** who **think critically and creatively** to ***continually grow*** their **academic, social,** and **emotional skills.**

SUBJECT: Re: Spreadsheet shared with you: "Available Visits"
FROM: "Casey O'Connell" <coconnell@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/14/2022 20:40

No worries. I appreciate the kind words. We can wait until April! Have a great holiday break with your family!

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:56 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Casey,
>
> I feel terrible about that! I'm not sure what happened either. Let me know if you'd like me to get there sooner. I really do appreciate everything you are doing over at Homestead! It is GREATLY appreciated!
>
> Please let me know.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 3:41 PM Casey O'Connell <coconnell@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Hi Jared-
> >
> > I wanted to let you know that I signed up for you to come to Homestead tomorrow from 2-3. When I just looked at the sign-up, I saw Wolf's Crossing was in my spot. I am not sure what happened, but I put it in my calendar a long time ago so I am thinking that it was erased by accident. I have signed up again for April 3.
> >
> > Thank you.
> >
> > On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 3:02 PM Jared Ploger (via Google Sheets) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:
> >
> > Jared Ploger shared a spreadsheet
> >
> > Jared Ploger (jared-ploger@sd308.org) has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:
> >
> > Available Visits
> >
> > Open
> >
> > Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
> > You have received this email because jared-ploger@sd308.org shared a spreadsheet with Google Workspace

> > > you from Google Sheets.

--



Casey O'Connell
Principal
Homestead Elementary School
(630) 636-3110

HOMESTEAD students are ***independent*** **problem solvers** who **think critically and creatively** to ***continually grow*** their **academic, social,** and **emotional skills.**

--



Casey O'Connell
Principal
Homestead Elementary School
(630) 636-3110

HOMESTEAD students are ***independent*** **problem solvers** who **think critically and creatively** to ***continually grow*** their **academic, social,** and **emotional skills.**

SUBJECT: Share your recent event experience
FROM: "greg.harris@sched.com via SurveyMonkey" <member@surveymonkeyuser.com>
TO: jac2022 <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/15/2022 08:32

Your Recent Event Experience

I understand that you recently attended jac2022.sched.com.

Sched is on a quest to discover the perfect formula for amazing events. We'd love your input!

Would you mind taking 3 MINUTES to answer a few questions about your experience?

Regards,
Greg Harris
VP of Marketing
Sched.com

Which of the following describes the primary goal of the event you recently attended?

- Professional Development
- Personal Development
- Company or Team Meeting
- Multi-company conference
- Fun
- Other (please specify)

Please do not forward this email as its survey link is unique to you.
Privacy | Unsubscribe

Powered by

SUBJECT: Public Records
FROM: Lisa Dalessio [redacted]
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/15/2022 10:38

Hi Jared,
Do you know if I am able to FOIA the sub TA pay of the teachers from OE and OEHS?

Thanks,
Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: Public Records
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Lisa Dalessio [redacted]
DATE: 12/15/2022 12:40

Lisa,

Hope this email finds you well

Those are public salaries. If you submit a FOIA request, I am not sure why they wouldn't either give that information OR direct you to the place that has it.

Cordially,
Jared

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 10:39 AM Lisa Dalessio [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Jared,
> Do you know if I am able to FOIA the sub TA pay of the teachers from OE and OEHS?
>
> Thanks,
> Lisa
>
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Thank you for WC!
FROM: Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jennifer Aughenbaugh <jaughenbaugh@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/16/2022 10:15

Mr. Ploger,
It is always a pleasure to have you visit Wolf's Crossing! Thank you for being such a great listener, and for coming out to our school to see the decisions you help make, and our practices in action! I think several of our students learned more about your role yesterday, and I'm sure you taking the time to talk with them will not soon be forgotten. I look forward to having you back for WATCH D.O.G.S next week!

Cortnye J. Russell
Principal-Wolf's Crossing Elementary School
3015 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60503
630-636-3710

"Wisest is he who knows what he does not know." -Plato

SUBJECT: Re: Thank you for WC!
FROM: Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jennifer Aughenbaugh <jaughenbaugh@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/16/2022 11:44

I'm thrilled you will both be joining us for WATCH DOGS next Thursday. FYI, it will be "Wear Your Holiday Best" day for our Winter Break countdown. Wear whatever you are comfortable with, but I wanted to let you know. Thank you!

Cortnye J. Russell
Principal-Wolf's Crossing Elementary School
3015 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60503
630-636-3710

"Wisest is he who knows what he does not know." -Plato

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 10:15 AM Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org> wrote:

> Mr. Ploger,
> It is always a pleasure to have you visit Wolf's Crossing! Thank you for being such a great listener, and for coming out to our school to see the decisions you help make, and our practices in action! I think several of our students learned more about your role yesterday, and I'm sure you taking the time to talk with them will not soon be forgotten. I look forward to having you back for WATCH D.O.G.S next week!
>
> Cortnye J. Russell
> Principal-Wolf's Crossing Elementary School
> 3015 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60503
> 630-636-3710
>
> *"Wisest is he who knows what he does not know." -Plato*

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/16/2022 14:27
ATTACHMENTS (20221216-142725-0000259): "Superintendent's Update - December 16. 2022.docx" , "BOE Grant Memo - November 2022.pdf" , "20221216 Fund Balance BOE Update.pdf" , "BOE - Neighboring Districts SRO Comparison Memo.pdf" , "BOE OSS Report - November SY 2023 FINAL.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. I hope that you have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/16/2022 15:06

Online Update

December 16, 2022

2022 Legislative Session Overview

Approximately one-third of the bills introduced by members of the Illinois General Assembly each year have public education implications. The 2022 Legislative Session Overview includes an annual summary of the outcomes and details of bills that were approved, defeated, or amended, and how the proposals impact public education in Illinois.

Updated Finance Election Data

After each election cycle IASB compiles election results from referenda throughout the state and maintains a database of school finance referenda for bond issues (building and working cash bonds), school tax rate propositions, and county school facilities sales tax outcomes. The charts have been updated to include the results from the November 8, 2022 general election, as well as historical finance election data.

[What School Leaders Are Reading Fall 2022]

[IASB Legislative Report 102-45]

[IASB Welcomes Three New Staff Members]

[Filing Period for School Board Candidates Closes December 19]

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.16.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/16/2022 17:21

December 16, 2022

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 18-26: Hanukkah
December 18: International Migrants Day
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

Date	Day	Event
December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break Buildings/District Closed
January 9	Monday	Students Return from Winter Break First Day of 2nd Semester (grades 6-12)
January 9 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ Oswego East High School (Community Room) and streaming live online at www.sd308.org.
January 13 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry-Oswego Satellite Location @ 61 Franklin Street, Oswego **Spread the word: Open to all Kendall Co residents AND residents living within SD 308 boundaries. When attending for the first time, please bring an ID and piece of mail to show your address.**
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day (No School/District Closed)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

Stay warm this weekend, winter sure came quick! This week I spent three days in elementary schools, and I was

once again blown away by the amazing things going on in our classrooms! Keep up the awesome job!! Our students are experiencing extraordinary things, hands-on learning that will stick with them forever. These final days before break are challenging to stay focused and keep students engaged- but I know you'll finish strong! I do hope that throughout this busy holiday season, you find time for yourself and time to be with your family and friends. It's easy to get so wrapped up in the unrealistic pressure of making things perfect. Remember that you're a blessing, and we're so glad you're part of our district family! Warmest holiday wishes to you all!

Staff Info

WELCOME: Pamela Panozzo, *Interim Assistant Principal, The Wheatlands Elementary School!* CLICK HERE for more information about Pam.

CONGRATULATIONS AMY TRUEMPER! Amy Truemper is 1 of 20 individuals selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short Term Program (Fulbright DAST). She will be traveling to Vietnam this Spring, working with teachers at the Nguyen Quang Dieu High School for the Gifted in Yen Bai City, Vietnam. The team will be working on a project, The Language of STEM: Strengthened Pedagogical Approaches and Curriculum Design in English. The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange program and has been supported by the people of the US and partner countries of the world since 1946. Fulbright alumni include 61 Nobel Prize laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 40 who have served as a head of state or government.

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter "[redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Winter Building Closures: *(Original memo can be found on Intranet)*

- In order to realize significant energy savings, buildings will be closed December 27 - 29, 2022 and January 3 - 6, 2023. Building and district leadership and office staff will work remotely during this time.
- Please be sure to have Winter Signs posted, indicating building closures over break.

From the Schools

B.I.O.N.I.C. - OHS Giving Tree: B.I.O.N.I.C. would like to thank all who helped with this year's Giving Tree. Through all the generous donations, they were able to provide gifts and gift cards for 11 families this year. Approximately 50 students stayed after school to help wrap all the gifts to get the trees ready to give away and to make the holiday season magical for these families. CLICK HERE for video.

Oswego High's Special Ed Dept. Shouted Out as Local Hero, *published by The Patch on 12.13.22.* The Patch has recently launched an initiative to help recognize heroes making a difference in the community and working to share their outstanding stories. CLICK HERE to read this shout out regarding our OHS Special Ed Department.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Save Money on High-Cost Medicines with FlexAccess - We are happy to introduce **FlexAccess**, a new Blue Cross and Blue Shield of IL benefit that will start January 1, 2023 for employees enrolled in either the PPO or HCA plans. **FlexAccess** is a cost assistance program designed to help lower the cost of certain specialty and other high-cost medicine(s). Please note: If at any time your medicine(s) are no longer part of the program, the amount you would pay for your prescription will be based on plan benefits. You can call **FlexAccess** at 1-888-302-3618, or email **FlexAccess** Member Services at member.services@flexaccessrx.com to find out if your drug is covered under this program or for any questions about this program.

PRIDE
(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Huntington Learning Center - Now hiring Part-Time Teachers: Special Education, K-12 Academic Skill Building, High School Math & Science, ACT/SAT Prep. CLICK HERE for more information or email: oswegoil@hlcmail.com.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 9, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live
  - *BOE Meeting Summary: 12.05.22 Meeting*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.

Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Re: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 12/18/2022 09:21

[redacted]

First and foremost, I want you to know that I am deeply concerned and troubled about your daughter's education. As a teacher, I have taught many students, keep in contact with many students, and that is our primary focus. Also, as a grandparent, please know that your story DOES pull at my heart strings.

Second, only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board, so the following is merely my opinion and nothing more. I can NOT speak on behalf of the Board of Education. A single Board Member actually has no authority. Only the Board as a whole unit has any authority.

Third, I won't say I respond to EVERY email, but I'm pretty good about it.

Fourth, I would say more and get involved more here but I will be honest, once someone starts discussing legal routes, most of what you are talking about, I would need to defer you to our Board President who, again, is the only one who can speak on behalf of the Board.

Finally, may I ask who you have contacted so far at Oswego High School? I ABSOLUTELY care about your daughter's situation. If I did not, I wouldn't be responding to this on a Sunday morning. What I need to be able to do, however, is figure out who you have spoken to? I know you have stated you have spoken to everyone. Does that include our Principal at Oswego High School? The Board is not present in schools and does not take care of the day to day operations. That doesn't mean we don't care. It just means we don't have the means to provide direct support. I am absolutely happy, however, to try and get in touch with someone and have them contact you.

I am sorry about your increased stress level. SEL is definitely something I have stressed as a needed priority since returning to the Board in April.

Cordially,
Jared

On Sat, Dec 17, 2022 at 9:46 AM Schopp Ashley [redacted] wrote:

> Hello,
>
> My name is Ashley, I am the mother of a beautiful daughter who is currently enrolled in Oswego High School district 308. She is [redacted] supposed to be in her sophomore year in high school her name is [redacted]. Before Covid before high school [redacted] was an outgoing happy child who loved to be outside. [redacted] never was a straight a student, but she did well, and she always tried her best and always had a smile on her face. When she started her freshman year everything started to change. She began going to Oswego High School around October of her freshman year since we just bought a home in the school district. She transferred from West Aurora high school; which I'd like to add she was having similar problems at West Aurora but I was getting a lot more help from them. Oswego High School has given me almost no help up until recently and this I am being told can take up to three months so by then she will be done with her sophomore year . My daughter is currently in the middle of her sophomore year and only has one and a half credits. Her freshman year I worked nights, so I was able to drop her off and watch her walk through the front doors of the school, this year I am working mornings, so her stepfather drops her off at the bus and watches the bus drive away. Several hours into the day while I'm at work I check the parent portal and or I receive an automated email from the school saying my daughter has not attended all her classes or sometimes only a few classes. This has been going on for two school years now and Oswego High School has done

nothing to help me I have spoken to numerous people emailed numerous people and I'm getting the same response from everyone. Stating there are 2800+ students and they cannot keep track and cater to each of them individually. My daughter is now getting all F's and has been basically since she started attending high school. I truly believe that this school is only intended to help students that don't have emotional, behavioral, or academic problems. Why would I think otherwise since they have done absolutely nothing for my child besides point the finger at myself and her and not taking accountability for not doing their jobs and giving my daughter the proper education and safety her and I deserve. not to mention a school by LAW is supposed to give those things. I recently took my daughter completely out of school since I only have two choices which I am completely unhappy with both. I can continue to let her go, where we watch her get on the bus and then later that day find out she didn't go to any of her classes. I can be sick to my stomach all day wondering who she's with, where she's at and what she's doing. Is she safe is she dead is she doing drugs is she being raped all these questions have been running through my mind for the last two school years while I am at work, nor is she getting not any education at all with this option. My other option Is keeping her home with her older sister who has already graduated high school and can watch her knowing she is safe all day, in my home and possibly getting some sort of work done. This has played a big part on my health and is probably why I am now [redacted]. Most of the teachers which I have emailed have either not emailed me back or will not except any or most of her work since she is not attending the classes. I have explained to them the situation and told them I do not like either of my choices, but this is the only choice at this time I have, where I know my daughter is safe since they cannot do that for me. I am angry that this is even going on that I have gotten no help and it is making things in my home hard with the rest of our family. I have explained to the school as she has, telling them what is going on, and that she feels uncomfortable at that school because of the number of students in each class and the things that are allowed to go on which distracts her. The school district (as many other schools) allowing phones in classrooms is ridiculous my child is there for an education not to play on social media. The first day of her sophomore year I walked her through to each of her classes and I could not believe what I seen every student that was a female was dressed completely inappropriately butt cheeks out, breast out, stomach showing and not one person said anything to anyone. I spoke with one of the deans and was basically brushed off that this is how it is now and at the dress code has changed. He did go on to tell me how this makes some of the "male teachers uncomfortable " are you serious??? What does that mean???? These are children, and the school is teaching them that they can act like adults dressed like adults and make their own decisions. Schools and parents are there to Guide children, not allow them to do as they please this is why things are getting so bad now and everyone is just making it worse by not doing anything and I will not allow this to affect my children and who they become as adults. My name WILL BE known in the school district, I will be all over please if someone does not do something to help my child. I do not have the money to put her in a private school. I should not have to put my child in a private school since there is supposed to be a perfectly good public high school right down the road from my home . I believe district 308 should be responsible for the cost of whatever school I choose to put my child in since they cannot do their job and give my daughter the education and safety they are supposed to by law. I'm assuming I will not get a response from any of you as it has been impossible to contact anybody and when I have, I get no response from the school. I'm assuming the same will go with the school board. My next step is looking into lawyers and the only reason why this has not been done is the cost but at this point I will spend my last dollar to make it happen. I want my daughter to graduate high school not a GED not go to an alternative school with a bunch of missed behave children and be taught at grace school level... please don't tell me different as I know this for a fact is how it's fine in alternative schools. My daughter needs more than that she is not a bad kid she is polite, good, and kind and deserves so much more attention than she is getting from the school district. I am close to going to the papers, but I figured I would try to speak with you guys hoping someone will care someone will help us. I understand you may all be new to this situation so I will try to be Understanding of that, but I need you all to understand that this is not new for me I have been doing this for two years now and I've gotten nowhere with anyone, my daughters future is at stake. I demand HELP!!!!!!

Sincerely an angry concerned compassionate mother,

Ashley

Get Outlook for iOS
This electronic transmission contains confidential information from FXI and is intended only for the proper recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message. Any

unauthorized review, copying, disclosure, or other use of the contents of this message, is prohibited.

SUBJECT: Fwd: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/18/2022 09:23

Dr. Sparlin,

I am not sure if anyone forwarded this to you. While obviously I am not asking for specifics, can you let me know who gets back to her?

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Schopp Ashley** [redacted]>
Date: Sat, Dec 17, 2022 at 9:46 AM
Subject: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
To: BOE@sd308.org <BOE@sd308.org>, Ricky Rosa [redacted]

Hello,

My name is Ashley, I am the mother of a beautiful daughter who is currently enrolled in Oswego High School district 308. She is [redacted] supposed to be in her sophomore year in high school her name is [redacted] Before Covid before high school [redacted] was an outgoing happy child who loved to be outside. [redacted] never was a straight a student, but she did well, and she always tried her best and always had a smile on her face. When she started her freshman year everything started to change. She began going to Oswego High School around October of her freshman year since we just bought a home in the school district. She transferred from West Aurora high school; which I'd like to add she was having similar problems at West Aurora but I was getting a lot more help from them. Oswego High School has given me almost no help up until recently and this I am being told can take up to three months so by then she will be done with her sophomore year . My daughter is currently in the middle of her sophomore year and only has one and a half credits. Her freshman year I worked nights, so I was able to drop her off and watch her walk through the front doors of the school, this year I am working mornings, so her stepfather drops her off at the bus and watches the bus drive away. Several hours into the day while I'm at work I check the parent portal and or I receive an automated email from the school saying my daughter has not attended all her classes or sometimes only a few classes. This has been going on for two school years now and Oswego High School has done nothing to help me I have spoken to numerous people emailed numerous people and I'm getting the same response from everyone. Stating there are 2800+ students and they cannot keep track and cater to each of them individually. My daughter is now getting all F's and has been basically since she started attending high school. I truly believe that this school is only intended to help students that don't have emotional, behavioral, or academic problems. Why would I think otherwise since they have done absolutely nothing for my child besides point the finger at myself and her and not taking accountability for not doing their jobs and giving my daughter the proper education and safety her and I deserve. not to mention a school by LAW is supposed to give those things. I recently took my daughter completely out of school since I only have two choices which I am completely unhappy with both. I can continue to let her go, where we watch her get on the bus and then later that day find out she didn't go to any of her classes. I can be sick to my stomach all day wondering who she's with, where she's at and what she's doing. Is she safe is she dead is she doing drugs is she being raped all these questions have been running through my mind for the last two school years while I am at work, nor is she getting not any education at all with this option. My other option Is keeping her home with her older sister who has already graduated high school and can watch her knowing she is safe all day, in my home and possibly getting some sort of work done. This has played a big part on my

health and is probably why I am [redacted]. Most of the teachers which I have emailed have either not emailed me back or will not except any or most of her work since she is not attending the classes. I have explained to them the situation and told them I do not like either of my choices, but this is the only choice at this time I have, where I know my daughter is safe since they cannot do that for me. I am angry that this is even going on that I have gotten no help and it is making things in my home hard with the rest of our family. I have explained to the school as she has, telling them what is going on, and that she feels uncomfortable at that school because of the number of students in each class and the things that are allowed to go on which distracts her. The school district (as many other schools) allowing phones in classrooms is ridiculous my child is there for an education not to play on social media. The first day of her sophomore year I walked her through to each of her classes and I could not believe what I seen every student that was a female was dressed completely inappropriately butt cheeks out, breast out, stomach showing and not one person said anything to anyone. I spoke with one of the deans and was basically brushed off that this is how it is now and at the dress code has changed. He did go on to tell me how this makes some of the "male teachers uncomfortable " are you serious??? What does that mean???? These are children, and the school is teaching them that they can act like adults dressed like adults and make their own decisions. Schools and parents are there to Guide children, not allow them to do as they please this is why things are getting so bad now and everyone is just making it worse by not doing anything and I will not allow this to affect my children and who they become as adults. My name WILL BE known in the school district, I will be all over please if someone does not do something to help my child. I do not have the money to put her in a private school. I should not have to put my child in a private school since there is supposed to be a perfectly good public high school right down the road from my home . I believe district 308 should be responsible for the cost of whatever school I choose to put my child in since they cannot do their job and give my daughter the education and safety they are supposed to by law. I'm assuming I will not get a response from any of you as it has been impossible to contact anybody and when I have, I get no response from the school. I'm assuming the same will go with the school board. My next step is looking into lawyers and the only reason why this has not been done is the cost but at this point I will spend my last dollar to make it happen. I want my daughter to graduate high school not a GED not go to an alternative school with a bunch of missed behave children and be taught at grace school level... please don't tell me different as I know this for a fact is how it's fine in alternative schools. My daughter needs more than that she is not a bad kid she is polite, good, and kind and deserves so much more attention than she is getting from the school district. I am close to going to the papers, but I figured I would try to speak with you guys hoping someone will care someone will help us. I understand you may all be new to this situation so I will try to be Understanding of that, but I need you all to understand that this is not new for me I have been doing this for two years now and I've gotten nowhere with anyone, my daughters future is at stake. I demand HELP!!!!!!

Sincerely an angry concerned compassionate mother,

Ashley

Get Outlook for iOS
This electronic transmission contains confidential information from FXI and is intended only for the proper recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message. Any unauthorized review, copying, disclosure, or other use of the contents of this message, is prohibited.

SUBJECT: Re: Thank you for WC!
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jennifer Aughenbaugh <jaughenbaugh@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/18/2022 09:25

I was warned to make sure it is WARM though...LOL!! Great job over there Cortnye! See you Thursday!

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 11:45 AM Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org> wrote:

> I'm thrilled you will both be joining us for WATCH DOGS next Thursday. FYI, it will be "Wear Your Holiday Best" day for our Winter Break countdown. Wear whatever you are comfortable with, but I wanted to let you know. Thank you!
>
> Cortnye J. Russell
> Principal-Wolf's Crossing Elementary School
> 3015 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60503
> 630-636-3710
>
> *"Wisest is he who knows what he does not know." -Plato*
>
> On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 10:15 AM Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Mr. Ploger,
> > It is always a pleasure to have you visit Wolf's Crossing! Thank you for being such a great listener, and for coming out to our school to see the decisions you help make, and our practices in action! I think several of our students learned more about your role yesterday, and I'm sure you taking the time to talk with them will not soon be forgotten. I look forward to having you back for WATCH D.O.G.S next week!
> >
> > Cortnye J. Russell
> > Principal-Wolf's Crossing Elementary School
> > 3015 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60503
> > 630-636-3710
> >
> > *"Wisest is he who knows what he does not know." -Plato*

SUBJECT: Re: Public Records
FROM: Lisa Dalessio [redacted]
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/19/2022 08:14

Hi Jared,
Thanks for the information. I know government employee salaries are available to the public. I wasn't sure if I could request the additional sub TA pay per employee as it doesn't fall under the general or financial categories in the FOIA procedures. I'll ask and see what response I get.

Thanks, as always for all of your support! I hope you and your family enjoy the holidays. Enjoy your break!

Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 15, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Lisa,
>
> Hope this email finds you well
>
> Those are public salaries. If you submit a FOIA request, I am not sure why they wouldn't either give that information OR direct you to the place that has it.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 10:39 AM Lisa Dalessio [redacted] wrote:
>> Hi Jared,
>> Do you know if I am able to FOIA the sub TA pay of the teachers from OE and OEHS?
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Lisa
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone

I am not sure if anyone forwarded this to you. While obviously I am not asking for specifics, can you let me know who gets back to her?

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jared

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Schopp Ashley** [redacted]
[redacted] Dec 17, 2022 at 9:46 AM
Subject: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
To: BOE@sd308.org <BOE@sd308.org>, Ricky Rosa [redacted]

Hello,

My name is Ashley, I am the mother of a beautiful daughter who is currently enrolled in Oswego High School district 308. She is [redacted] supposed to be in her sophomore year in high school her name is [redacted]. Before Covid before high school [redacted] was an outgoing happy child who loved to be outside [redacted] never was a straight a student, but she did well, and she always tried her best and always had a smile on her face. When she started her freshman year everything started to change. She began going to Oswego High School around October of her freshman year since we just bought a home in the school district. She transferred from West Aurora high school; which I'd like to add she was having similar problems at West Aurora but I was getting a lot more help from them. Oswego High School has given me almost no help up until recently and this I am being told can take up to three months so by then she will be done with her sophomore year . My daughter is currently in the middle of her sophomore year and only has one and a half credits. Her freshman year I worked nights, so I was able to drop her off and watch her walk through the front doors of the school, this year I am working mornings, so her stepfather drops her off at the bus and watches the bus drive away. Several hours into the day while I'm at work I check the parent portal and or I receive an automated email from the school saying my daughter has not attended all her classes or sometimes only a few classes. This has been going on for two school years now and Oswego High School has done nothing to help me I have spoken to numerous people emailed numerous people and I'm getting the same response from everyone. Stating there are 2800+ students and they cannot keep track and cater to each of them individually. My daughter is now getting all F's and has been basically since she started attending high school. I truly believe that this school is only intended to help students that don't have emotional, behavioral, or academic problems. Why would I think otherwise since they have done absolutely nothing for my child besides point the finger at myself and her and not taking accountability for not doing their jobs and giving my daughter the proper education and safety her and I deserve. not to mention a school by LAW is supposed to give those things. I recently took my daughter completely out of school since I only have two choices which I am completely unhappy with both. I can continue to let her go, where we watch her get on the bus and then later that day find out she didn't go to any of her classes. I can be sick to my stomach all day wondering who she's with, where she's at and what she's doing. Is she safe is she dead is she doing drugs is she being raped all these questions have been running through my mind for the last two school years while I am at work, nor is she getting not any education at all with this option. My other option Is keeping her home with her older sister who has already graduated high school and can watch her knowing she is safe all day, in my home and possibly getting some sort of work done. This has played a big part on my health and is probably why I am

now on 3 different blood pressure medications. Most of the teachers which I have emailed have either not emailed me back or will not except any or most of her work since she is not attending the classes. I have explained to them the situation and told them I do not like either of my choices, but this is the only choice at this time I have, where I know my daughter is safe since they cannot do that for me. I am angry that this is even going on that I have gotten no help and it is making things in my home hard with the rest of our family. I have explained to the school as she has, telling them what is going on, and that she feels uncomfortable at that school because of the number of students in each class and the things that are allowed to go on which distracts her. The school district (as many other schools) allowing phones in classrooms is ridiculous my child is there for an education not to play on social media. The first day of her sophomore year I walked her through to each of her classes and I could not believe what I seen every student that was a female was dressed completely inappropriately butt cheeks out, breast out, stomach showing and not one person said anything to anyone. I spoke with one of the deans and was basically brushed off that this is how it is now and at the dress code has changed. He did go on to tell me how this makes some of the "male teachers uncomfortable " are you serious??? What does that mean???? These are children, and the school is teaching them that they can act like adults dressed like adults and make their own decisions. Schools and parents are there to Guide children, not allow them to do as they please this is why things are getting so bad now and everyone is just making it worse by not doing anything and I will not allow this to affect my children and who they become as adults. My name WILL BE known in the school district, I will be all over please if someone does not do something to help my child. I do not have the money to put her in a private school. I should not have to put my child in a private school since there is supposed to be a perfectly good public high school right down the road from my home . I believe district 308 should be responsible for the cost of whatever school I choose to put my child in since they cannot do their job and give my daughter the education and safety they are supposed to by law. I'm assuming I will not get a response from any of you as it has been impossible to contact anybody and when I have, I get no response from the school. I'm assuming the same will go with the school board. My next step is looking into lawyers and the only reason why this has not been done is the cost but at this point I will spend my last dollar to make it happen. I want my daughter to graduate high school not a GED not go to an alternative school with a bunch of missed behave children and be taught at grace school level... please don't tell me different as I know this for a fact is how it's fine in alternative schools. My daughter needs more than that she is not a bad kid she is polite, good, and kind and deserves so much more attention than she is getting from the school district. I am close to going to the papers, but I figured I would try to speak with you guys hoping someone will care someone will help us. I understand you may all be new to this situation so I will try to be Understanding of that, but I need you all to understand that this is not new for me I have been doing this for two years now and I've gotten nowhere with anyone, my daughters future is at stake. I demand HELP!!!!!!

Sincerely an angry concerned compassionate mother,

Ashley

Get Outlook for iOS

This electronic transmission contains confidential information from FXI and is intended only for the proper recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message. Any unauthorized review, copying, disclosure, or other use of the contents of this message, is prohibited.

SUBJECT: RE: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/19/2022 08:46

Most welcome Jared. Have a great day!

Take care,
John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:45 AM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Re: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING

I appreciate it.

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 8:17 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning Jared,
>
> I responded to the parent this morning. I also copied Mr. Bell, Executive Director of Student Services, Mr. Arntzen, Executive Director of High Schools, and Mr. Grays, OHS principal on my reply so that a plan would be put in place to address this situation.
>
> Thank you,
> John
>
> **Dr. John W. Sparlin**
> **Superintendent of Schools**
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71
> Oswego, IL. 60543
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:24 AM
> **To:** John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
> **Subject:** Fwd: My daughter needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
>
> Dr. Sparlin,

SUBJECT: Watch DOGS at WC
FROM: Kimberly Brown <kbrown@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/20/2022 10:05

Good morning!!

Super excited to have you both here on Thursday for our Watch DOGS program. :) Thank you for giving your time to the students of WC. Don't forget to wear your ugly sweater and dress warm for outside recess!

See you soon!
Kim

--
Kimberly Brown
Physical Education Teacher
Wolf's Crossing Elementary
(630)636-3721

SUBJECT: School Board Member Survey
FROM: David Houston <noreply@qemailserver.com>
TO: Jarod Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/20/2022 13:59

Dear School Board Member,

Greetings! We are assistant professors David Houston (George Mason University) and Michael Hartney (Boston College).

The last few years have been an extraordinary time in American education, and many people have strong opinions about what has gone well and what has gone poorly. **However, we too rarely hear the views of an essential group of policymakers: school board members like yourself.**

To better understand the local dynamics of education policymaking today, we have developed a brief survey to learn what school board members think about a range of education issues. We know that, as public servants, board members are incredibly busy. We've worked diligently to create a survey that can be completed in **10-15 minutes**. Again, you can access the survey here.

Please know that this research was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University (study reference #1998126-1) and that all of your responses are required to be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. **Under no circumstance will board member names or even school district names be used in this research.** Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may elect to skip any questions or even discontinue taking the survey at any point in time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston Michael Hartney
dhousto@gmu.edu michael.hartney@bc.edu

Follow this link to the Survey:
Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:
https://gmucehd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy?Q_DL=caTWb9fi3WaOYm2_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy_CGC_JHQPMXJbZe3HqJg&Q_CHL=email

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:
Click here to unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Tomorrow is Holiday/Ugly Sweater tomorrow at WC
FROM: Cortnye Russell <crussell01@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/21/2022 13:45

Good afternoon, gentlemen. We are looking forward to having you here tomorrow! I may have told you the wrong spirit day tomorrow. Today is Wear Your Holiday Best and tomorrow is sweater day. If this thwarts your plans to wear tuxedos and top hats, please feel free to wear that regardless.

Thank you both!

Cortnye J. Russell
Principal-Wolf's Crossing Elementary School
3015 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60503
630-636-3710

"Wisest is he who knows what he does not know." -Plato

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #42
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 14:02

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

December 21, 2022

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

A note to readers: *It's the holidays, and so we'll be off next week to celebrate accordingly. We'll return to your inbox again on Jan. 4, 2023. Thanks, as always, for reading, and we'll see you in the New Year!*

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over school vouchers and whether they hurt or help rural communities
- The top five *Hall Pass* education stories of 2022
- In school board elections, conflict issues break along existing party lines, incumbents lose at higher rate
- Oklahoma attorney general says law prohibiting religious charter schools likely unconstitutional
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection Survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over school vouchers and whether they hurt or help rural communities

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

School vouchers and education savings accounts give parents money to spend on education at public schools, tuition at private schools, tutors, homeschooling curricula, and other educational materials. Today, we'll look at discussions about whether the policy would help or hurt students in rural school districts.

Corey DeAngelis writes that school voucher and education savings account programs work well in rural areas. DeAngelis says competition between schools benefits students and families and does not reduce the quantity or quality of educational resources. He also says teachers unions are more powerful in rural areas relative to other political organizations and says they are responsible for arguments against vouchers in those areas.

Jill Long Thompson writes that school voucher and education savings account programs are bad for students and hurt rural schools more than urban schools. Thompson says such programs divert resources away from public schools that already lack the resources needed to provide quality education. Instead, these programs lead to the creation of a variety of low-quality private schools. She says rural public schools need more funding, not more competition.

The Little Red Schoolhouse Could Do With a Little Competition | Corey DeAngelis, *Wall Street Journal*

"Teachers unions and their allies are arguing that giving families choices in education would devastate their state's rural public schools. This claim is neither new nor persuasive. … These same politicians also claim that rural constituents wouldn't benefit from school choice because the local public school is their only option. These arguments can't both be true. If rural families didn't have any other options, public schools wouldn't suffer. And if rural public schools are as great as the teachers unions say they are, they would have no need to worry about a little competition. The truth is that rural families benefit from school choice as much as any others do. More options are better than none, and supply isn't fixed. If you put taxpayer-funded education dollars in the hands of parents, new private education providers will sprout up to meet demand. … Despite a growth in private options, the mass exodus from rural public schools that many have warned about hasn't happened. In fact, 25 of the 28 studies on the topic find that

private-school choice leads to better outcomes in public schools, from increased test scores to reduced absenteeism and suspensions. Competition is a rising tide that lifts all boats. … [G]iving families more options doesn't result in a net loss of jobs; school choice simply allows families to determine where those jobs are concentrated."

Vouchers can't make rural schools great again | Jill Long Thompson, *The Journal Gazette*

"For rural communities, in particular, voucher programs create a business model that simply will not work. Running a rural school is very challenging because the resources are always limited, and oftentimes scarce. Vouchers encourage the creation of small private schools. But, we don't need more schools in rural communities; we need more resources to strengthen the schools we have. Increasing the number of schools means increasing the overhead, which is why vouchers dilute resources even further. A school voucher program is the education policy equivalent of a county highway program that would give residents money to build little private roads anywhere they want. That would not only be costly and inefficient; it would not serve the community's transportation needs. One must look no further than our own state, with its aggressive voucher program, to see the problems it causes for small rural school systems. Since 2011, Indiana has shifted $520 million into the state voucher program. Unfortunately, many of the schools receiving the vouchers have not performed as well as the public schools that lost funding because of the vouchers. A voucher program is not the solution to the challenges facing public education."

The top five Hall Pass education stories of 2022

Hall Pass launched on Feb. 9, 2022. Thank you for joining us in this newsletter —we are grateful to have you as a subscriber.

Every Wednesday, we've helped you understand the debates shaping education and curricula policy and make sense of the ever-changing world of school board politics. As we close out the year, let's take a look back at our top education stories.

Understanding the country's more than 82,000 school board members

On Aug. 24, we released a comprehensive report on the country's 82,423 school board members and 13,194 school districts. Our research detailed the nationwide gender composition of school boards, the number of board members by state, and the breakdown of at-large and by-district school board seats.

The seven education-related ballot measures voters decided on Nov. 8

Education was on the ballot in seven states on Nov. 8, with voters deciding measures related to college tuition, school meals, legislative oversight of state board rules, and more. Find out which measures passed in our story recapping the Nov. 8 ballot measure results.

A brief history of school boards in early America

In this article, we traced the development of public education and school boards in America from the colonies through the beginning of the 19th century.

How states fund public schools: an introduction

Public school funding, which comes from federal, state, and local sources, isn't the easiest topic to grasp. In this article, we explained the three primary funding formulas states use to allocate education funds. Learn how your state allocates funds at the link above.

Charter schools in America: some basics

Did you know Minnesota was the first state to pass a law authorizing charter schools in 1991? In this article, we took a look at the history of charter schools and provided an overview of charter school funding. We also walked you through charter school statistics, including the number of charter schools by state and recent enrollment figures.

We're looking forward to bringing you more education stories in 2023. If you have ideas for a topic we should cover, reply to this email to let us know.



In school board elections, conflict issues break along existing party lines, incumbents lose at higher rate

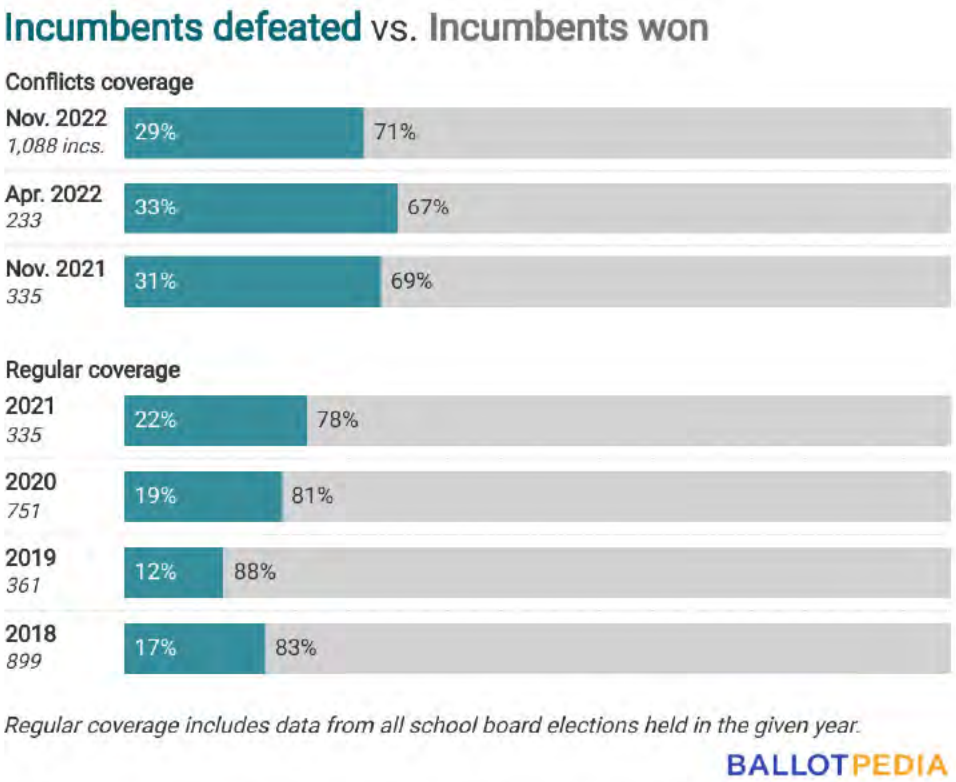
Since Nov. 8, we've brought you periodic updates on our progress tracking the results of school board conflict updates. We've finished our analysis of 1,779 races in 545 school districts where candidates took a stance on at least one of

three topics—**race in education, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, and sex and gender in schools.**

Here's what we found.

- Candidates who supported measures like equity plans, mask requirements, and gender inclusion won 45% of these seats
- Candidates who opposed those policies won 31%
- Candidates whose stances could not be identified won 23%

Continuing a trend we observed in school board conflict elections in 2021 and earlier in 2022, **just under one-third of incumbents lost to challengers in those races on Nov. 8.** In our regular school board coverage from 2018 to 2020, 18% of incumbents lost re-election, on average.



We label each winner as either supporting or opposing the three conflict topics. If we cannot determine a stance, we mark the winner unclear. Broadly, we label a candidate *supporting* if they support things like including the role of race in curricula or learning materials, mask and/or vaccine requirements, or the inclusion of topics in sexual education regarding orientations and gender identities. We label a candidate *opposing* if they oppose things like critical race theory, mask and/or vaccine requirements, or comprehensive sexual education. In cases where we labeled a winner as *supporting* on at least one topic and *opposing* on another, we used the category *mixed*.

Candidates *supporting* things like equity plans and mask requirements won 58.6% of seats in counties Joe Biden (D) won in 2020, while candidates *opposing* those policies won 43.5% of seats in counties Donald Trump (R) won.

Of all 791 winners we labeled *supporting*, 75% won in counties Biden carried. Of the 558 winners labeled opposing, 60% won in counties Trump carried.

	Biden	Trump
Districts	313	232
Seats	1,011	768
Supporting	58.6%	25.9%
Opposing	22.2%	43.5%
Mixed	1.0%	2.0%
Unclear	18.3%	28.6%

BALLOTPEDIA

Click here to learn more about conflicts in school board elections.

Oklahoma attorney general says law prohibiting religious charter schools likely unconstitutional

On Dec. 1, Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor (R) released an advisory opinion saying that, in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decisions, a state law prohibiting religiously affiliated charter schools likely violates the First Amendment.

Oklahoma is one of 45 states that permit charter schools. Like traditional public schools, charter schools are publicly funded. In all 45 states, charter schools must be secular schools.

Oklahoma first established charter schools in 1999, when then-Gov. Frank Keating (R) signed the Education Reform Act.

The law states: "A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. A sponsor may not authorize a charter school or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic

sectarian school or religious institution."

O'Connor writes: "We do not believe the U.S. Supreme Court would accept the argument that, because charter schools are considered public for various purposes, that a state should be allowed to discriminate against religiously affiliated private participants who wish to establish and operate charter schools in accordance with their faith alongside other private participants."

O'Connor references three recent SCOTUS decisions he believes undermine state law prohibiting religious charter schools—*Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer, Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue,* and *Carson v. Makin.*

- In *Trinity Lutheran Church*, decided in 2016, the court ruled 7-2 that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources violated Trinity Lutheran Church's First Amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources had denied the church's request for a grant that would have helped its associated preschool and daycare center resurface its playground.
- In *Espinoza*, decided in 2020, the court ruled 5-4 that a provision of the Montana Constitution prohibiting religiously affiliated churches or schools from receiving taxpayer money was unconstitutional. The majority said that disqualifying recipients from a public benefit because of their religious character inhibits the recipients' free exercise of religion.
- Finally, earlier this year, the court ruled 6-3 in *Makin* that a nonsectarian requirement in a Maine tuition assistance program violated the Free Exercise Clause. We covered *Makin* in-depth in these pages earlier this year here.

O'Connor released the advisory opinion after Archbishop Paul Coakley, the head of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, expressed an interest in establishing a Catholic charter school. Shortly after O'Connor released his opinion, the Archdiocese announced it intended to submit an application. According to The *New York Sun*'s Raina Raskin, the state charter board's decision, which could come within a few months, will likely trigger litigation.

Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) said, "Attorney General John O'Connor's opinion rightfully defends parents, education freedom and religious liberty in Oklahoma. Ultimately, government takes a backseat to parents who get to determine the best learning environment for their child." Secretary of Public Education (and incoming superintendent of education) Ryan Walters (R) said, "there's never a more important decision than to protect one's religious liberties."

The Oklahoma Education Association, which opposes O'Connor's advisory opinion, said, "The recent decisions of the US Supreme Court are not contextually similar to the suggestion that a publicly funded school district requiring affirmation of particular religious tenets and doctrine as a condition of admission would receive a similar endorsement from a court. The predictions suggested by the Oklahoma Attorney General are exactly that – predictions by a political figure of how a court may rule if faced with that legal question."

In 2016, Oklahoma voters rejected State Question 790, with 57.12% voting against the measure and 42.88% voting in support. The measure would have repealed Section 5 of Article 2 of the Oklahoma Constitution, which prohibits public money from being spent for religious purposes. The measure was proposed largely in response to a state supreme court ruling that found a Ten Commandments monument displayed on the grounds of the Oklahoma state capitol violated Section 5 of Article 2 of the state Constitution.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- Many schools find ways to solve absenteeism without suspensions | *The Hechinger Report*
- The Essay's Future: We Talk to 4 Teachers, 2 Experts and 1 AI Chatbot | *The 74*
- There's a Reason There Aren't Enough Teachers in America. Many Reasons, Actually. | *The New York Times*
- 4 K–12 Tech Trends to Follow in 2023 | *EdTech*
- Teachers are exempt from FOIA, Michigan judge rules after parent sued | *Michigan Live*
- Kentucky Supreme Court affirms decision to strike down school choice bill, but supporters aren't giving up | *The Lion*
- These 4 charts illustrate the pandemic's impact on homeless students | *K-12 Dive*
- Report: Half of Largest School Districts Changed Leaders Since Pandemic | *The 74*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Jane Lea Smith, who won the general election for San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Education Area 3 in California, and Edward Buster, who was one of two candidates who won in the general election for Vail Unified School District Governing Board At-large in Arizona.

Here's how Smith answered the question, **"What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**



- "Restore functional governance and effective leadership through an emphasis on professionalism, clear role delineation, and a transparent, rigorous search for an experienced superintendent who understands and embraces our unique community.
- Address financial stability and accountability concerns, prioritizing expenditures that directly affect student safety and the quality of our educational programs.
- Embrace diversity and equity by ensuring all students feel welcome, supporting vulnerable students, addressing achievement gaps, and continuing to expand opportunities for all students."

Click here to read the rest of Smith's answers.

Here's how Buster answered the question, **"What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**

- "The main reasons for my desire to serve on the Vail School District Governing Board, is our school district's positive influence on the successes of my five now adult sons. With this opportunity, I can now pay it forward to an extraordinary community that so warmly embraced me and my family when we



moved to Corona de Tucson almost 16 years ago.

- I have long been and continue to be a strong proponent for education. I am running because the school board should set the direction for our schools through a collaborative vision, advancing policy, demonstrating accountability, developing a consensus and by maintaining leadership roles in the community.
- My overarching vision is to ensure as our well-prepared students go away to college, trade school, accept apprenticeships, or establish themselves, they will one day endeavor to return to the Greater Vail Area to raise their families as it is in the community's best interest to have and maintain a smart, well-educated, community-minded, and healthy workforce."

Click here to read the rest of Buster's answers.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2022. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT: Remote Learning Thursday
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 14:51

Hello Staff, the message below is being sent out to all families soon.
Please shut down and turn off all computers, small appliances and other devices prior to leaving today in order to assist with energy savings over the break. Please take home any supplies you may need over the break when you leave today.

Tomorrow, Thursday, Dec. 22 all SD 308 schools will be utilizing emergency remote learning plans for inclement weather for early childhood, elementary, and junior high students. The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning beginning at 9am tomorrow, through 6am on Saturday. The warning cites rapidly decreasing temperatures with ice formation, low visibility with blowing snow, and very strong winds. For the safety of our students and staff, schools and district buildings will not be open on Thursday (Dec. 22). All activities, athletics, and building rentals are canceled for Thursday (Dec. 22) and Friday (Dec. 23). Kids Connection programs are also canceled.

High schools were not scheduled to be in person tomorrow and will not follow the remote learning plan, however students should complete their google attendance form by 9:30am, which will be emailed tomorrow to all students. Those students who were scheduled to take make-up exams should reach out directly to their teacher.

As a reminder, winter break begins on Friday (Dec. 23), and students will return to school on January 9, 2023.

Please stay warm and safe during the winter storm.

We wish you a very happy holiday season.

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: School For Tomorrow
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 15:09

Good afternoon,

I wanted you to know that we have made the decision to go remote tomorrow. On Thursday, Dec. 22 all SD 308 schools will be utilizing emergency remote learning plans for inclement weather for early childhood, elementary, and junior high students. The high school students were not scheduled to be in session tomorrow. The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning beginning at 9am tomorrow, through 6am on Saturday. The warning cites rapidly decreasing temperatures with ice formation, low visibility with blowing snow, and very strong winds. For the safety of our students and staff, schools and district buildings will not be open on Thursday (Dec. 22). All activities, athletics, and building rentals are canceled for Thursday (Dec. 22) and Friday (Dec. 23). Kids Connection programs are also canceled.

Thank you,

John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Watch DOGS at WC
FROM: Kim Brown <kbrown@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/21/2022 19:06

It is okay, the weather isn't looking so great. Here is the link for watch dogs if you want to sign up for one of the days or we can do another day that works for you!



Wolf's Crossing WATCH D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students)
signupgenius.com

Have a great break!!
Kim

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 21, 2022, at 6:34 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> UGH!!! I feel terrible that we are going to miss tomorrow now! I will have to set up another date with you. Have an awesome and much deserved break!
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 10:05 AM Kimberly Brown <kbrown@sd308.org> wrote:
>> Good morning!!
>>
>> Super excited to have you both here on Thursday for our Watch DOGS program. :) Thank you for giving your time to the students of WC. Don't forget to wear your ugly sweater and dress warm for outside recess!
>>
>> See you soon!
>> Kim

--
Kimberly Brown
Physical Education Teacher
Wolf's Crossing Elementary
(630)636-3721

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 12/22/2022 13:04
ATTACHMENTS (20221222-130424-0000262): "Superintendent's Update - December 22, 2022.docx" , "Dec Update on Employee Culture and Climate Survey Action Plan-.docx" , "BOE Memo_ Production Organization.docx" , "20221223 Construction Grant Award BOE Update.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. Have a great holiday season!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: SD 308 Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.22.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/22/2022 14:07

December 22, 2022

Our Last Update For 2022!

SD 308's Employee Newsletter

Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!

To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission

#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 18-26: Hanukkah
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

A WINTER STORM WARNING CONTINUES THROUGH SATURDAY AT 6AM. TEMPERATURES ARE DROPPING TO DANGEROUS LOWS- STAY SAFE!

Date	Day	Event
December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break Buildings/District Closed
January 9	Monday	Students Return from Winter Break First Day of 2nd Semester (grades 6-12)
January 9 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ Oswego East High School (Community Room) and streaming live online at www.sd308.org.
January 13 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry-Oswego Satellite Location @ 61 Franklin Street, Oswego **Spread the word: Open to all Kendall Co residents AND residents living within SD 308 boundaries. When attending for the first time, please bring an ID and piece of mail to show your address.**
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day (No School/District Closed)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,
Many heartwarming stories of giving continue to roll in; we are certainly part of a kind and generous school community!
Several individual departments, student groups, and classes across the district have adopted families through local organizations helping to purchase gifts and household essentials for those in need. Last week a local barber set up at one of our schools to offer free haircuts. Two different families anonymously donated to pay off all negative meal balances at their schools; at The Wheatlands they covered $1,272 in fees, and at Old Post it was $1,952. Our junior highs joined with Oswego Fire again this year, collecting hundreds of toys with Toys for Tots.
We can all appreciate the joy of giving and spreading cheer to others at this special time of year, and remember the importance of paying forward community stewardship all year through.
I hope that you stay warm these next few days and really enjoy your time with loved ones. I wish you a very happy and wonderful holiday season!

- *John*

If you have a chance to enjoy the winter weather over break (when it's not quite this frigid!) here are some resources for local sledding and ice skating at area Oswegoland Parks:
SLED HILLS
If you relish in the brisk winter air kissing your nose and cheeks as you descend a hill at lightning speed, we have several parks with sledding hills for you! Bring your favorite saucer, tandem bobsled, or inflatable snow tube and come enjoy the great outdoors. Oswegoland Parks with snow hills include:
Prairie Point Community Park; Northampton Park; Chesterfield Park; Ogden Falls Park; Deerbrook Park; Community Park at Grande Park. Click here for guidelines and additional information about sledding at area parks.
ICE SKATING
Lace up your skates and head over to Prairie Point Community Park when the green flag is flying to take a spin or drop a puck on the seasonal ice rink.

Staff Info

Congratulations to these SD 308 teachers who join the 336 teachers across the state who have recertified as a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT).
The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University is excited to celebrate and congratulate these teachers along with thousands of other educators currently pursuing Board certification – seen as a mark of accomplished teaching.
National Board Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment of a teacher's pedagogical skills and content knowledge. The certification process generally takes one to three years to complete.

- Robin Ceres
- Cristina Hernandez
- Brett Malas
- Pamela Phelps
- Elizabeth Prigodich
- Angela Scharbert
- Amy Severinski
- Joyce Shumate
- Kelly Waldron

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter "[redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Winter Building Closures: *(Original memo can be found on Intranet)*

- In order to realize significant energy savings, buildings will be closed December 27 - 29, 2022 and January 3 - 6, 2023. Building and district leadership and office staff will work remotely during this time.
- Please be sure to have Winter Signs posted, indicating building closures over break.

From the Schools

Fox Chase Elementary held Holiday Haircuts on Dec. 14, as a partnership with RazorSharp Barber Shop in Yorkville and Oswego. Over twenty families came to get their haircuts by the amazing barbers who donated their time for this event.

Thompson National Junior Honors Society members have been working hard this semester to raise money to help families in need this holiday season. Through their hard work and dedication, students were able to raise enough money to adopt a family with eight children. Students came together at Walmart in Oswego to shop for their adopted family. Walmart graciously donated one hundred dollars to be applied towards their purchase. Over the last week, students were busy wrapping gifts, adding ribbon, and making sure every present had a bow!

Vision and Hearing Screenings Make A Difference! A hearing referral was recently sent home for a student, who is the son of a staff member. Consequently, the student was diagnosed with a mild hearing loss that needs to be monitored for possible future treatment.The staff member was very grateful for the nurses who help deliver these screenings for students!

HUMAN RESOURCES

Save Money on High-Cost Medicines with FlexAccess - We are happy to introduce **FlexAccess**, a new Blue Cross and Blue Shield of IL benefit that will start January 1, 2023 for employees enrolled in either the PPO or HCA plans. **FlexAccess** is a cost assistance program designed to help lower the cost of certain specialty and other high-cost medicine(s). Please note: If at any time your medicine(s) are no longer part of the program, the amount you would pay for your prescription will be based on plan benefits. You can call **FlexAccess** at 1-888-302-3618, or email **FlexAccess** Member Services at member.services@flexaccessrx.com to find out if your drug is covered under this program or for any questions about this program.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Huntington Learning Center - Now hiring Part-Time Teachers: Special Education, K-12 Academic Skill Building, High School Math & Science, ACT/SAT Prep. CLICK HERE for more information or email: oswegoil@hlcmail.com.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 9, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live
  - *BOE Meeting Summary: 12.05.22 Meeting*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: RE: 22-7786-BU Past Due invoice
FROM: <harry@cwafr.com>
TO: <wqueen@sd308.org>
CC: <BOE@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/29/2022 16:38
ATTACHMENTS (20221229-163816-0000264): "2ff1c329-9cae-4bb2-b342-3d5154eb0b5e.pdf" , "dc8133df-cdff-4483-ba45-46d04530d727.pdf"

Greetings,

I am following up on my notes below. We were asked to send the invoice you the email listed above but have yet to hear back for a while now I have attached the documents again for quick reference. Any updates would be greatly appreciated. We are attempting to not have to forward this further in our collections process.

Kind Regards,

Harry Gaston
Accounts Receivable Manager
24 Hour Office Line: 1-800-597-6911
IICRC: WRT, ASD, FSRT Certified | AIMC: Matterport Certified

CWF RESTORATION
24 Hour Response
Water • Fire • Biohazard • Reconstruction

Chicago | 720 N. Larch Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126
Dallas | 8105 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75063
Houston | 10646 W. Little York Road, Suite 320, Houston, TX 77041

To make an online payment, please click here

From: Harry Gaston <harry@cwafr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:15 PM
To: wqueen@sd308.org
Subject: Re: 22-7786-BU Past Due invoice

Greetings,

I am following up on my note below as we have yet to receive a response or payment. This is soon to fall into collections which is what we are hoping to help to avoid. Please advise.

Kind regards,

Harry Gaston
Accounts Receivable Manager

24 Hour Office Line: 1-800-597-6911
IICRC: WRT, ASD, FSRT Certified | AIMC: Matterport Certified



Chicago | 720 N. Larch Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126
Dallas | 8105 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75063
Houston | 10646 W. Little York Road, Suite 320, Houston, TX 77041

To make an online payment, please click here

On Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 9:27 AM <harry@cwafr.com> wrote:

> Greetings,
>
> I am following up on my teams notes and trying to see if you have an update on the attached invoice. Please let us know if you need anything further to assist in resolving this matter.
>
> Kind Regards,
>
> **Harry Gaston**
> Accounts Receivable Manager
> 24 Hour Office Line: 1-800-597-6911
> IICRC: WRT, ASD, FSRT Certified | AIMC: Matterport Certified
>
> 
>
>
> Chicago | 720 N. Larch Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126
> Dallas | 8105 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75063
> Houston | 10646 W. Little York Road, Suite 320, Houston, TX 77041
>
> **To make an online payment, please click here**

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: "IASB Communications" <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 09:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Pension Problem: What Does It Mean?

January 12, 2023 — noon

When we hear about Illinois' pension funding challenges, what does it mean? While school districts have no direct control over the "pension problem," this webinar will help you to understand how we got here at the state and local levels, how it impacts your district, and ideas for the future. Knowledge of this topic allows board members to be proactive participants in this important conversation as long-term solutions are considered. Join Tom Reedy and Tom Crabtree from Stifel and Jim Snyder from Ice Miller for this timely discussion.

Register Now

More Upcoming Events

IN-PERSON EVENT

South Cook Division Winter Breakfast

January 21, 2023 — 10 a.m.

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

IASB Winter Book Study 2023: High Conflict Part I

January 24, 2023 — noon

Register Now

IASB Events Calendar

View Calendar

DuPage Division Meeting
February 1, 2023

Starved Rock Division Meeting
February 2, 2023

IASB Winter Book Study 2023: High Conflict Part II
February 07, 2023

Beyond March 2020: High-Quality Virtual Learning
February 9, 2023



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688

One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: School Board Member Survey
FROM: David Houston <noreply@qemailserver.com>
TO: Jarod Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 11:35

Dear School Board Member:

We are sending along a post-New Year reminder: If you have not yet had the chance to complete our survey examining the perspectives of our nation's current and former school board members, please consider doing so now.

Although over 1,000 of your colleagues from boards across the nation have graciously taken the few minutes needed to complete the survey, we highly value your response. By sharing your views, you will help ensure that the survey is representative of all types of school districts.

Again, to take the survey please go here.

If you do not recall having received our initial request and would like more information on the nature of the survey, please refer to the text pasted below our signature here which contains the original request.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston (George Mason University) Michael Hartney (Boston College)
dhousto@gmu.edu michael.hartney@bc.edu

****
(BEGIN ORIGINAL MESSAGE)

Dear School Board Member,

Greetings! We are assistant professors David Houston (George Mason University) and Michael Hartney (Boston College).

The last few years have been an extraordinary time in American education, and many people have strong opinions about what has gone well and what has gone poorly. However, we too rarely hear the views of an essential group of policymakers: school board members like yourself.

To better understand the local dynamics of education policymaking today, we have developed a brief survey to learn what school board members think about a range of education issues. We know that, as public servants, board members are incredibly busy. We've worked diligently to create a survey that can be completed in 10-15 minutes. Again, you can access the survey here.

Please know that this research was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University (study reference #1998126-1) and that all of your responses are required to be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. Under no circumstance will board member names or even school district names be used in this research. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may elect to skip any questions or even discontinue taking the survey at any point in time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston
dhousto@gmu.edu

Michael Hartney
michael.hartney@bc.edu

Follow this link to the Survey:
Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:
https://gmucehd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy?Q_DL=caTWb9fi3WaOYm2_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy_CGC_JHQPMXJbZe3HqJg&Q_CHL=email

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:
Click here to unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Complimentary consultations on student loan forgiveness programs
FROM: "Info SLHG" <info@contactslhg.com>
TO: Jared-Ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 08:04

Good Morning Illinois public school employees,

A new year is upon us, with it, a new set of challenges and goals to achieve. One of the biggest financial burdens that most Americans carry is student loan debt. While payments are currently paused, this is a great opportunity to learn about the multiple forgiveness programs and discover which one could help you the most.

Most Popular Forgiveness Programs

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Available since 2007, PSLF forgives the entire remaining balance of your Federal student loans when you make 120 income-driven payments on direct loans while working full-time for a public service employer.

One-time account adjustment: " *A borrower who misses the Limited PSLF Waiver deadline of October 31, 2022, will have one more chance to have their payment count corrected.* "

"While the one-time account adjustment is largely similar to the Limited PSLF Waiver, there are some key differences... the one-time account adjustment provides credit for periods that were not added under the PSLF waiver. It credits certain periods in deferment and forbearance towards IDR and PSLF for months beyond those provided by the Limited PSLF Waiver.

Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF)

Under the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, you may be eligible for forgiveness from $5,000 up to $17,500 on your balance if you:

• Have five consecutive years teaching in a Title 1 school.
• The loan(s) for which you seek forgiveness existed before the end of your five academic years of qualifying teaching service.
• You must not have an outstanding balance on Direct Loans or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans as of Oct. 1, 1998.

Debt Relief Program

The U.S. Department of Education will provide up to $20,000 in debt relief to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by the Department of Education, and up to $10,000 in debt relief to non-Pell Grant recipients. However, courts have issued orders blocking this student debt relief program. As a result, at this time, applications are not being accepted while the litigation is ongoing.

During our over ten years of experience, TSLHG has partnered with teachers and organizations to help countless borrowers get on the right track to gain control of their student loans. **We offer you a complimentary consultation** where a counselor will explain the best option for your situation so you can get started. Schedule an appointment at a time of your convenience.

Schedule your appointment

Continue with phone

The Student Loan Help Group | FL DOACS License *#TC5038*
O. 844.599.5589 | F. 561.207.8007
tslhg.com

TSLHG
THE LOAN EXPERTS

*The Student Loan Help Group assists consumers with all federal student loan filing services. TSLHG is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Zenmax inc. dba The Student Loan Help Group, 11911 US-1 #201-39, North Palm Beach, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408, United States

You may unsubscribe or change your contact details at any time.

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #43
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 14:01

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 04, 2023

Happy 2023, and welcome back to Hall Pass! We hope you had a restful holiday!

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over retesting
- In 2022, 114 school board members faced recall efforts
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over retesting

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education

possible in their district.

Should teachers allow students to retake tests? Today, we'll look at perspectives on both sides of that question.

Anthony Palm writes that policies allowing students to take tests one time and that penalize late work are best for student learning. He says these policies motivate students, prevent student procrastination, and give teachers more time to plan lessons.

Thomas R. Guskey writes that retesting should be a standard process of assessment, correction, and reassessment. Guskey says retesting motivates students to improve with a second chance at success and helps to prevent struggling students from falling behind.

The Case for Not Allowing Test Retakes | Anthony Palma, *Edutopia*

"Deadlines and consequences for late work provide scaffolding for students to learn self-control. These policies provide the extrinsic motivation students need to build study habits and time management skills. In my experience, reform policies rely too heavily on students already having strong self-control and intrinsic motivation. … Retake policies also allow students to dig themselves into "late holes" that cause preventable stress and anxiety. My math class builds sequentially: Mastery in early units helps students be successful in the following units. In my experience, traditional policies motivate students to maximize their learning in the first unit, which helps them on every later unit. … Reform policies can be effective if the teacher has time to implement them well. However, every minute writing and grading retakes or grading long-overdue work is a minute that I'm not planning effective and creative instruction, grading current work so students receive timely feedback, or communicating with parents."

Why Should We Allow Students to Retake Assessments? | Thomas R. Guskey, *EducationWeek*

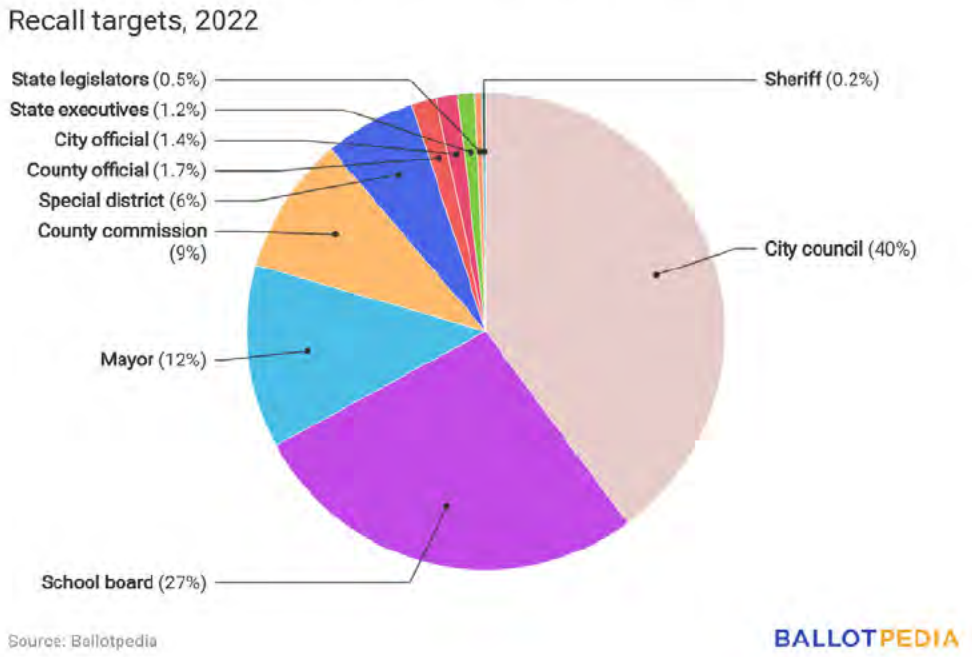
"But assessments alone do little to improve student learning or teaching quality. What counts is what happens after the assessments. Just as regularly checking your weight or blood pressure does little to improve your health if you do nothing with the information, what matters most with formative assessments is what students and teachers do with the results… To bring improvement, Bloom stressed formative assessments must be followed by high-quality, corrective instruction designed to remedy whatever learning errors the assessments identified. … When the correctives are completed after a class period or two, Bloom recommended students who engaged in correctives be given a second, parallel formative assessment for two reasons. First, the second assessment helps teachers determine if the correctives were effective in helping students remedy their learning difficulties. Second, and perhaps more important, it gives students a second chance at success and, hence, has great motivational value.

In 2022, 114 school board members faced recall efforts

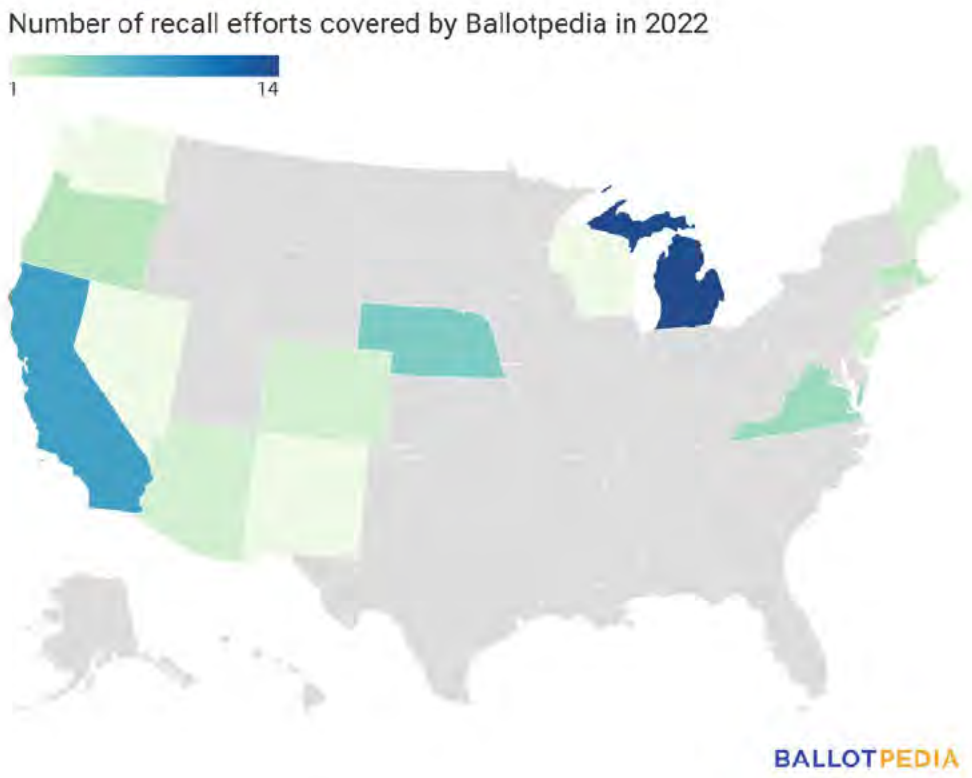
In June 2022, we walked you through our annual mid-year report on recall efforts. We found that in the first half of the year, school board members were the subject of more recall efforts than any other type of officeholder—continuing a trend we saw in 2021. Now that the year is over, let's look back at recall efforts throughout 2022.

We tracked 250 recall efforts against 419 officials throughout the year, with city council members leading the list. Although school board members were the objects of more recall efforts in the first half of the year, they finished the year second to city council members. **A total of 167 city council or town board members faced recall campaigns in 2022, while 114 school board members faced recall campaigns.**

Overall, 56 officials across all office types were recalled in 2022.



In 2021, school board members faced more recalls than other types of officeholders for the first time since 2012, when Ballotpedia began tracking recall efforts. Previously, city council members faced the most recalls.
We tracked 50 school board recall efforts against 114 board members last year. Recall elections against school board members were held on Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 24, Feb. 15, March 29, April 4, and Nov. 8, 2022. The school board recall success rate was 7.0%.



Here are a few notable school board recall efforts from 2022:

- Recall elections against Dave Brown and Brian Shannon, Zone 6 and 7 representatives on the Newberg School District school board in Oregon, respectively, were held in January 2022. Both members retained their offices with 52% of the vote opposing the recall. The recall effort against Shannon started after the board voted 4-3 on Aug. 10, 2021, to remove Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ pride flags in district schools. The ban also included political signs, clothing, and other items. The effort to recall Brown began after the board voted 4-3 to fire Superintendent Joe Morelock without cause. Morelock had been under contract through June 2024.
- In February 2022, voters recalled San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education members Gabriela López, Alison Collins, and Faauuga Moliga. Recall supporters had said they were frustrated district schools remained closed for nearly a year in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also noted the time the board spent voting to rename 44 buildings in the district instead of focusing on opening schools.
- An effort to recall three members of the Richland School District school board in Washington—M. Semi Bird, Audra Byrd, and Kari Williams —began in the spring of 2022. Recall supporters said the board members violated the Open Public Meetings Act; violated district policies, procedures, and code of ethics; and voted to make masks optional while a statewide mask requirement was in place. All three board members denied any wrongdoing and appealed the petition to the Washington Supreme Court. Requires “acts of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office or violation of oath of office” for a recall to move forward. If the state supreme court rules the petition drive can begin, supporters will have 180

days to collect signatures equal to 35% of the votes cast for the school board seats in the last election.
- An effort to recall three of the seven members of the Salem-Keizer Public Schools school board in Oregon did not qualify for the ballot after organizers did not turn in the required number of signatures by the November 2022 deadline. The effort began after the school board voted 4-3 to approve a resolution prohibiting concealed guns on school property.

You can read more about our year-end recall analysis here. Click here for more information about school board recalls specifically.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- Making Time for Academic Recovery in the School Day: Ideas From 3 Principals | *Education Week*
- Educational Improvement Is Not about Spending More Money | *National Review*
- Do protocols for school safety infringe on disability rights? | *The Hechinger Report*
- What will Vermont lawmakers do about religious schools? | *VTDigger*
- Why New York's neediest families aren't using free pre-K and 3K | *Politico*
- Big Ideas About America's Schools: Our 18 Most Discussed Essays of 2022 | *The 74 Million*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Madison Klovstad Miner, who won the general election for Orange Unified Board of Education Trustee Area 4 in California, and Staci Martin, who won in the general election for Virginia Beach City Public Schools District 4 in Virginia. election for Virginia Beach City Public Schools District.

Here's how Miner answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"I am concerned with the overreach from special interest groups in our childrens' schools. Our hard earned tax dollars should be spent in the classrooms and our teachers need better support. Our children are all different and deserve opportunities for more individualized curriculum."

Click here to read the rest of Miner's answers.

Here's how Martin answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"I am personally passionate and knowledgeable about how education impacts economic development and household wealth acquisition. We lose too much human potential to the lack of a few hundred dollars in resources. I understand the connections between creating growth opportunities that generate revenue for a locality and how investing some of that revenue into education continues a self-reinforcing growth pattern that keeps taxes low. I understand that our city has a debt cap and that the debt must be allocated with education as its highest priority and with economic development as its second highest priority. From there, our locality revenues will maintain a growth pattern against the backdrop of an educated workforce, entrepreneurship, and innovation."

Click here to read the rest of Martin's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting Agenda - 01.09.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/04/2023 15:24
ATTACHMENTS (20230104-152455-0000265): "01.09.23 Board Agenda.doc"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached is the agenda for the Board of Education meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023.

Happy New Year!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 15:52

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education
Meeting
Date: January 9, 2023 (Monday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DpN6D_TjjsgawE4Bwu4p8dReaP44r8XkRnA1KN3-2FccEFq2crGUJ9g0GYHetHmjXmRU3CcS35bGK0Y8MIcpNRI9VVqSu3NVuf2rKSqLotEAvyEcR-2B57UFKF2u-2B6G5AyrqRHSOzOIUwQrTcOPLXdf2F8S-2BPfoH4Jy-2Fcq4y1WOkB8EcMb678EM0v9fzkzvnU5yQ1zTeo7gZptKUs0LyU7RyQaBOppSPSrlPtlMQMOgtFmJ664GGU-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: Re: Building Visits for 2022-2023 School Year
FROM: Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/05/2023 09:05

Jared,

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. [redacted] that had to be rescheduled to 1/12 at 3:30pm [redacted]. Could we move your visit to GP to 2pm on 4/5? I apologize for any inconvenience. If that works, I will make the edit on the spreadsheet. Thank you.

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 3:52 PM Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org> wrote:

> Jared,
>
> I really appreciate this email and kind words. As an educator yourself, you clearly know how tough these last few years have been. I am looking forward to an amazing school year and the opportunity to have you come and visit our incredible school community at Grande Park. Thank you for all you do as well. We see it and appreciate it just as much. Take care.
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 3:11 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Hello.
> >
> > First, I can not thank ALL of you enough for EVERYTHING you all have done these last few years. There is NO way you have heard it enough...THANK YOU!! Please know that if you do not feel seen or appreciated enough, while I am sorry for that...deeply, please know, for what it is worth, I DO!
> >
> > Second, I know you all have WAY more important things to do than pay much attention to this email so PLEASE do not place this anywhere near the top of any type of priority...not that any of you were going to...and trust me I would not take that personal. Our students and staff come first!
> >
> > What I have attached is a schedule of when I am available to come and visit with you and your wonderful schools. Please feel free to add your school name to a time that works for you. I hope that many of you who I have met with in the past certainly know by now that these are pretty low stress and the visit (while I do like to walk around and visit your school) is really about what you need me to know! You all are vital to all of us! That is NEVER lost on me.
> >
> > https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IB39RzzYyJT8314BOOWxX6s2O7j7Idzv4jIRwstX1u0/edit?usp=sharing
> >
> > Thank you in advance! Thank you on behalf of everyone in the community...even for those who won't say it. The work you do is so appreciated.
> >
> > Take care.
> > Jared Ploger

--
Sean Smith
Principal
Grande Park Elementary School

Community Unit School District 308
(630) 551-9710
http://www.sd308.org/grandepark

Grande Park Elementary School's Mission: Positively working together to achieve our goals with Grizzly pride!

--
Sean Smith
Principal
Grande Park Elementary School
Community Unit School District 308
(630) 551-9710
http://www.sd308.org/grandepark

Grande Park Elementary School's Mission: Positively working together to achieve our goals with Grizzly pride!

SUBJECT: Board Attorney Feedback
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/05/2023 14:46
ATTACHMENTS (20230105-144624-0000267): "School Board Attorney Feedback.xlsx"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

LaTonya asked me to send you the attached form, providing feedback to our board's legal council. In order to provide feedback that reflects the voice of our entire body, please review and be prepared to discuss responses.

This item will be discussed in our second closed session at the end of the meeting. You can fill out the form and send it back to me to have printed out for you at the meeting, or just make notes to be prepared for the discussion.

Eventually I will combine everyone's feedback into a google document.

Thank you very much for your time!
Ursula
--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: IASB Call to Action (Act Now to DEFEAT HB 5188)
FROM: "IASB Governmental Relations" <mbuch@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 11:15

Click here for a mobile/web version



Call to Action (Act NOW to Defeat HB 5188)

Lame Duck Legislature Seeks to Mandate Sex Education in Illinois

The IASB Governmental Relations team is diligently working a roll call in the Illinois Senate as I type this request to you for action. We need your help to stop the passage of HB 5188, as amended, which will MANDATE Illinois public schools to teach “age appropriate” sex education beginning in kindergarten.

PLEASE ACT NOW to contact your State Senator to encourage them to VOTE NO on House Bill 5188, as amended. The full language of the amendment can be found on the General Assembly Website.

Late last evening, State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) posted an amendment to HB 5188 that would require sex ed to be taught in kindergarten through grade 12 in Illinois schools. IASB has worked in good faith with stakeholders on sex ed standards and curriculum for several years. Previous sex ed bills focused on content of curriculum while still
preserving local control
around the decision to offer sex ed to all students. *HB 5188 removes that local option*
and MANDATES the national sex ed curriculum standards for all schools.

Please call your Senator’s office directly. Contact information can be found at www.ilga.gov or If you are not sure who your local legislator is, you can find that information on the Illinois State Board of Elections website by entering your address.

Advocacy Resources | Legislative Reports

Illinois Association of School Boards
Springfield: 2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 Phone: (217) 528-9688
Lombard: One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 20, Lombard, Illinois 60148 Phone: (630) 629-3776

The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.

Click here to unsubscribe.

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 15:54
ATTACHMENTS (20230106-155428-0000268): "Superintendent's Update - 01.06.23.docx" , "OEHS Parking Lot Article.pdf" , "BOE Memo_ Production Organization.docx"

Good afternoon,

Here is today's update. I hope that you have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 16:07

Online Update

January 6, 2023

January/February Illinois School Board Journal



The first 2023 issue of the Illinois School Board Journal takes a look back at the 2022 Joint Annual Conference and provides the next installment in the long-running administrator salaries series. The administrator salary series includes statewide and regional comparisons for superintendents, principals, and other administrators. Also featured in the January/February issue is school district social media use, how district leadership teams work together, and information on collective bargaining and equitable access in rural schools.

Call To Action: HB 5188

The IASB Governmental Relations team issued a Call to Action on Friday, January 6 regarding House Bill 5188, which, as amended, would mandate sex education be

taught in kindergarten through grade 12 in all Illinois public schools. HB 5188 removes local control options and requires that national sex ed curriculum standards be used for Illinois districts. IASB is urging board members to contact their legislators and encourage a “no vote” on the amended bill.



Winter Book Study

IASB has announced the return of the Winter Book Study, this year featuring the title *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out* by Amanda Ripley. Join the conversations with fellow school leaders to discover how to identify and address “high conflict,” and discuss strategies that lead to healthy, “good conflict.” The Winter Book Study will be held over Zoom from noon-1 p.m. on January 24, and February 7 and 21. Registration is free and will close on January 18.



IASB Introduces Three Regional Events for Spring 2023

Districts Encouraged to Share Successful Programs and Outcomes via Panel Presentations at 2023 Conference

Registration, Schedule Available for COSSBA Inaugural Conference, March 31-April 2

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 102-46
FROM: "IASB Legislative Report" <zmessersmith@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 16:16

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (102-46)



Legislature Convenes Lame Duck Session

Late on Thursday, January 5 the Illinois Senate posted an amendment to **House Bill 5188 (Villivalam, D-Chicago)** that would require sex education in kindergarten through

12th grades. The amendment was posted at about 9 p.m. and heard an hour after its posting in the Senate Executive Committee. The Illinois Association of School Boards has worked on sex ed standards and curriculum for several years. Previous sex ed bills focused on content of curriculum while still preserving local control around the decision to offer sex ed to all students. HB 5188 removes that local option and mandates the national sex ed standards for all schools. IASB encourages you to continue to make your voice heard on House Bill 5188. Please review the IASB Call to Action and make your voice heard in the process.

In the House, most of the focus was on firearms and abortion access. While those two issues garnered most of the week's attention, an important, clarifying language, **House Bill 4228 (Hoffman, D-Belleville)** passed the House and will now head to the Governor. HB 4228 is a clean-up of a measure, **Senate Bill 3789 (Morrison, D-Highwood)** that could have required school districts to conduct a decennial efficiency study. House Bill 4228 inserts into the law the definition of local government found in the Illinois Constitution, which does not include school districts.

Advocacy Resources **Legislative Reports**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Re: Building Visits for 2022-2023 School Year
FROM: Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/08/2023 20:04

Jared,

[redacted] Are there any other dates/times that work for you? I promise....I'm usually not this difficult. Thanks for your understanding in advance.

On Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 7:58 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Sean,
>
> Sounds good! Not a problem at all. I'll adjust my calendar on my end. Hope everything goes well.
>
> Take care and I hope tomorrow is a successful day for you!
>
> Cordially,
>
> Jared

> > Hello.
> >
> > First, I can not thank ALL of you enough for EVERYTHING you all have done these last few years. There is NO way you have heard it enough...THANK YOU!! Please know that if you do not feel seen or appreciated enough, while I am sorry for that...deeply, please know, for what it is worth, I DO!
> >
> > Second, I know you all have WAY more important things to do than pay much attention to this email so PLEASE do not place this anywhere near the top of any type of priority...not that any of you were going to...and trust me I would not take that personal. Our students and staff come first!
> >
> > What I have attached is a schedule of when I am available to come and visit with you and your wonderful schools. Please feel free to add your school name to a time that works for you. I hope that many of you who I have met with in the past certainly know by now that these are pretty low stress and the visit (while I do like to walk around and visit your school) is really about what you need me to know! You all are vital to all of us!

That is NEVER lost on me.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IB39RzzYyJT8314BOOWxX6s2O7j7Idzv4jIRwstX1u0/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you in advance! Thank you on behalf of everyone in the community...even for those who won't say it. The work you do is so appreciated.

Take care.
Jared Ploger

SUBJECT: Re: Building Visits for 2022-2023 School Year
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/08/2023 20:06

NO worries! Let me sit down with my calendar and take a look. [redacted] trip that night anyways so really, no worries at all!

Thank you for all you do! Let me double back to you.

Cordially,
Jared

On Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 8:04 PM Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org> wrote:

> Jared,
>
> I'm sorry, but we decided to make a getaway that week as my kids will be on spring break and my AP will be in the building. Are there any other dates/times that work for you? I promise....I'm usually not this difficult. Thanks for your understanding in advance.
>
> On Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 7:58 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Sean,
> >
> > Sounds good! Not a problem at all. I'll adjust my calendar on my end. Hope everything goes well.
> >
> > Take care and I hope tomorrow is a successful day for you!
> >
> > Cordially,
> > Jared
> >
> > On Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:06 AM Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org> wrote:
> >
> > > Jared,
> > >
> > > I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. I have a doctor's appointment that had to be rescheduled to 1/12 at 3:30pm per the doctor. Could we move your visit to GP to 2pm on 4/5? I apologize for any inconvenience. If that works, I will make the edit on the spreadsheet. Thank you.
> > >
> > > On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 3:52 PM Sean Smith <ssmith01@sd308.org> wrote:

Grande Park Elementary School
Community Unit School District 308
(630) 551-9710
http://www.sd308.org/grandepark

Grande Park Elementary School's Mission: Positively working together to achieve our goals with Grizzly pride!

SUBJECT: Re: Watch DOGS at WC
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kim Brown <kbrown@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/08/2023 20:38

Kim,

I'll have to play it by ear as we only have common days off moving forward on there. I'll try though!

Good luck tomorrow! Hope all goes well!

Take care.

Cordially
Jared

On Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 7:06 PM Kim Brown <kbrown@sd308.org> wrote:

> It is okay, the weather isn't looking so great. Here is the link for watch dogs if you want to sign up for one of the days or we can do another day that works for you!
>
> Wolf's Crossing WATCH D.O.G.S
> (Dads of Great Students)
> signupgenius.com
>
> Have a great break!!
> Kim
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Dec 21, 2022, at 6:34 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
> >
> > UGH!!! I feel terrible that we are going to miss tomorrow now! I will have to set up another date with you. Have an awesome and much deserved break!

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 10:05 AM Kimberly Brown <kbrown@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good morning!!
>
> Super excited to have you both here on Thursday for our Watch DOGS program. :) Thank you for giving your time to the students of WC. Don't forget to wear your ugly sweater and dress warm for outside recess!
>
> See you soon!
> Kim
>
> --
> Kimberly Brown
> Physical Education Teacher
> Wolf's Crossing Elementary
> (630)636-3721

SUBJECT: Re: Watch DOGS at WC
FROM: Kim Brown <kbrown@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/08/2023 21:13

Sounds good!! If there is a day you can do it that isn't on the sign up, just let me know and we can get it done :)

Happy first day back tomorrow!!

Kim

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 8, 2023, at 8:38 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Kim,
>
> I'll have to play it by ear as we only have common days off moving forward on there. I'll try though!
>
> Good luck tomorrow! Hope all goes well!
>
> Take care.
>
> Cordially
> Jared
>
> On Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 7:06 PM Kim Brown <kbrown@sd308.org> wrote:
>> It is okay, the weather isn't looking so great. Here is the link for watch dogs if you want to sign up for one of the days or we can do another day that works for you!
>>
>> <0ECA34B7482F796534F00CB
>> Wolf's Crossing WATCH D.O.G.S
>> (Dads of Great Students)
>> signupgenius.com
>>
>> Have a great break!!
>> Kim
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> > On Dec 21, 2022, at 6:34 PM, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>> >
>> > UGH!!! I feel terrible that we are going to miss tomorrow now! I will have to set up another date with you. Have an awesome and much deserved break!

Cordially,
Jared

On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 10:05 AM Kimberly Brown <kbrown@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good morning!!
>
> Super excited to have you both here on Thursday for our Watch DOGS program. :) Thank you for giving your time to the students of WC. Don't forget to wear your ugly sweater and dress warm for outside recess!
>
> See you soon!
> Kim
>
> --
> Kimberly Brown
> Physical Education Teacher
> Wolf's Crossing Elementary
> (630)636-3721

SUBJECT: Questions for tomorrow night
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/08/2023 21:46

Dr. Sparlin,
Here are my questions for tomorrow night:

How do we know the changes to transportation are working?
How will we reassure students dropped off early are supervised properly?
Can we get a follow up at some point at a future Board Meeting to see who buys our TAWs and what it costs us?

Will we have drivers for the bus lease?

Did we find what we are paying compared to other Districts in regards to Resource Officers?

Who wrote the intergovernmental agreement?

In addition:

Finance and Facilities Plan:

(Page 2) Going to say it again-the community doesn't trust the finances of the District. The process that yes, works almost everywhere else, doesn't work here. We need to have [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks!

Jared

SUBJECT: Fwd: SD308 January Staff Update
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 01/09/2023 10:46

Good Morning and Happy New Year, BOE,

Here is the monthly staff update that ELT works together to send out. It was sent to staff this morning.

Thanks,
Faith

SUBJECT: Final Reminder for Professors' School Board Member Survey
FROM: Michael Hartney <noreply@qemailserver.com>
TO: Jarod Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/09/2023 10:47

Dear School Board Member:

Dr. Houston and I are sending along one **final** reminder to ask that if you have not yet had the chance to complete our school boards survey, that you please consider doing so now. The study will conclude—and survey will no longer be accessible—on Wednesday, January 18.

Although over 3,000 of your colleagues from across the nation have graciously taken the few minutes needed to complete the survey, we still very much value your response. By sharing your views, you will help ensure that the survey is representative of all types of school districts.

Again, to take the survey please go here.

If you do not recall having received our initial request and would like more information on the nature of the survey, please refer to the text pasted below our signature here which contains the original request.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

Michael Hartney (Boston College) David Houston (George Mason University)
michael.hartney@bc.edu dhousto@gmu.edu

****
(BEGIN ORIGINAL MESSAGE)

Dear School Board Member,

Greetings! We are assistant professors David Houston (George Mason University) and Michael Hartney (Boston College).

The last few years have been an extraordinary time in American education, and many people have strong opinions about what has gone well and what has gone poorly. However, we too rarely hear the views of an essential group of policymakers: school board members like yourself.

To better understand the local dynamics of education policymaking today, we have developed a brief survey to learn what school board members think about a range of education issues. We know that, as public servants, board members are incredibly busy. We've worked diligently to create a survey that can be completed in 10-15 minutes. Again, you can access the survey here.

Please know that this research was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University (study reference #1998126-1) and that all of your responses are required to be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. Under no circumstance will board member names or even school district names be used in this research. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may elect to skip any questions or even discontinue taking the survey at any point in time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston dhousto@gmu.edu
Michael Hartney michael.hartney@bc.edu

Follow this link to the Survey:
Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:
https://gmucehd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy?Q_DL=caTWb9fi3WaOYm2_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy_CGC_JHQPMXJbZe3HqJg&Q_CHL=email

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:
Click here to unsubscribe

SUBJECT: RE: Questions for tomorrow night
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/09/2023 11:40
ATTACHMENTS (20230109-114015-0000270): "BOE - Neighboring Districts SRO Comparison Memo.pdf"

Good Morning Jared,

Thanks for the questions. Please see the responses below.

Thanks,
John
From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 8, 2023 9:46 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Questions for tomorrow night

Dr. Sparlin,
Here are my questions for tomorrow night:

How do we know the changes to transportation are working?
Answer:
We will be following up with drivers and are monitoring radios. We will also be following up with principals gaining feedback from them as well as the number of parent calls. We are monitoring pick up and drop off times as well. I am sure we will need to make some adjustments based off of that feedback.

How will we reassure students dropped off early are supervised properly?
Answer: Students will not be dropped off early. If they are, the buildings will make the appropriate adjustments.

Can we get a follow up at some point at a future Board Meeting to see who buys our TAWs and what it costs us?
Answer: Yes, we can provide that to you.

Will we have drivers for the bus lease?
Answer: Yes. You may want to touch base with Dr. Petzke before the meeting to get additional information.

Did we find what we are paying compared to other Districts in regards to Resource Officers?
Answer: Yes. I have included a document to this email that I shared with the Board in December.

Who wrote the intergovernmental agreement?
Answer: Both the shared services and the SRO IGA's were reviewed by Whit Law prior to being brought to the Board.

SUBJECT: Re: Questions for tomorrow night
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/09/2023 14:26

Thank you!

I understand the projection piece. I have all that information. [redacted] We have discussed this. I wanted to give you the heads up on these things coming up tonight.

Take care.
Jared

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:40 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning Jared,
>
> Thanks for the questions. Please see the responses below.
>
> Thanks,
>
> John
>
> **From:** Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
> **Sent:** Sunday, January 8, 2023 9:46 PM
> **To:** John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
> **Subject:** Questions for tomorrow night
>
> Dr. Sparlin,
>
> Here are my questions for tomorrow night:
>
> How do we know the changes to transportation are working?
>
> **Answer:**
>
> We will be following up with drivers and are monitoring radios. We will also be following up with principals gaining feedback from them as well as the number of parent calls. We are monitoring pick up and drop off times as well. I am sure we will need to make some adjustments based off of that feedback.

SUBJECT: Re:
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 01/09/2023 19:18

Thank you! I appreciate this feedback. This will help my questioning!

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 4:18 PM [redacted] wrote:

> Good afternoon,
> I wanted to give you some feedback from our new routes today since it was a topic of discussion in the neighborhoods. The JH info is from students so it probably should be fact checked. I know you like to hear from the students too though and value what our kids have to say.
> A friend of my daughter (bednarcik route 63) had kids sitting 3 to a seat. the staff came on the bus and asked if anyone wanted to call and get a ride. The friend did not know if anyone actually ended up walking or getting off.
>
> My two on bednarcik 8108 said there were 3 to a seat and kids were falling in the aisle. Several kids got off before leaving and just walked home because the bus was so crowded. The bus was about 10 min late but it was the first day. I guess they eliminated the double routes but they get to school at 7:45… (i'm having them double check times tomorrow) - I understand eliminating double routes but not if kids are so crowded that they are falling into the aisle and compromising safety.
>
> [redacted] didn't show up this morning WC 070. The director did send a nice response email with an apology, which i appreciate him taking responsibility that he forgot to include the stop on the new route. He did say that there are now 6 additional stops after ours and i'm curious as to how full that bus will be.
>
> I would really like to see the director of transportation do a ride along. Experience sitting 3 to a seat and look to see if this is really safe. sure some JH kids are still petite but some are very much full size adults. I know with being short drivers is a challenge but I do want to make sure our students are safe.
>
> Happy Monday and thank you for your service to the board and to our community.
>
> [redacted]

SUBJECT: Bussing
FROM: Melissa Yanko [redacted]
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/09/2023 21:12

Hi Jared,
I believe it was you I just heard in the board meeting expressing concerns over bussing. My son only rides home on the bus from Bednarcik to Lakewood Valley. I can attest today that he said it was at least 3 to a seat on the way home. He said kids were falling into the aisles. Based on some of the kids on his bus route now, I'm pretty sure the entire neighborhood is being condensed to one bus route. I'm not sure what our other option will be, but I don't know if we feel this is a safe option anymore to transport our kids. Thank you!
Melissa Yanko
Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: [NEWSLETTER] Welcome to HMH's Shaped Blog - School Board Edition
FROM: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt <hmheducation@hmhco.com>
TO: JARED-PLOGER@SD308.ORG
DATE: 01/10/2023 07:03
ATTACHMENTS (20230110-070326-0000097): "text.txt" , "text.htm"

Get new ideas from experts every month this year

HMH

SUBSCRIBE NOW

NEW YEAR. NEW IDEAS.

Happy New Year! In 2023, we invite you to subscribe to our monthly newsletter to receive the latest EdTech news and strategies. Start with these articles from the *Shaped* blog for insight into new education trends and the long-term return on investment that intervention programs provide.

LOOKING FORWARD



Experts share emerging education trends to watch out for in 2023. **Read More**



Investment in an intervention program has a double ROI: a return on both school funds and student success. **Read More**

Get more resources in your inbox every month!

DON'T MISS OUT

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt® and HMH® are registered trademarks of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. © Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved. 01/23 WF1684659c

This email was sent to JARED-PLOGER@SD308.ORG | View Online
Unsubscribe/Manage Preferences | About Houghton Mifflin Harcourt | Privacy Policy
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt • 125 High St., Boston, MA 02110

SUBJECT: Re: Bussing
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 01/10/2023 07:11

Yes! I have heard this and am VERY concerned! While Bednarcik was not the only Jr. High issue I heard from, it was one of them.

I appreciate you reaching out to me.

Thank you!

Cordially,
Jared

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:13 PM [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Jared,
> I believe it was you I just heard in the board meeting expressing concerns over bussing. My son only rides home on the bus from Bednarcik to Lakewood Valley. I can attest today that he said it was at least 3 to a seat on the way home. He said kids were falling into the aisles. Based on some of the kids on his bus route now, I'm pretty sure the entire neighborhood is being condensed to one bus route. I'm not sure what our other option will be, but I don't know if we feel this is a safe option anymore to transport our kids. Thank you!
> [redacted]
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Bus Routes
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/10/2023 07:15

Per the meeting last night, I wanted to follow up with the feedback I've been receiving. I have heard concerns about room on Bednarcik making the run to LWV and how many Jr. High kids are being bussed on the bus at once. It would appear we have that bus? pretty packed!

The other concerns I've heard were in regards to Thompson and at least one route not having all its pick ups completed. The message about being late came about twenty minutes AFTER the pick up should have happened and then it never came at all.

I have heard things here and there but Jr. High is what I am dealing with the most.

Thank you and please let me know what feedback you have on this.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: "IASB Communications" <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/10/2023 09:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Pension Problem: What Does It Mean?

January 12, 2023 — noon

When we hear about Illinois' pension funding challenges, what does it mean? While school districts have no direct control over the “pension problem,” this webinar will help you to understand how we got here at the state and local levels, how it impacts your district, and ideas for the future. Knowledge of this topic allows board members to be proactive participants in this important conversation as long-term solutions are considered. Join Tom Reedy and Tom Crabtree from Stifel and Jim Snyder from Ice Miller for this timely discussion.

Register Now

More Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

IASB Winter Book Study 2023: High Conflict Part I

January 24, 2023 — noon

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Future is Now - Why This is the Best Time to Go Green
January 26, 2023 — noon

Register Now

IASB Events Calendar

View Calendar

South Cook Division Winter Breakfast
January 21, 2023

DuPage Division Meeting
February 1, 2023

Focusing the Board on Renovation
February 2, 2023

Starved Rock Division Meeting
February 2, 2023



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Mac for Education Series: Best Practices and Case Studies
FROM: Apple Education <no-reply@email.apple.com>
TO: JARED-PLOGER@SD308.ORG
DATE: 01/10/2023 12:12

Apple Education

Designed by Apple. Powered by learning.

A better world starts in the classroom, with flexible, easy-to-use technology. Mac is a powerhouse for creating engaging learning experiences. It's packed with features that keep students and educators productive, collaborative, and connected — in the classroom, at home, or on the go.

Mac is compatible with apps and services that educators and students are already using, so they can focus on learning new subjects, not new apps. This includes productivity and classroom tools, such as Google Drive, Google Classroom, and Microsoft Excel, as well as learning management systems such as Canvas and Seesaw, and more.

To learn more about the power of Mac in the classroom, join us to hear from district leaders who have chosen Mac for their districts. Please register here.

Connect with an Apple education specialist now at appleeducation@apple.com to discuss your district goals.

TM and copyright © 2023 Apple Inc. One Apple Park Way, Cupertino, CA 95014.

All Rights Reserved | Privacy Policy | My Apple ID

Please unsubscribe me from receiving marketing communications from Apple Education.

SUBJECT: Special Meeting for Search Firm Presentations
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/10/2023 17:29

Good Evening Board Members,

As discussed last night, please send me your top 3 search firms by Monday, January 16.
I have selected 4 dates between January 23 and February 2 to hold a special meeting for the Search Firm Presentations. Ideally the firm could then be approved at the February 6 Board meeting if you wish.

Please select the dates that would work for you by the end of the week at the following link:
https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e798qDwb

Thank you for all you do!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Response submitted for Board of Education Meeting for Search Firm Presentations
FROM: Doodle <mailer@doodle.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 12:28

Doodle

Response submitted!

Hi Jared Ploger,

We submitted your response to the invite for **Board of Education Meeting for Search Firm Presentations**.

As long as the event isn't booked, you can edit your response and change your chosen times.

Review response

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #44
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 14:02

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 11, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over four-day school weeks
- In your district: Budgets
- In *Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc.*, SCOTUS could decide if charter schools are state actors
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over four-day school weeks

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

On Dec. 13, 2022, the Independence School District in Missouri became the largest district in the state (with about 14,000 students) to adopt a four-day school week for all grade levels. Independence School District is the 557th largest district by enrollment in the country. Officials in the nearby St. Joseph School District (with more than 10,000 students) are reportedly considering the change as well.

Paul Hill writes that four-day school weeks do not save money because teachers, administrators, and most professional staff receive the same annual pay. Hill says teachers and students are more likely to lose focus in longer school days and that four-day school weeks worsen learning losses from sick days and other absences. He also says four-day weeks disproportionately harm lower-income and minority students with fewer resources at home and hurt the rural school districts that have tried the policy.

Lucy Rycroft-Smith writes about Colorado school districts that had statistically significant improvements in math scores after switching to a four-day school week. Rycroft-Smith says four-day weeks reduce stress for students and give them more time for play, extracurricular learning, and daytime appointments (like doctor's visits) that would normally cause absences from school. She also says the policy gives teachers more time to plan lessons, collaborate, and seek professional development.

Beware the Four-Day School-Week Trap | Paul Hill, *EducationWeek*

"All teachers and most professional staff get the same annual pay for the four longer days, with the savings coming only from that fifth day of busing costs, utility bills, and wages of some support staff, such as those in custodial or food services. … Supporters of the four-day week assert that the longer days make up for the missed fifth day. But teachers and students, especially the younger children, may not work as effectively at the end of such long days, thus reducing overall learning. Low-income and minority students, who generally have fewer learning resources at home, stand to lose disproportionately from the loss of a day in school. High school students assigned homework every school day will have one less evening of preparation per week. And days lost to illness or weather will have a greater impact on learning time. Nobody seriously argues that less time in school will increase student learning. And here's the rub: The hundreds of four-day-week districts in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, and Oregon are overwhelmingly rural districts, which, on average, fall below state means on student achievement, graduation rates, and college attendance. A policy that just holds student results to previous levels will not expand students' college options or help communities attract new businesses and jobs."

What a difference a day makes: the argument for a four-day school week | Lucy Rycroft-Smith, *The Guardian*

"The four-day school week for students in Colorado was introduced as a cost-saving measure, and the improvements in academic results were the opposite of what had been anticipated, Walker explains. … But the results show that, even for these young students, a four-day school week had a statistically significant positive impact on maths scores (around 7% extra on average), and a possible positive impact on reading scores (although this was not deemed statistically significant by the study's testing standards). … [A]s someone who taught for 10 years, I can certainly see the potential benefits. It would give young people some

much-needed breathing space and, in schools where the fifth day was used for extracurricular activities, students wouldn't have to choose between academic study and other pursuits. … The benefits for teachers should not be overlooked either. Those who took part in the study reported greater efficiency and better collaboration when they used the fifth day to plan together, with some schools even finding that staff turnover was reduced. … Perhaps most exciting is the potential to use the fifth day to provide good-quality continued professional development and support for teachers where it is (sometimes desperately) needed."

In your district: Budgets

School districts around the country face diverse issues and challenges. We want to hear what's happening in your school district. Complete the very brief survey below—anonymously, if you prefer—and we may share your response with fellow subscribers in an upcoming newsletter.

Today's question:

What are your thoughts on the current and proposed budget for your school district?

Click here to respond!

In *Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc.*, SCOTUS could decide if charter schools are state actors

A case before the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) could help answer whether charter schools are public schools or private organizations for the 45 states with laws authorizing charter schools. As of this writing, SCOTUS is considering whether to hear the case.

Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc. concerns whether charter schools are state actors subject to constitutional review under Title 42 of the United States Code Section 1983. Section 1983 allows individuals to sue the government for civil rights violations.

The case arose from a school uniform policy. Charter Day School, a charter school in North Carolina that receives 95% of its funding from federal, state, and local governments, requires female students to wear skirts, jumpers, or skorts (shorts designed to look like a skirt) and male students to wear pants or shorts. In 2016, Bonnie Peltier, her daughter (a student at the school), two other student families, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued Charter Day School in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. They alleged the skirt requirement violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal

Protection Clause and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex in public schools. Charter Day School responded that "as a private nonprofit corporation that contracts with the State to operate a charter school, it is not a state actor and therefore not subject to suit under Section 1983."

In 2019, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina Judge Malcolm Howard ruled the uniform policy was unconstitutional. Former President Ronald Reagan (R) appointed Howard in 1987.

Charter Day School appealed the decision to the U.S Court of Appeals for the Fourth District. The Religious Freedom Institute, along with other organizations, submitted an amicus brief in support of Charter Day School. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, along with other organizations, submitted an amicus brief in support of Bonnie Peltier and other plaintiffs.

On June 14, 2022, the court ruled 10-6 that North Carolina charter schools are state actors. The court held that Charter Day School's dress code policy violated female students' rights under the Equal Protection Clause.

Writing for the majority, Senior Judge Barbara Keenan said: "Ultimately, the state action inquiry in this case is not complicated: (1) North Carolina is required under its constitution to provide free, universal elementary and secondary schooling to the state's residents; (2) North Carolina has fulfilled this duty in part by creating and funding the public charter school system; and (3) North Carolina has exercised its sovereign prerogative to treat these state-created and state-funded schools as public institutions that perform the traditionally exclusive government function of operating the state's public schools."

Former President Barack Obama (D) nominated Keenan to the Fourth District.

In a partial dissent, Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum wrote: "My worry is that the majority's reasoning transforms all charter schools in North Carolina, and likely all charter schools in the other states that form our circuit, into state actors. As a result, the innovative alternatives to traditional public education envisioned by North Carolina when it passed the Charter Schools Act, and thus the choices available to parents, will be limited."

Former President Donald Trump (R) nominated Quattlebaum to the Fourth District.

Charter Day School presented the following question to the Supreme Court in its appeal: "Whether a private entity that contracts with the State to operate a charter school engages in state action when it formulates a policy without coercion or encouragement by the government."

Texas, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia joined together to file an amicus brief asking SCOTUS on behalf of Charter Day School to take up the case. The states

argued classifying charter schools as state actors undermines their own charter schools' independence.

On Jan. 6, SCOTUS reviewed the case. On Jan. 9, SCOTUS asked U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar to file a brief expressing the Biden administration's thoughts on the case. SCOTUS' request does not mean it will ultimately hear the case.

During its 2021-2022 term, SCOTUS issued rulings on at least two cases with broad implications for K-12 public education—*Carson v. Makin* and *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*. Click here to read our coverage of those cases.

We'll bring you more on *Peltier v. Charter Day School* as it develops.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- 5 superintendents to watch in 2023 | *K-12 Dive*
- Wishes and Worries for 2023: What Ed Tech Leaders Are Thinking About | *The Journal*
- Ann Arbor schools mandate masks for two weeks | *The Detroit News*
- Public Schools Lost More Than One Million Students During Pandemic | *The Wall Street Journal*
- Elected Broward School Board member sues over Governor's order that voided his election | *Florida Politics*
- Seattle schools sue tech giants over social media harm | *Associated Press*
- A Chaotic Start to a New Congress: What Educators Need to Know | *Education Week*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Robert Barr (R), who won the general election for one of four seats on Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools school board District 2 in North Carolina, and Tracy Miller, who won the general election Jordan Board of Education Precinct 3 in Utah.

Here's how Barr answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Making sure all of our kids have the support and resources to learn. I grew up in public housing, raised by a single parent, and economically disadvantaged. However, because of the support of a guidance counselor and a program called Upward Bound that helped my mother and I navigate the educational system I was able to achieve some success. I have a Masters Degree from Wake Forest and a Bachelors Degree from Winston-Salem State University. Through education and the proper support, all children can learn. I am a big advocate of parental involvement and engagement. Parents are a crucial and critical part of children learning."

Click here to read the rest of Barr's answers.

Here's how Miller answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"I am passionate about public education! I have spent the past decade helping our schools in various capacities. Prior to serving on the school board I spent a lot of time advocating at the state capitol for parent voice on School Community Councils. I was instrumental in getting a constitutional amendment passed that has resulted in increased funding for our schools through the School Land Trust program."

Click here to read the rest of Miller's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Search Firm Topics and Questions
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 14:08

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Please add your specifics that you wish to be addressed during the presentation as well as possible follow up questions.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GizwCQE2N4-lx25SrlkawY4do6dDcJXq/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107491171836506217645&rtpof=true&sd=true

When scheduling the firms, I will make them aware of the topics you wish to have included in the presentation.

Please complete this along with your 3 top firms and possible meeting dates by
Monday, January 16.

Thank you!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: COSSBA National Conference Early Registration Discount Ends January 28
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/12/2023 11:12

Click here for a mobile/web version

COSSBA
CONSORTIUM OF STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATIONS

Early registration discounts for the COSSBA Inaugural National Conference, March 31-April 2, and Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) Day, March 30, will remain available until January 28. Both professional development opportunities will take place in Tampa, Florida. Early-bird registration fees for the National Conference are $549, with discounted rates for UBA Day at $199. Registration costs for both events will increase by $50 after January 28.

UBA Day will include two general sessions, panel discussions, complimentary breakfast and lunch, and an evening reception. Presenting the opening keynote will be **Donna Beegle, Ed. D.,** president of the consulting firm Communication Across Barriers that focuses on building poverty informed communities. The second general session will be headlined by **Steve Gallon III, Ed. D.,** who currently serves as a board member of the Miami Children's Initiative and was awarded the Florida School Board Association 2022 President's Award for Unparalleled Leadership and Courage.



The COSSBA Inaugural Conference beginning on March 31 will feature three general sessions, a trade show, and breakout learning sessions. Keynoting the first general session will be award-winning author, CEO of Fearless Positivity, and co-founder of the Digital Wellness Institute **Amy Blankson**. Headlining the second general session is **Chuck Underwood**, host of the PBS television series "America's Generations with Chuck Underwood." ABC News veteran, Emmy Award winner, and host of the popular television program, "What Would You Do?", **John Quiñones** will close out the Conference on Sunday, April 2. Detailed information about the keynote speakers for both professional development opportunities can be found online.

Registration instructions and housing information, as well as a complete schedule for the two events, are available on the COSSBA website. Questions about registration should be directed to anne.butcher@cossba.org.

IASB is a founding member of the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA), a national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations. Through its membership IASB is able to provide local districts access to COSSBA training opportunities, resources, and services.

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Lead to Succeed in 2023
FROM: SuperEval <info@SuperEval.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 08:00

View this email in your browser

SuperEval®

January 2023



"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



Does Your School District Have a Vision and Mission Statement?

Creating a vision and mission statement for your school district helps establish a central purpose within the school community. It also provides a clear picture to the public of your school district's reason for being, long-term goals, and plan for accomplishing those goals.

Discover Vision and Mission Statement Best Practices



Self-Reflection As You Begin A New Year

Although self-reflection focuses on past actions, it's a powerful tool to help leaders behave differently and improve performance in the future. The beginning of the calendar year, often the halfway point for the school year, offers an excellent opportunity for K-12 leaders to reflect on what has worked, what hasn't worked, and what can be improved upon moving forward.

Discover Self-Reflection Tips & Best Practices



Related Article from Our Partner, PLS Classes

How to Encourage Student Self-Reflection As We Enter a New Year

This article is a worthy read for your staff members! The beginning of a new year provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their performance to date as well as their goals for the future. Please pass along these tips and strategies on how to get students in a reflective mindset that promotes ongoing improvement and learning.

Read Student Self-Reflection Tips & Strategies

News & Updates

AASA Annual Conference



on Education 2023

SuperEval is pleased to share that we will be attending the AASA Annual Conference on Education from February 16-18, 2023. The conference will take place in San Antonio, TX.

Learn More About the Conference

SuperEval Welcomes Craig Goodsell

SuperEval is thrilled to announce the addition of Craig Goodsell to our team. As our new Senior Software Developer, Craig joins our team with over twelve years of experience in development.

Meet Craig

Custom Computer Specialists
Right People. Right Results®

Custom Computer Specialists and SuperEval Announce Channel Partnership Program

The SuperEval Team and Custom Computer Specialists proudly announce a new partnership to bring the SuperEval platform to school districts across Massachusetts.

Learn More About the Partnership



Need Help With SuperEval?

Our award winning help desk is here to provide you assistance.

Email us at support@SuperEval.com or call us toll-free at 1-844-312-EVAL.

Learn More About Our Help Desk

Our Mission

To strengthen teams through self-reflection, deeper conversations, and continuous growth.

Questions?

Send an email to Bob Hartz at BHartz@SuperEval.com.



Get in touch with SuperEval

About | Contact | Support

SuperEval

Copyright (C) 2023 SuperEval. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this message because you are a current user of SuperEval, subscribed to our mailing list, or attended a conference and registered to receive information from us.

Our mailing address is:

SuperEval
678 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Add us to your address book

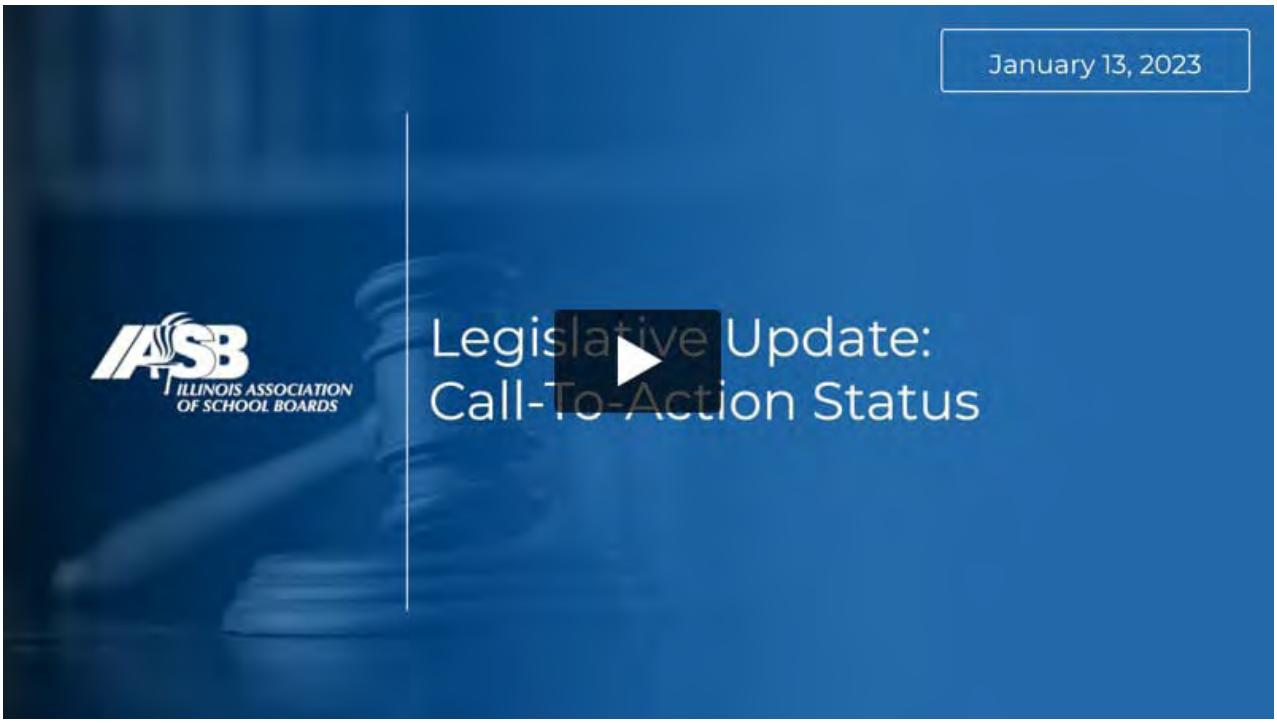
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 103-01
FROM: "IASB Legislative Report" <zmessersmith@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 10:38

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (103-1)



Lame Duck Session Adjourns 103rd General Assembly Sworn in

A busy lame duck session of the 102nd Illinois General Assembly ended with both chambers adjourning Sine Die late into the evening on January 10. While many

impactful pieces of legislation were passed during the session, **House Bill 5188 (Villivalam, D-Chicago)** was never called for a vote. House Bill 5188 would have mandated a statewide sex education curriculum. The Illinois Association of School Boards appreciates all of you who reached out to your state senator to oppose this mandate. Your voice was critical in stopping the passage of the bill. For more background on HB 5188, please see IASB Legislative Report 102-46.

The Illinois General Assembly passed several bills during the lame duck session including an assault weapons ban, HB 5471 (Welch, D-Westchester), and changes to abortion law HB 4664 (Cassidy, D-Chicago). Both chambers passed an additional funding bill, HB 969 (Harris, D-Chicago) will send $850 million to the Illinois Rainy Day Fund as well as $400 million to the governor's "Closing Fund" to attract more business to Illinois.

With the work of the 102nd General Assembly concluded, the 103rd General Assembly got off to a fast start with the Senate sworn in at the Old State Capitol and the Illinois House taking the oath of office on the campus of the University of Illinois-Springfield. While the inaugurations are mostly ceremonial, bill introductions have begun. On the first day of the 103rd Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois House introduced 1,124 bills. The 1,124 bills do not include Senate bills and are more bills than the Ohio House and Senate introduced during their recently completed two-year term. IASB staff will be analyzing those bills and all others introduced to see how they may impact public education in the State of Illinois.

Advocacy Resources **Legislative Reports**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Advisory Committee Meetings for the Week of January 17, 2023
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/13/2023 14:34
ATTACHMENTS (20230113-143407-0000273): "01.17.23 T_and_L Agenda.pdf" , "11.15.22 T_and_L Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf" , "01.19.23 Community Advisory Committee Agenda.pdf" , "11.16.22 Draft CAC Minutes.pdf"

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the agendas and draft minutes for the following committee meetings this week:

- Teaching & Learning Committee - Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm in room 61 at the District Administration Center
- Community Advisory Committee - Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the community room at Oswego East High School

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 15:35

Online Update: News from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Online Update

January 13, 2023

IASB Legislative Report

The latest IASB Legislative Report looks back at the recent lame duck session and the swearing-in of the 103rd General Assembly. Meet the newest member of the IASB Governmental Relations team and hear about final action at the end of the 102nd General Assembly in this short video.

School Board Election Reminders

The last day to file a "withdraw of candidacy" form for the April 4 school board election is Thursday, January 26. Other important dates with regard to the upcoming election can be found in the Key Dates for School Board Candidates document. Additional information about school board elections and for school board candidates is available on the IASB website.

Annual School Calendar

IASB makes available the Annual School Calendar at the beginning of each school year to help school districts prepare their calendars and provide reminders of important dates and deadlines for school boards. The dates contained in this calendar comply with all statutory deadlines contained in the Election Code, School Code, and selected acts of the General Assembly.



IPA, IASB Team Up for Annual Cole Award

Deadline Nears for Placing Referenda on April 2023 Consolidated Election Ballot

January/February Journal Looks at the Numbers

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 15:57
ATTACHMENTS (20230113-155759-0000274): "Superintendent's Update - 01.13.23.docx" , "Monthly Enrollment Report - 01.12.23.xlsx" , "BOE Grant Memo - December 2022.pdf" , "BOE OSS Report - December SY 2023 FINAL.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. Have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 1.13.23
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/13/2023 17:17

January 13

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In January:

Date	Day	Event
January 13 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry-Oswego Satellite Location @ 61 Franklin Street, Oswego **Spread the word: Open to ALL**
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day (No School/District Closed)
January 17 (6-7:00pm) Virtual	Tuesday	Parent University Presents Healthy Meal Ideas for Busy Families Presented by: SCRC Click Here to Register
January 17 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting / DAC
January 18 (6-8:00pm)	Wednesday	Presentation: "Parents and Children…Empowered" (in Spanish) @ Oswego East, Community Room
January 19 (5-6:30pm)	Thursday	NEED GROCERIES? Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry @ Lakewood Creek Elementary School
January 19 (6-7:30pm)	Thursday	Board Advisory: Community Advisory Committee Meeting / OE
January 23 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting Recognition Night: PRIDE Winners and Fall Student Athletes
January 24 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Adult ESL Classes at Old Post Elementary
January 25 (5:30-6:30pm)	Wednesday	Board Advisory: Equity Committee Meeting / DAC
January 25 (6-7:30pm) Virtual	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Parenting from Opposite Sides of the Field Click Here to Register

January 27	Friday	School Improvement Day - 3.5 Hour Student Attendance No Early Childhood
January 30 (5-7:30pm)	Monday	Board Advisory: Policy & Legislative Committee Meeting / DAC
January 31 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting / DAC
For a complete details of calendar events, please view the District Calendar		

Martin Luther King Jr., An Author

While his “I Have a Dream” speech is the most well-known piece of his writing, Martin Luther King Jr. was the author of multiple books, including “Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story,” “Why We Can’t Wait,” “Strength to Love,” “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” and the posthumously published “Trumpet of Conscience” with a foreword by Coretta Scott King.

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

As I shared in a message earlier this week, I will be retiring from the district at the conclusion of this school year. These past seven years as your Superintendent have been the greatest honor in my career. I enjoy nothing more than being out at the schools observing the creative and effective ways our teachers and staff engage and inspire students. As a staff, you go above and beyond each and every day to ensure that all of our kids are cared for, educated, and feel loved. While the end of my career here is on the horizon, I want to assure you that I remain committed to our goals and strategies. I will continue visiting our buildings and keeping up with all the great things going on. I want us all to keep up our positive stride to help our students finish the year strong. Hope to see you soon!

- *John*

Staff Info

WELCOME Heather Niessner (hniessner@sd308.org) to your new role as the SD 308 Assessment, Data, and Accountability Coordinator. Heather has previously been employed with the technology department with the district.

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter “[redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Volunteers Needed For Black History Month Professionals Fair

At Oswego East on February 11, students are invited to join in engineering activities, a panel discussion and booths to explore many exciting careers. Open to all students, the event features a variety of professionals including scientists, business owners, pilots, doctors, lawyers and business entrepreneurs. Contact Valerie Talton with Accelerate Career through Education, LLC if you're interested in helping to make this event a success (a_c_e@comcast.net)!

Transportation Improvements Underway! A number of changes were made to bus routes over the winter break in order to make routes more efficient and reduce delays. We appreciate your understanding as everyone adjusts to the changes. Thank you!

From the Schools

OHS Panther Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Induction Ceremony will be held this Saturday between the Sophomore and Varsity basketball games at approximately 7:15. Inductees include:Amy Annala (Class of 2014), Bryce Holm (Class of 2014), and the 1999 Varsity Football Team. Also being inducted with Ken Pickerill Lifetime Achievement Awards: Ron Haynes (Friends of Athletics), Sarah Miller (Friends of Athletics), Chris Neitzel (Coach), and Glen Young (Friends of Athletics).

HUMAN RESOURCES

This year, say yes to you. Ditch New Year's resolutions and make a lasting change with Wondr – a digital weight loss program tailored to you. Space is limited. Learn more at wondrhealth.com/CUSD308. Apply between January 9 – January 22. The program begins February 2, 2023.

Livongo means healthier at no cost to you! Livongo helps you manage diabetes, prediabetes, hypertension, and other health goals like managing weight, stress, and more. You get top technology, convenient tracking, personalized action plan, expert coaching and the program is offered at no cost to employees and covered dependents enrolled in either of the district's BCBS PPO plans. To learn more or join, visit be.livongo.com/CUSD308/now

OMNI – 2023 Universal Availability Notice - Please take a moment to review the Universal Availability Notice. The Universal Notice provides employees information on what a 403(b) plan is, how they can contribute, what providers to which they can contribute, and the amounts they can contribute annually. To enroll in a plan or for additional questions regarding this information please visit the district's voluntary retirement plans webpage at https://www.sd308.org/Page/1872

BENEFIT DEDUCTIONS! Please be sure to check your January 13 paycheck to confirm your benefits deductions are correct. If your benefits confirmation statement shows a different amount than the amount deducted on your check, please contact Glenn Campos at gcampos@sd308.org for assistance. Employees can now also view their 2023 Benefits Open Enrollment information at http://sd308.link/ea under 'Mybenefits'.

FSA Medical 2022 Rollover: If you were enrolled in the FSA Medical plan in 2022, and had a remaining balance at the end of the year of $570 or less, those funds will be carried over to your 2023 FSA account on 01/25/2022. Participants who are not enrolled in a new plan year benefit will have their carryover balance posted to the same type of benefit they were enrolled in for the old plan year.

GATEWAY FOUNDATION ADDICTION RECOVERY offers many treatment programs designed to aid clients as they work toward recovery. Residential treatment centers can be an effective way to fight back against drug and

alcohol addiction, and clients can enjoy total support and care every step of the way. Get familiar with the benefits of residential rehab and learn what to expect when you begin this critical step on the road to addiction recovery. Click here for details regarding the Gateway Foundation.

PRIDE
(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Aramark Food Service Job Fair - Aramark is hosting a Job Fair on Wednesday, January 25 and Thursday, January 26. Multiple positions available. 1 on 1 interviews can be scheduled by texting "OSWEGOHIRING" to 63000.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 23, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live

---

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

SUBJECT: Question about Feb. 28th
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/16/2023 14:40

Hello.

State law dictates that schools are not to have students in attendance during elections in the state of Illinois. I know that only Oswego has a Primary election scheduled for Feb. 28th. However, I am curious IF this impacts our current calendar and IF we need to revisit what we are doing that day due to the law AND the primary that is now scheduled?

Thank you.
Jared

SUBJECT: Search Firms and Special Meeting Date
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/17/2023 10:04

Good Morning Board Members,

If you have not done so already, please email me your top 3 search firms and pick a date for the Special Meeting. Thank you very much and enjoy your day!

https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e798qDwb

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Re: Search Firms and Special Meeting Date
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 13:15

Do you have mine?

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 10:05 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning Board Members,
>
> If you have not done so already, please email me your top 3 search firms and pick a date for the Special Meeting. Thank you very much and enjoy your day!
>
> https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e798qDwb
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

SUBJECT: Re: Search Firms and Special Meeting Date
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 13:44

Did you send me the search firms? I do have your dates!

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:16 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Do you have mine?
>
> On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 10:05 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Good Morning Board Members,
> >
> > If you have not done so already, please email me your top 3 search firms and pick a date for the Special Meeting. Thank you very much and enjoy your day!
> >
> > https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e798qDwb
> >
> > --
> > Ursula Studer
> > Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> > Board of Education Secretary
> > Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> > 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> > Direct: 630-636-3084
> > Fax: 630-636-3665
> >
> > *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Tomorrow
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Toia Jones <tjones01@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 14:31

Hello! I hope your year is going well!

Few Questions:

1) Am I still on for tomorrow?
2) What time should I be there?
3) What should I bring with me?

Thanks!

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: Re: Tomorrow
FROM: Toia Jones <tjones01@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 18:17

Hi Jared,

Yes! Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow!

I'm just catching up on emails, I sent an email today, but I think it bounced back so I'm copying it below; but you did accept the invite so I must have multiple email addresses for you.

image.png



Good evening Mr. Ploger,

Thank you for being our special guest tomorrow. I will have a referee shirt for you to put on waiting in my office. This is an informal opportunity for you to share a few encouraging words to staff. I also have some additional tasks for you if you have the time:
***Celebrations: (1min) words of encouragement from you, our special guest**

***Bobcat guessing game (1 min) you can read the clue about a staff member so that others can guess the person**

***AVID hat (3 min) You can pull new names out of a hat of the staff members who will share out at the next meeting.**

It should take about 5-10 min of your time. You may feel free to stay for the remainder of the meeting if you'd like.

Take care,
Toia

Toia Jones
Principal
Boulder Hill Elementary
163 Boulder Hill Pass
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 636-2900
(630)636 2968 fax

"There is a brilliant child locked inside every student" ~Marva Collins~

Mission Statement: We A.R.E. Boulder Hill ~Accountable, Respectful, Engaged

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 2:31 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Hello! I hope your year is going well!
>
> Few Questions:
>
> 1) Am I still on for tomorrow?
> 2) What time should I be there?
> 3) What should I bring with me?
>
> Thanks!
>
> Cordially,
> Jared

SUBJECT: Reminder - Board Attorney Feedback
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
BCC: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 08:58
ATTACHMENTS (20230118-085851-0000275): "School Board Attorney Feedback (1).xlsx"

Good Morning!

Just wanted to send out a quick reminder if you would like to add your opinion since this will likely be discussed in closed session on Monday.

Thank you and enjoy your day!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Draft BOE Meeting Agenda - 01.23.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/18/2023 12:50
ATTACHMENTS (20230118-125044-0000276): "01.23.23 Draft Board Agenda.doc"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached please find the Board of Education meeting agenda for January 23, 2023.

Thank you!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #45
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:00

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 18, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter that keeps you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over using school suspensions to discipline students
- In your district: Budgets
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Eight state executive candidates endorsed 106 school board candidates in Ballotpedia's coverage scope in 2022
- Orange County districts fire superintendents
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over using school suspensions to discipline students

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

Should schools suspend students for misbehavior?

Max Eden writes that suspensions protect other students and ensure a focused learning environment. He says trying to reduce racial disparities through non-suspension policies can result in exposing students to more violence. Eden also says that while suspensions can harm students, disruptive peers who are not removed from classrooms can harm other students and their ability to focus and learn.

Linda Stamato and Sandy Jaffee write that suspensions harm students and disproportionately affect children of color and children from lower-income families. Stamato and Jaffee say suspensions do not reduce bad behavior and that most behavioral problems are best dealt with at school. Stamato and Jaffee say that most disputes are resolvable and that faculty should try to help students better process their feelings. They call the in-school mediation process restorative justice and say it can reduce suspensions and promote racial equity.

In Defense of Suspensions | Max Eden, *EducationWeek*
"[I]f we pursue wholesale policy changes on the assumption racial bias is solely responsible for the disparity (the assumption behind the Department of Education's "Dear Colleague" guidance on discipline) then we run a strong risk of overcorrecting. Rapid overhauls of the entire system might well breed rampant disorder in schools—and in places where that approach has been taken, the results aren't looking pretty. … [W]hile claims of the benefits of not suspending disruptive students are likely oversold, the harm done to students by disruptive peers is certainly underappreciated. … It's fair to question whether suspensions are truly the best tool to maintain classroom order. But it's important to recognize that any major policy change is likely to have tradeoffs, harming some students even as it helps others. … We simply don't have enough data to evaluate the effects of discipline changes in most American school districts. That means that the policymakers pushing suspension-reduction reforms are doing so quite literally ignorant of the consequences of their actions for poor and minority students who are just trying to behave, learn, and have a fair opportunity at life."

Suspending students isn't the answer. Restorative justice programs in schools are a better solution. | Opinion | Linda Stamato and Sandy Jaffee, *NJ.com*

"Suspensions raise a number of issues, not least how to deal with disruptive

behavior, equitably and effectively, to understand its causes, and to identify and address conditions that may be contributing factors. The critical question is this: Does removing students from school reduce the incidence of aberrant behavior? The short answer is no. Suspended students are more likely to be suspended more than once, to drop out of school, moreover, and to end up in court accused of crimes. And yet, schools have relied on suspension as the primary means of dealing with discipline problems. … Restorative justice attempts to reach beyond punitive measures to solve problems before they escalate and threaten the fabric of the school community. … Critical in these efforts is the recognition that students with behavioral problems are unlikely to be helped by removing them from school and providing no support services or establishing any conditions to be met before they return to classes. Conflict, after all, involves bullying, disrespect, harassment and fights often mask prejudice, attitudes, hurts and fears that contribute to tensions that clearly require attention. While conflict may be natural, schools need to provide constructive avenues for students' expression and management."

In your district: Budgets

School districts around the country face diverse issues and challenges. We want to hear what's happening in your school district. Complete the very brief survey below—anonymously, if you prefer—and we may share your response with fellow subscribers in an upcoming newsletter.

Today's question:

What are your thoughts on the current and proposed budget for your school district?

Click here to respond!

School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Upcoming school board elections

Ballotpedia is covering all school board elections in Oklahoma on Feb. 14. On that day, Oklahoma districts will hold primary elections. General elections will be held April 4. Some of the districts holding elections include:

- Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Edmond Public Schools
- Moore Public Schools
- Putnam City Schools
- Broken Arrow Public Schools
- Union Public Schools

Click here to learn more about 2023 school board elections.

Eight state executive candidates endorsed 106 school board candidates in Ballotpedia's coverage scope in 2022

Governors and other state executive officials rarely make endorsements in school board elections, as those elections are local and typically nonpartisan. But in 2022, state executive officials and candidates made at least 106 school board candidate endorsements. Endorsements included official statements, appearances at campaign rallies, and direct participation in campaign ads and materials. The state executives and candidates to make endorsements were:

- **Arizona:** Gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake (R) and Superintendent of Public Instruction candidate Shiry Sapir (R)
- **California:** Attorney general candidate Eric Early (R)
- **Florida:** Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist (D), and Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez (R)
- **Maryland:** Gubernatorial candidate Dan Cox (R)

DeSantis was the only executive whose full slate of candidates won. Across all 106 endorsements, candidates had a 56.6% success rate.

To view a full list of endorsements for each candidate, click here.

Orange County districts fire superintendents

On Jan. 6, the Orange Unified School District school board in Orange County, Calif., voted 4-3 to fire Superintendent Gunn Marie Hansen. The board

deliberated behind closed doors, and did not explain its decision. Hansen became superintendent of Orange Unified School District in 2017, having previously served as the district's superintendent of educational services.

Hansen is the second Orange County public school superintendent fired in the last three weeks.

On Dec. 21, 2022, the Capistrano Unified School District school board voted 4-3 to fire Superintendent Kirsten Vital Brulte. Board President Krista Castellanos said in an email: "It is important to mention that the action taken was not for cause. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her the best in her future endeavors." Brulte became superintendent in 2014.

In November, the ideological balance of the Orange Unified Board of Education school board shifted when Madison Miner defeated Kathryn Moffat, a 22-year incumbent, in the general election for Orange Unified Board of Education Trustee Area 4. Miner completed Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey. In the survey, Miner said she planned to, "Cut wasteful spending and return tax dollars to the classrooms where they belong. Protect our parents' rights with medical and school choice decisions. Adopt better options to replace the current ethnic studies and sex ed curriculum."

Orange Unified and Capistrano are on our list of districts where candidates in the 2022 elections took positions on race in education/critical race theory, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, or sex and gender in schools. Click here to read more about our project tracking conflicts in school board elections.

In addition to tracking conflicts in school board elections, we also track instances in which school boards have fired superintendents. Recently, some superintendent dismissals have been related to race in education/critical race theory, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, or sex and gender in schools.

Here is a list of recent noteworthy K-12 public schools superintendent dismissals:

- **Brevard Public Schools, Florida:** On Nov. 22, 2022, the Brevard Public Schools school board voted 3-2 to move forward with terminating Superintendent Mark Mullins' contract with the district. Mullins agreed to resign. Brevard was on our list of 2022 school board battlegrounds. Candidates Gene Trent and Megan Wright were elected, giving Republicans a 4-1 majority. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), endorsed Wright.
- **Sarasota County Schools, Florida:** On Dec. 13, the Sarasota County Schools school board voted 4-1 to remove Superintendent Brennan Asplen. Sarasota was on our list of districts where candidates took on a stance on race in education/critical race theory, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, or sex and gender in schools. The November elections changed the partisan composition of the board, with

Republicans gaining a 4-1 majority (Democrats had a 3-2 majority before the election). Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez (R) endorsed two Sarasota candidates who won their elections—Bridget Ziegler and Timothy Enos.

- **Broward County Public Schools, Florida:** On Nov. 14, 2022, the Broward County Public Schools school board voted 5-4 to remove Superintendent Vickie Cartwright. Gov. DeSantis (R) appointed all five members in August 2022. However, on Dec. 13, the board voted 5-3 to rescind the dismissal. Board member Allen Zeman said he voted to undo the firing because the board had promised Cartwright 90 days to address the board's concerns but had voted to dismiss her before that time had elapsed. Cartwright will face another vote on Jan 24.
- **Berkeley County School District, South Carolina:** On Nov. 15, the Berkeley County School District school board voted 6-3 to remove Superintendent Deon Jackson. In the Nov. 8, 2022, elections, the local county Republican Party endorsed all six board members who voted to remove Jackson. The board also voted 6-2 on the same evening to ban the teaching of Critical Race Theory.

We'll have more about this project of tracking superintendent firings in a future edition.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- The School Board Queen: How a Florida Mom Is Shaking Up US Education | *Bloomberg*
- What Brown Center scholars will be watching in education policy and politics in 2023 | *Brookings*
- 4 Strategies for Building Momentum in the Spring | *Edutopia*
- Youngkin administration posts new version of K-12 history standards | *Richmond Times-Dispatch*
- Former special education student joins school board in Shasta | *EdSource*
- Most U.S. Schools Don't Feel Fully Prepared for Shootings Despite Adding Security | *The Wall Street Journal*

Are book bans discrimination? Biden administration to test new legal theory. | *The Washington Post*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Linfeng Chen (R), who won in the general election for Howard County Public Schools Board of Education At-large in Maryland, and Diana Hawley, who won election for Cecil County Board of Education District 5 in Maryland.

Here's how Chen answered the question, "Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"



- "My vision: A Successful public school system nurtures students' well-being, creates a sense of belonging and safety, provides every student with necessary resources to succeed.
- Platform: Commit to quality of public education; Invest in school infrastructure; Prioritize students' physical and mental health; Promote strength of diversity; Utilize taxpayer money responsibly
- Better Education for All, Vote for Chen!"

Click here to read the rest of Chen's answers.

Here's how Hawley answered the question, "Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"



- "I will continue to advocate for a responsible budget that allows for safe and functional facilities, student and staff resources (including addressing mental health needs), and smaller class sizes
- I am a CCPS parent who continues to promote positive parent involvement, curriculum transparency, and productive communication
- I will continue to work to provide equitable opportunities for ALL students, including the needs of marginalized populations. It is important to continue to work to provide academic rigor, increased early intervention opportunities, and a quality college and career readiness program."

Click here to read the rest of Hawley's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Special BOE Meeting for Search Firm Presentations
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:05

Good Afternoon Board Members,

I have heard back from five Board members and all can meet on Wednesday, February 1st.

We could meet as early as 5:00 pm depending how that works with everyone's schedule.
I would like to reach out and schedule with the firms tomorrow morning. I would appreciate you letting me know your availability so I can pass on a specific time to them.

Thanks so much!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Re: Reminder - Board Attorney Feedback
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:22

Ursula,

I'm not sure how to access the document and alter it. I created one and shared with you. Can you add mine in there?

Thanks!
Jared

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 8:59 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning!
>
> Just wanted to send out a quick reminder if you would like to add your opinion since this will likely be discussed in closed session on Monday.
>
> Thank you and enjoy your day!
> Ursula
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

SUBJECT: Re: Special BOE Meeting for Search Firm Presentations
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:25

Ursula,

5P and later works for me!

Thanks!
Jared

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 3:06 PM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Afternoon Board Members,
>
> I have heard back from five Board members and all can meet on Wednesday, February 1st.
>
> We could meet as early as 5:00 pm depending how that works with everyone's schedule.
> I would like to reach out and schedule with the firms tomorrow morning. I would appreciate you letting me know your availability so I can pass on a specific time to them.
>
> Thanks so much!
> Ursula
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

SUBJECT: Re: Reminder - Board Attorney Feedback
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:41

Jared, I'm sorry, not sure why that did not work with an excel document. I am combining them all into an anonymous document. Thank you!

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 3:22 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Ursula,
>
> I'm not sure how to access the document and alter it. I created one and shared with you. Can you add mine in there?
>
> Thanks!
> Jared
>
> On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 8:59 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Good Morning!
> >
> > Just wanted to send out a quick reminder if you would like to add your opinion since this will likely be discussed in closed session on Monday.
> >
> > Thank you and enjoy your day!
> > Ursula
> >
> > --
> > Ursula Studer
> > Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> > Board of Education Secretary
> > Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> > 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> > Direct: 630-636-3084
> > Fax: 630-636-3665
> >
> > *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/19/2023 12:17

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education
Meeting
Date: January 23, 2023 (Monday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DGDSK_TjjsgawE4Bwu4p8dReaP44r8XkRnA1KN3-2FccEFq2crGvp7U7x0PZzAtqEMR8XdtyaBeK-2BpNlT5oVTT77ANkCIA9cp1PCwMYNCnDdSWkh7VXyRDCFvwS53vmVGfwIw2HWuctiCcwohtmkcjT0xu7TcXqktemSS5EhypjdkuSey33Bifj3XAghYF8te-2Bd9VvmiCSt6XukbPwt5U-2FiIF8Tjaap7BHh7vJdcuxOCbtzspk8-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: RE: Question about Feb. 28th
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 08:27

Good Morning Jared,

Thank you for asking the question. We spoke with the Regional Superintendent who in turn also spoke with the ISBE regarding your question. As you know, there will be a Kendall County Consolidated Primary Election on February 28 for Village of Oswego Republican candidates. When we heard about the election, we contacted the County Clerk's office to inquire about alternate sites other than the schools. We were told that would not be possible. The County Clerk indicated they expect a very small number of voters, which is why all precincts have been collapsed to six polling locations. Each of the four schools identified have indicated an external entrance/exit to a single room which will be used for voting. An officer will be provided by the county for each location for the duration of the polling time. Parking has been identified at each facility, and the county will provide signage. The four schools that will be used are:

Thompson Jr. High
Hunt Club Elementary
Oswego East High School
Southbury Elementary

Thank you,
John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 2:41 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>; Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Question about Feb. 28th

Hello.

State law dictates that schools are not to have students in attendance during elections in the state of Illinois. I know that only Oswego has a Primary election scheduled for Feb. 28th. However, I am curious IF this impacts our current calendar and IF we need to revisit what we are doing that day due to the law AND the primary that is now scheduled?

Thank you.
Jared

SUBJECT: Re: Question about Feb. 28th
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 09:07

Thank you very much! I will ask about this at the next meeting as a heads up. Obviously, I will know the answer. The only thing I will add in here and ask more about is the following:
I believe polling places open at 7A. I am assuming OE is preparing to deal with the added traffic and where to send them? (This is already a delicate strain over there)...not to mention the other locations.

Do we believe there will be any added expenses on our end and/or re-locations and/or disruptions to any classes or experiences for our students?

Also, do we know in the state, how many schools have to deal with this? Is it just Oswego and Chicago?
Thank you again for looking into this.

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 8:27 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning Jared,
>
> Thank you for asking the question. We spoke with the Regional Superintendent who in turn also spoke with the ISBE regarding your question. As you know, there will be a Kendall County Consolidated Primary Election on February 28 for Village of Oswego Republican candidates. When we heard about the election, we contacted the County Clerk's office to inquire about alternate sites other than the schools. We were told that would not be possible. The County Clerk indicated they expect a very small number of voters, which is why all precincts have been collapsed to six polling locations. Each of the four schools identified have indicated an external entrance/exit to a single room which will be used for voting. An officer will be provided by the county for each location for the duration of the polling time. Parking has been identified at each facility, and the county will provide signage. The four schools that will be used are:
>
> Thompson Jr. High
>
> Hunt Club Elementary
>
> Oswego East High School
>
> Southbury Elementary
>
> Thank you,
>
> John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 2:41 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>; Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Question about Feb. 28th

Hello.

State law dictates that schools are not to have students in attendance during elections in the state of Illinois. I know that only Oswego has a Primary election scheduled for Feb. 28th. However, I am curious IF this impacts our current calendar and IF we need to revisit what we are doing that day due to the law AND the primary that is now scheduled?

Thank you.

Jared

SUBJECT: Board Agenda
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 10:53

Ursula,

Hello!

Is it too late to add CAC to Item 7.2?

Thanks!
Jared

SUBJECT: Re: Board Agenda
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 11:02

Hi Jared,

First, just a reminder that Dr. Sparlin reports on the CAC during 7.1, Superintendent Report.
If you would like to make your own, I see 2 options. You could submit a written piece that is placed in Board docs - new procedure that was outlined in the BOE/Superintendent Meeting Summary in December and again last Wednesday. Or you could just speak to it during Board member comments.

Does that work for you?

On Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 10:53 AM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Ursula,
>
> Hello!
>
> Is it too late to add CAC to Item 7.2?
>
> Thanks!
> Jared

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Equity Committee Meeting Agenda - January 25, 2023
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Jadon Waller <jwaller@sd308.org>, Renee Sartore <rsartore@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: Tina Moore <tmoore@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 12:13
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-121309-0000277): "12.01.22 Equity Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf" , "01.25.23 Equity Agenda.pdf"

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the Equity Committee meeting agenda with draft minutes to be approved for Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

The meeting will be from 5:30 - 6:30 in room 61 at DAC.

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Re: Student Safety/Parental Concern
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 01/20/2023 13:47

[redacted]

First, I can not express in words my emotions reading this. I know who you are. I have seen your boys. I know this means little but writing this is extremely difficult for me.

Second, I have to write the following: I can not speak on behalf of the Board. Only the Board President can do that. The following is merely my opinion.

Third, I'll be honest, I have no means in the immediate to answer to this. However, I DO want to assure you that the first thing I am going to do is get on the phone with someone. I can't promise anything because I haven't spoken to anyone and have no knowledge of this until you sent me this today.

I am sorry.

I can not imagine the stress and pain.

Let me get on the phone.

Please take care of yourself and your son. And please don't hesitate to reach out if he needs something. This kiddo is so valuable to OUR community.

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 11:11 AM [redacted] wrote:

> Good Morning Mr. Ploger,
> Attached, please find a letter and timeline narrating our recent experience with SD 308 and Oswego East High School as we tried to arrange for alternative supports for [redacted] was attacked and physically assaulted at school. I hope you will take the time to read about this extremely upsetting experience we have endured as well as the unacceptable lack of response from the school and the district.
> Thank you,
> [redacted]

SUBJECT: Fwd: Student Safety/Parental Concern
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 13:48
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-134816-0000269): [redacted]

Can you assure me someone is on this? I can discuss further via phone if need be.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Christine Jaegle** [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 11:11 AM
Subject: Student Safety/Parental Concern
To: jared-ploger@sd308.org <jared-ploger@sd308.org>

Good Morning Mr. Ploger,
Attached, please find a letter and timeline narrating our recent experience with SD 308 and Oswego East High School as we tried to arrange for alternative supports for [redacted] was attacked and physically assaulted at school. I hope you will take the time to read about this extremely upsetting experience we have endured as well as the unacceptable lack of response from the school and the district.
Thank you,
Chris Jaegle

SUBJECT: RE: Student Safety/Parental Concern
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 13:53

Good afternoon Jared,

I just left you a voicemail. I have already responded to the parent as they reached to me this morning by way of email as well. I have asked the appropriate people to investigate and report back to me next week so that we can respond back to the parent.

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 1:48 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Fwd: Student Safety/Parental Concern

Can you assure me someone is on this? I can discuss further via phone if need be.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted] [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 11:11 AM
Subject: Student Safety/Parental Concern
To: jared-ploger@sd308.org <jared-ploger@sd308.org>

Good Morning Mr. Ploger,
Attached, please find a letter and timeline narrating our recent experience with SD 308 and Oswego East High School as we tried to arrange for alternative supports for [redacted] attacked and physically assaulted at school. I hope you will take the time to read about this extremely upsetting experience we have endured as well as the unacceptable lack of response from the school and the district.
Thank you,
[redacted]

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 15:35

Online Update

January 20, 2023

Multi-Division Regional Events Scheduled



Three multi-division regional events will be held for IASB member districts from March through June. The events taking place in Peoria, Champaign, and Collinsville will offer board members an opportunity to gain insight on the important issues impacting school boards in Illinois. The professional development opportunities will allow attendees to interact with keynote speakers, network with fellow school board members and administrators, and learn about various topics related to school board governance during breakout sessions. An optional Friday night Legislative Networking Session will take place at each location. Dates, registration, and agenda information for all three events are available on the IASB website.

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 1.20.23
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/20/2023 15:56

January 20, 2023

SD 308's Employee Newsletter

To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission

See Something, Say Something!
#SD308BetterTogether

W2s for Tax Year 2022 are READY!

Click Here to be taken to the Intranet
Log into the Employee Access portal
Click on "My Pay"
Where it indicates "Tax Documents" switch years to "2022"
Download: "W2 for tax year: 2022"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Date	Day	Event
January 23 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting Recognition Night: PRIDE Winners and Fall Student Athletes
January 24 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Adult ESL Classes at Old Post Elementary
January 25 (5:30-6:30pm)	Wednesday	Board Advisory: Equity Committee Meeting / DAC
January 25 (6-7:30pm) Virtual	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Parenting from Opposite Sides of the Field Click Here to Register
January 25 & 26 OPEN	Wed & Thurs	Aramark Job Fair Applicants are to text "OSWEHIRING" to 63000 to schedule a 1 on 1 interview Click Here for more information
January 27	Friday	School Improvement Day - 3.5 Hour Student Attendance No Early Childhood
January 30 (5-7:30pm)	Monday	Board Advisory: Policy & Legislative Committee Meeting / DAC

January 31 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting / DAC
February 3 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry - Oswego Satellite 61 Franklin Street, Oswego
February 3 (6-8pm)	Friday	OE Mosaic Presents: 14th Annual International Fest Around the World in One Night Location: Oswego East, PAC and Commons
February 6 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ OE Community Room
February 6 (9:30-11:30am)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Churchill, Lakewood Creek, Southbury)*
February 6 (3:30-6:00pm)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Churchill, Lakewood Creek, Southbury)*
February 9 (9:30-11:30am)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Boulder Hill, Homestead, The Wheatlands)*
February 9 (3:30-6:00pm)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Boulder Hill, Homestead, The Wheatlands)*
*Please note, we welcome any family to attend any session (they do not need to attend their Home School assigned date). ***Students currently attending Brokaw or a Satellite Early Childhood location do not need to attend one of these sessions.***		
For a complete details of calendar events, please view the District Calendar		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

There is an important annual feedback opportunity beginning soon. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey for students and teachers will be conducted January 24 through March 31. Our district also participates in the Parent Survey Supplement, which will be conducted during that same timeframe. This annual survey is an important tool for us, providing a glimpse into the current perception of students, teachers and parents. Prior research has shown that schools strong on three or more of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains than schools weak on three or more of the Essentials.

Wondering what the Essentials are?

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Please help encourage parents to take the time to complete the survey, without a minimum participation, the results for each school are not shared. Teachers, you will receive your invitation email next week, please take time to

provide thoughtful responses. Principals and superintendents will receive their 5Essentials Reports in May 2023. Survey results will also be reported publicly on the 5Essentials reporting site in Spring 2023 and on the State School Report Card website in Fall 2023. If you have any questions about 5Essentials, or want to learn more about the survey platform, you can find out more online here. Additional information will be shared with parents beginning today, and continuing throughout the duration of the survey administration.
I hope you have a wonderful weekend, and as always, I appreciate all you do for our students, each other, and our SD 308 family!

- *John*

Staff Info

Kendall County Health Department - Environmental Health Advisory Board - The Kendall County Health Department (KCHD) is looking for a school district employee to volunteer as a member on the Environmental Health Advisory Board. The volunteer KCHD Environmental Health Advisory Board is made up of citizens who live or work in Kendall County with an interest in Environmental Health (food/well/septic inspection and permitting, West Nile Virus, radon gas education, solid waste, etc). Citizens on this board attend 4 meetings a year and learn about the Environmental Health Unit of KCHD and provide advice on operation, educational outreach, rules and regulations, and more. Additionally, members act as liaisons between the unit and the general public and have opportunities to serve on other boards and ad hoc committees. One hour meetings are held at 5pm on the 2nd Tuesday of Jan., Mar., May and Sept.at the Health Department in Yorkville. Please call Aaron Rybski, Director of Environmental Health at 630-553-8057 to learn more.

GCN Modules- Required!

Extensions for new hires.

- New employees hired between 11/28 - 3/1 must have GCN modules completed by 4/11
- New employees hired after 3/1 must have GCN modules completed by 5/26
- Employees on a *full* year leave of absence do not need to complete the modules this year

To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter “[redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Volunteers Needed For Black History Month Professionals Fair

At Oswego East on February 11, students are invited to join in engineering activities, a panel discussion and booths to explore many exciting careers. Open to all students, the event features a variety of professionals including scientists, business owners, pilots, doctors, lawyers and business entrepreneurs. Contact Valerie Talton with Accelerate Career through Education, LLC if you’re interested in helping to make this event a success (a_c_e@comcast.net)!

Concordia University Chicago - Master’s, Doctoral & Endorsement Programs: Please click here to view a full list of programs offered by Concordia. They are currently enrolling for March and May.

From the Schools

Mosaic Presents: International Fest! Friday, February 3rd (6-8pm) Celebrate different cultures with lively performances, delicious food, and interactive fun! Oswego East High School, PAC and Commons.Click Here for Flyer

HUMAN RESOURCES

W2s for Tax Year 2022 are Ready! Click Here to be taken to the Intranet

- Log into the Employee Access portal
- Click on “My Pay”
- Where it indicates “Tax Documents” switch years to “2022”
- Download: “W2 for tax year: 2022”

This year, say yes to you. Ditch New Year’s resolutions and make a lasting change with Wondr – a digital weight loss program tailored to you. Space is limited. Learn more at wondrhealth.com/CUSD308. Apply between January 9 – January 22. The program begins February 2, 2023.

Livongo means healthier at no cost to you! Livongo helps you manage diabetes, prediabetes, hypertension, and other health goals like managing weight, stress, and more. You get top technology, convenient tracking, personalized action plan, expert coaching and the program is offered at no cost to employees and covered dependents enrolled in either of the district's BCBS PPO plans. To learn more or join, visit be.livongo.com/CUSD308/now

OMNI – 2023 Universal Availability Notice - Please take a moment to review the Universal Availability Notice. The Universal Notice provides employees information on what a 403(b) plan is, how they can contribute, what providers to which they can contribute, and the amounts they can contribute annually. To enroll in a plan or for additional questions regarding this information please visit the district’s voluntary retirement plans webpage at https://www.sd308.org/Page/1872

BENEFIT DEDUCTIONS! Please be sure to check your last paycheck dated January 13 to confirm your benefit deductions are correct. If your benefits confirmation statement shows a different amount than the amount deducted on your check, please contact Glenn Campos at gcampos@sd308.org for assistance. Employees can now also view their 2023 Benefits Open Enrollment information at http://sd308.link/ea under ‘Mybenefits’.

FSA Medical 2022 Rollover: If you were enrolled in the FSA Medical plan in 2022, and had a remaining balance at the end of the year of $570 or less, those funds will be carried over to your 2023 FSA account on 01/25/2022. Participants who are not enrolled in a new plan year benefit will have their carryover balance posted to the same type of benefit they were enrolled in for the old plan year.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

Congratulations to the January 2023 PRIDE winners! PRIDE stands for Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence and was established in 2015 to celebrate the many contributions made by teachers and employees around the district.

> **TEACHERS: Katie Blue,** Grade 4, Boulder Hill Elementary; **Mike Linden,** Science Teacher, Bednarcik Junior High; **Megan Mann,** Grade 2, The Wheatlands Elementary; and **Dana Miles,** Grade 1, Old Post Elementary.

EMPLOYEES: Rob Manna, Building Engineer, Southbury Elementary and **Tricia Tunney,** Teacher Assistant - LRC/Computer, Grande Park Elementary.

These individuals will receive recognition at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 5. Thank you to Allied First Bank, Chick-fil-A, Huntington Learning Center, and Culver's for sponsoring this program.

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD308 will again be offering Extended School Year - ESY(EC - Transition), Summer Connections (K-8), and the Kindergarten Step Up programs this summer.

- ESY and Summer Connections programs will be offered during the month of June.
- The Kindergarten Step Up Program will be offered at the beginning of August.
    - The District is looking for general education and special education teachers, EL teachers, related services staff, secretaries, teaching assistants, nurses, and BCBAs to work in these programs. Please check the job postings beginning next week and apply if you are interested.
- Summer School for high school students currently enrolled in SD308 will also be offered.
    - These initial credit and credit recovery courses will be offered at Oswego East High School from 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Monday through Thursday).
    - Tentative dates for Summer School are as follows:

        Session 1: June 5 - 22

        Session 2: June 26 - July 13

Be on the lookout for posted Summer School positions in the very near future.
Applicants should be qualified to teach in the designated content areas for which they apply and have a firm understanding of Edgenuity. Special Education and English Learner instructors will also be needed for Summer School.

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Aramark Food Service Job Fair - Aramark is hosting a Job Fair on Wednesday, January 25 and Thursday, January 26. Multiple positions available. 1 on 1 interviews can be scheduled by texting "OSWEGOHIRING" to 63000.

Service Dog Foundation Seeking Volunteer Foster Trainers. VIP is a 501c(3) non-profit charity organization who facilitates service dogs and companion dogs to Veterans, developmentally disabled, and/or physically disabled individuals. Local homes are needed to foster and train puppies. Volunteers receive puppies at 10 weeks old and meet as a group for training once a week in Naperville, then work with the dog daily at home. The foster is with the dog 9-12 months until they are given to a Veteran, a person with a disability or as an emotional support dog. Learn more here.

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**

Calling All SD 308 Alumni! Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.

- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 23, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live

---

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

-Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Equity Committee Meeting Agenda - 01.25.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/20/2023 16:08
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-160824-0000279): "01.25.23 Equity Agenda.pdf" , "12.01.22 Equity Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached please find the Equity Committee meeting agenda w/draft minutes for Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 17:06
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-170634-0000278): "Superintendent's Update - January 20, 2023.docx" , "20230120 Brokaw Fire Costs BOE Update.pdf" , "20230120 Oswego Water Source BOE Update.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this weeks update. I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Board buddy gathering
FROM: Karen Jordan [redacted]>
TO: Lynn Clausen [redacted]>
CC: Dominique Rquibi [redacted], James Johnson <jjohnson@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, Kerry Collins [redacted]>, Tommy Leakakos <tleakakos@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/21/2023 11:37

Both of those dates work for me.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:04 AM Lynn Clausen [redacted]> wrote:

> Either date works for me.
>
> On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:10 AM Dominique Rquibi [redacted] wrote:
>
> > Oh boy! It's been awhile. Sorry for the lapse. I got a few dates for Jared for a board buddy gathering.
> >
> > Let me know which of these works for you:
> > Monday, January 30 @ 4:15
> > Thursday, February 2 @ 4:15
> >
> > Thanks.

SUBJECT: Re: Board buddy gathering
FROM: School <jjohnson@sd308.org>
TO: Karen Jordan [redacted]>
CC: Lynn Clausen [redacted] Dominique Rquibi [redacted], Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, Kerry Collins [redacted], Tommy Leakakos <tleakakos@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/21/2023 13:22

I could do either. The Thursday probably works better but not a big deal either way.

Sent from Jim Johnson.

> On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:38 AM, Karen Jordan [redacted]> wrote:
>
> Both of those dates work for me.
>
> On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:04 AM Lynn Clausen [redacted] wrote:
> > Either date works for me.
> >
> > On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:10 AM Dominique Rquibi [redacted] wrote:
> > > Oh boy! It's been awhile. Sorry for the lapse. I got a few dates for Jared for a board buddy gathering.
> > >
> > > Let me know which of these works for you:
> > > Monday, January 30 @ 4:15
> > > Thursday, February 2 @ 4:15
> > >
> > > Thanks.

SUBJECT: Re: Board buddy gathering
FROM: Kerry Collins [redacted]
TO: School <jjohnson@sd308.org>
CC: Karen Jordan [redacted], Lynn Clausen [redacted], Dominique Rquibi [redacted] Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, Kerry Collins [redacted], Tommy Leakakos [redacted] >
DATE: 01/21/2023 13:32

Either is fine with me

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 21, 2023, at 1:22 PM, School <jjohnson@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> I could do either. The Thursday probably works better but not a big deal either way.
>
> Sent from Jim Johnson.
>
> > On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:38 AM, Karen Jordan [redacted] > wrote:
> >
> > Both of those dates work for me.
> >
> > On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:04 AM Lynn Clausen [redacted] wrote:
> > > Either date works for me.
> > >
> > > On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:10 AM Dominique Rquibi [redacted] wrote:
> > > > Oh boy! It's been awhile. Sorry for the lapse. I got a few dates for Jared for a board buddy gathering.
> > > >
> > > > Let me know which of these works for you:
> > > > Monday, January 30 @ 4:15
> > > > Thursday, February 2 @ 4:15
> > > >
> > > > Thanks.

SUBJECT: Re: Board buddy gathering
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Kerry Collins [redacted]
CC: School <jjohnson@sd308.org>, Karen Jordan [redacted], Lynn Clausen [redacted], Dominique Rquibi [redacted], Kerry Collins [redacted], Tommy Leakakos <tleakakos@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/21/2023 14:12

OK, just let me know.

I know I'm always supposed to be careful about boundaries and so forth...so let me just say this. I hope all of you are well this weekend. You are DEFINITELY in my thoughts! I hope you know that. I SEE, I HEAR and I am certainly ALWAYS concerned about your safety and well-being.

I know that is vague and some, if not most may not know what I am talking about but I am hoping at least one of you does.

Please take care and I hope you are all having a much DESERVED relaxing weekend. I have certainly had much on my mind when it comes to some of our schools this weekend.

Take care.

Cordially,
Jared

On Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 1:32 PM Kerry Collins [redacted] > wrote:

> Either is fine with me
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jan 21, 2023, at 1:22 PM, School [redacted] > wrote:
> >
> > I could do either. The Thursday probably works better but not a big deal either way.
> >
> > Sent from Jim Johnson.
> >
> > > On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:38 AM, Karen Jordan [redacted] wrote:
> > >
> > > Both of those dates work for me.
> > >
> > > On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:04 AM Lynn Clausen [redacted] wrote:
> > > > Either date works for me.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:10 AM Dominique Rquibi [redacted] wrote:

> Oh boy! It's been awhile. Sorry for the lapse. I got a few dates for Jared for a board buddy gathering.
>
> Let me know which of these works for you:
> Monday, January 30 @ 4:15
> Thursday, February 2 @ 4:15
>
> Thanks.

SUBJECT: Re: Board buddy gathering
FROM: Dominique Rquibi [redacted]
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: Kerry Collins [redacted], School <jjohnson@sd308.org>, Karen Jordan [redacted], Lynn Clausen [redacted] Kerry Collins <[redacted]>, Tommy Leakakos <tleakakos@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/21/2023 16:04

Thank you so much, all, for getting back to me. I sent an invite for Monday, January 30 @ Maciano's. That location seems to be nicely central and helps with potential traffic delays. I'm happy to change the location if anyone has an alternative suggestion.

On Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:12 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> OK, just let me know.
>
> I know I'm always supposed to be careful about boundaries and so forth...so let me just say this. I hope all of you are well this weekend. You are DEFINITELY in my thoughts! I hope you know that. I SEE, I HEAR and I am certainly ALWAYS concerned about your safety and well-being.
>
> I know that is vague and some, if not most may not know what I am talking about but I am hoping at least one of you does.
>
> Please take care and I hope you are all having a much DESERVED relaxing weekend. I have certainly had much on my mind when it comes to some of our schools this weekend.
>
> Take care.
>
> Cordially,
> Jared
>
> On Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 1:32 PM Kerry Collins [redacted] wrote:
>
> > Either is fine with me
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > > On Jan 21, 2023, at 1:22 PM, School <jjohnson@sd308.org> wrote:
> > >
> > > I could do either. The Thursday probably works better but not a big deal either way.
> > >
> > > Sent from Jim Johnson.
> > >
> > > > On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:38 AM, Karen Jordan [redacted] > wrote:

Both of those dates work for me.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:04 AM Lynn Clausen [redacted] > wrote:

> Either date works for me.
>
> On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:10 AM Dominique Rquibi [redacted] wrote:
>
> > Oh boy! It's been awhile. Sorry for the lapse. I got a few dates for Jared for a board buddy gathering.
> >
> > Let me know which of these works for you:
> > Monday, January 30 @ 4:15
> > Thursday, February 2 @ 4:15
> >
> > Thanks.

Manage Your Subscription

This message was sent to **jared-ploger@sd308.org** from **customercare@thereadingwarehouseonline.com**

The Reading Warehouse
The Reading Warehouse
PO Box 41328
North Charleston, SC 29423

SUBJECT: Document shared with you: "Equity Committee Reports"
FROM: "Ursula Studer (via Google Docs)" <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
CC: dominick-cirone@sd308.org, fdahlquist@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org
DATE: 01/23/2023 13:06

Ursula Studer shared a document



Ursula Studer (UStuder@sd308.org) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

As shared in a couple of the BOE/Superintendent meeting summaries, the committee updates should be provided to Ursula on Thursday before the board meeting to be added to boarddocs. Board members and public can then review and ask any questions if needed. One option would be to write the update right after the committee meeting with the administrator. Hope this makes the process a bit easier. Thank you!

Equity Committee Reports

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because UStuder@sd308.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace

SUBJECT: Bertrand Selected as COSSBA Executive Director
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/23/2023 16:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Bertrand's next move will be to lead national organization

Current IASB Executive Director Thomas Bertrand, Ph.D., has been appointed to lead the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) in his next role. Bertrand will begin his role as the inaugural Executive Director for COSSBA on July 1, 2023.

COSSBA's mission is to be a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. Its members represent 23 states and serve the largest collection of school board directors and students. Illinois is a founding member of COSSBA.

Bertrand's appointment was announced on January 21 at the COSSBA Leadership Seminar in Savannah, Georgia, attended by state school board associations leadership.

"I look forward to Dr. Bertrand's continued leadership in public education representing state school board associations, including IASB, at the national level," said IASB President Simon Kampwerth, Jr., who chaired the COSSBA Transition Steering Committee. "He's been instrumental in developing the Consortium's bylaws and governance structure as the new organization has evolved."

Last fall Bertrand announced plans to retire from IASB at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2023. The IASB board's search for the next IASB executive director is underway.

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: "IASB Communications" <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/24/2023 09:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Future is Now - Why This is the Best Time to Go Green

January 26, 2023 — noon

How can solar, storage, and electric school buses earn district revenue and maximize energy savings? Join Econergy CEO Haj Young and Williamsfield CUSD 210 Superintendent Tim Farquer to learn about a collaboration that installed and utilizes megawatts of solar and have written for millions of dollars in grants. Discover how renewable energy solutions are available now with little to no out-of-pocket costs.

Register Now

More Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

Focusing the Board on Renovation

February 2, 2023 — noon

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

Beyond March 2020:

High-Quality Virtual Learning
February 9, 2023 — noon

Register Now

IASB Events Calendar

View Calendar

DuPage Division Meeting
February 1, 2023

Starved Rock Division Meeting
February 2, 2023

Lake Division Legislative Breakfast
February 11, 2023



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: OHS
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/24/2023 15:13

Good afternoon,

I wanted to inform you of an issue that we have been dealing with today. The following was provided to me to share with you regarding the issue.

On Tuesday, January 24, an OHS student was reported to Student Services [redacted] Upon learning about this, Oswego Police Department (OPD) was contacted to participate in the Threat Assessment process. [redacted] discovered in the home, and the student was interviewed by OPD and OHS administration. [redacted] Parents/guardians of the students identified are being contacted regarding the situation and being offered the opportunity to meet with OHS Administration tomorrow. Support is also being provided to the students identified.

[redacted]

A statement was prepared by District Communications and reviewed by OPD. Communication is being sent to OHS staff and OHS families. A press release will be distributed by OPD and shared with the parents/guardians.

Please see the communication prepared by District Communications below:

Our administrative team, in coordination with the Oswego Police Department, is investigating a situation involving a document created by a student which contains a targeted list of names. Several names included on the list are OHS students; parents of those students are being contacted individually and will be offered the opportunity to meet with administration to discuss further, and supports will be offered to those students. This is an ongoing investigation, and more information will be shared as allowed. At this time, there is no concern for the safety of our students, the student responsible for creating the list will not be present at the school.

I will keep you apprised of any additional information that we hear or learn.

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting Summary 1.23.23
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/24/2023 16:08

Board of Education Meeting Summary

January 23, 2023

Video Link

3. Call to Order - Public Session (7:15 pm)

3.1 Roll Call

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

4. Recognitions

4.1 PRIDE Recognition

Teachers of the Month: Katie Blue (Boulder Hill), Mike Linden (Bednarcik), Megan Mann (The Wheatlands), Dana Miles (Old Post)

Employees of the Month: Rob Manna (Sourthbury), Tricia Tunney (Grande Park)

4.2 Fall Athletic Recognition- State Recognitions

Swimming & Diving: Chloe Diner, Katie Gresik, Katie Malm

Cross Country/All State: Parker Nold

5. Public Comment

5.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

Two comments were made and can be heard on the video link.

6. Presentations

6.1 Social Emotional Learning Presentation

Presented by Director of Social and Emotional Learning Dr. Kristen Paul joined by Assistant Superintendent of Student and Staff Services Dr. Heather Kincaid.

An overview of progress towards the Envision 308 strategic plan as related to Social Emotional Learning was shared.

Additional details are available in the slideshow provided to the Board.

7. Comments

7.1 Superintendent's Report

The Community Advisory Committee met last week, topics included Communications, Community Partnerships and Curriculum Renewal Timeline and Process. These topics were suggested by members of the committee.

Transportation update regarding monitoring ridership on new/adjusted routes, feedback being solicited from bus drivers and school principals. Driver shortage is still a significant problem.

Congratulations! Lani Breedlove, OHS Girls Bowling Team, bowled her second career perfect 300 game. Coupled with previous games of 269 and 237, Breedlove rolled a three-game series of 806. She broke the school record with the fifth-best individual series by a girls bowler in IHSA history.

7.2 Board Committee Reports

Change in process discussion- standard three questions for each committee to summarize at the conclusion of each meeting, with answers sent to the board secretary for inclusion in the board documents and available online.

Teaching and Learning Committee Report- Fastbridge assessment data review and overview. Gender achievement gap looks to be closing across many grades. Less gains are being seen in older grades where less support is available, less interventionists. Phonics was discussed, it is embedded in instruction, not a stand alone. New curriculum- seeing increases with new implementation, though a small setback was anticipated with a new tool, quick gains especially seen in math.

7.3 Board Member Comments

Mr. Ploger discussed the staff pressure seen with data, a reminder that different programs, diverse school populations and other factors will generate different results across buildings. The holistic view of the district's progress is important, not

comparison between buildings but rather growth overall.
Mr. Ploger asked about the primary election preparation and impact on buildings used as polling places.
Ms. Swanson shared that 11 OHS and 8 OE wrestlers placed (top 8) at conference. Three girls placed, which is a first for SD 308!

7.4 Communications Update
The Board of Education recognizes that the selection of a Superintendent of Schools is its most important responsibility for the students, staff, families, and other stakeholders of our school district community. The Board of Education is committed to a search process that is transparent and collaborative with input from all school district stakeholders.
A page has been created to keep everyone updated on the search for the next Superintendent. A link can be found on the district's main page. Questions can be asked, a timeline of milestones, past communications and frequently asked questions are included on the page.

7.5 Student Ambassador Report
The Board of Education recognizes that the selection of a Superintendent of Schools is its most important responsibility for the students, staff, families, and other stakeholders of our school district community. The Board of Education is committed to a search process that is transparent and collaborative with input from all school district stakeholders.
A page has been created to keep everyone updated on the search for the next Superintendent. A link can be found on the district's main page. Questions can be asked, a timeline of milestones, past communications and frequently asked questions are included on the page.

8. Approve Consent Agenda

8.1 Minutes from previous Meeting
1.9.23 Minutes
Motion Passed 7-0

9. Action Items

9.1 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Warrants in anticipation of the collection of Taxes levied for the Year 2022
The resolution authorizes the issuance of TAWs in anticipation of the property taxes levied in 2022, payable in 2023. The resolution establishes the parameters within which the TAWs may be issued. Specifically, the resolution authorizes up to $20,000,000 in TAWs to be issued against the educational fund. A maximum interest rate of 6 percent per annum is included as a parameter.
Motion Passed 6-1

9.2 Approval of Bus Trust Lease Agreement for Activity Buses
A lease of four (4) activity buses for a five year term. Annual payment of $67,988. Four (4) 14-passenger Chevy/Collins MFSAB Activity Vehicle - Gas.
Motion Passed 7-0

9.3 Approval of Bus Trust Lease Agreement
In July 2018, twenty-nine vehicles were approved for a five year term from Midwest Transit and Santander Leasing with an annual payment of $327,410.00 scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2022.
The acquisition of new vehicles represents an even exchange of the same vehicles as defined below:
Twelve (12) 27-passenger Chevy/Collins Type A Bus-Gas.
Twelve (12) 30-passenger IC conventional with integrated seating-Diesel.
Three (3) 24+3-passenger IC conventional lift buses with integrated seating-Diesel.
Two (2) 48+2-passenger IC conventional lift buses with integrated seating-Diesel
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc. has submitted a lease offer with a total yearly lease payment of $648,402.00 due upon delivery with four additional annual payments of the same.
Motion Passed 7-0

9.4 Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar
Calendar
Calendar- Box Format
Motion Passed 6-1

9.5 Approval of Personnel Report
Motion Passed 7-0

10. Closed Session

10.1 Enter Closed Session under statute(s): 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of certain employees and individuals; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees

10.2 Return to Open Session

11. Adjournment

11.1 Adjourn

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #46
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/25/2023 15:31

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 25, 2023

Welcome to Hall Pass, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.
In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over ChatGPT in schools
- In your district: Budgets
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Florida Department of Education rejects African American Studies course
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over ChatGPT in schools

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

ChatGPT is an online artificial intelligence program, released to the public in November 2022, that can respond to questions and requests in a smooth and often convincingly human manner. It can quickly write essays, code, and solve difficult math problems. Media outlets across the world have covered ChatGPT, highlighting the discussions and debates over the use of artificial intelligence programs in business, education, and beyond.

Educators have responded to ChatGPT in varying ways. Districts in Los Angeles and New York City have already banned the service out of a concern that it could assist students in cheating. Other districts, like Chicago Public Schools, have not banned ChatGPT.

Angela Duckworth and Lyle Ungar write that schools should not rush to ban ChatGPT in classrooms. They say such bans are impossible to enforce and students will still find ways to use the program if schools try to prohibit it. Duckworth and Unger say schools and teachers should instead work with students to develop assignments that incorporate ChatGPT but still require deeper critical thinking from students.

The Chicago Tribune Editorial Board writes that schools should act quickly to ban ChatGPT in classrooms until educators develop a clear idea of how it might be incorporated into lessons without hurting students. The Editorial Board says allowing artificial intelligence programs in schools could tempt students to cheat since ChatGPT responses can sometimes pass plagiarism checks and teacher scrutiny.

Op-Ed: Don't ban chatbots in classrooms — use them to change how we teach | Angela Duckworth and Lyle Ungar, *Los Angeles Times*

"Banning such use of artificial intelligence from the classroom is an understandable but nearsighted response. Instead, we must find a way forward in which such technologies complement, rather than substitute for, student thinking. One day soon, GPT and similar AI models could be to essay writing what calculators are to calculus. … Banning ChatGPT is like prohibiting students from using Wikipedia or spell-checkers. Even if it were the "right" thing to do in principle, it is impossible in practice. Students will find ways around the ban, which of course will necessitate a further defensive response from teachers and administrators, and so on. It's hard to believe that an escalating arms race between digitally fluent teenagers and their educators will end in a decisive victory for the latter. … [W]e must also figure out how to do something new: How to use tools like GPT to catalyze, not cannibalize, deeper thinking. Just like a Google search, GPT often generates text that is fluent and plausible — but wrong. So using it requires the same cognitive heavy lifting that writing does: deciding what questions to ask, formulating a thesis, asking more questions, generating an outline, picking which points to elaborate and which to drop,

looking for facts to support the arguments, finding appropriate references to back them up and polishing the text."

Editorial: Did your kid write that essay? Or did ChatGPT? | The Editorial Board, *Chicago Tribune*

"CPS is right to review the merits of student and teacher use of ChatGPT, but it's wrong in not taking the same route as New York and Los Angeles. Cheating is as synonymous with classrooms as chalk and erasers. Yesteryear techniques ranged from crib sheets cupped in a student's palms to a simple peek over the shoulder of a classmate. Today's digital age takes the potential for cheating to new levels, and ChatGPT makes it far too easy for struggling students to lean on AI-generated writing in place of what comes out of their own heads. What's especially worrisome is that ChatGPT's syntax appears to be polished and natural enough to elude not just anti-plagiarism software but even the most seasoned educator's scrutiny. We're not Luddites, and we believe that technology must always be given space to advance the educational experience at every level, from preschool to university. ChatGPT may well have undeniable utility in a variety of classroom circumstances. First, however, school districts must determine how to best use ChatGPT without allowing its exploitation of student learning. Only then should it make its way into classrooms. … ChatGPT, and the myriad other manifestations of AI, should be welcomed for what they are — game-changers that help us live better lives. But in classrooms, care must always be taken to ensure that a new means of educating helps rather than harms."

In your district: Budgets

We recently asked readers the following question:
What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district?

Today, we're sharing a handful of those responses.

A school board member from Wisconsin wrote:

> I would love to see a greater focus on funds directed towards long term capital improvements. There is not enough allowable funds to support our students and buildings.

A school board member from New Jersey wrote:

> I am in New Jersey. We are experiencing about 7% inflation but are limited to no more than a 2% raise to the budget. Services will have to be cut, class sizes will grow, new teachers will have to find employment elsewhere.

A teacher from Virginia wrote:

> The proposed budget includes a 5% salary increase partially funded by the state, which is nice, but a greater increase would be nice in the face of a retention crisis and inflation. Greater increases are being discussed at the state level, so we'll see what happens. The budget also addresses mental health services and maintenance needs, which are both needed expenses.

A school board member from Vermont wrote:

> We are a small district with about 420 students and shrinking. Faculty and learning support staff continues to grow to where our employed adults to students is 1:3 and our per student costs exceed $30,000! We are only able to ask tuition of 67% of our per student costs, yet much of the Board is willing to bet that voter indifference will enable continuation of this spiraling upward cost cycle. The change back to in-person town meeting, versus inclusion of all voters by mail, underlies their assumption that budget increase in excess of 10% will continue to fly and we see elementary classes of less than 10 students with three teachers in the room. How can we provide quality education on a smaller scale? Private schools seem to be able to do so. Why can't we?

A community member from New Jersey wrote:

> "School budgets in Stanhope New Jersey, in my view, the board voted without resident approval to remove public involvement in voting for the budget. They put a cap of two to three percent on budget escalation. They elected to establish Capital improvement bonds for future use as the chairman stated so as to maintain the present tax levy ratio and only initiate Capital repairs on a needs basis on select capital projects. The bonds are voted residence un-itemized, meaning voters were not allowed to pick and choose which specific items they supported for a bond. Stanhope board did not elect to have the vote take place at the same time as a general election intentionally so as to minimize voter turnout. This is the same practice used when School board elections take place intentionally to minimize turnout. Voters in the town are about 2480 some 300 voted with 200 approving the bond. How unrepresentative can an election be when voter turnout is under roughly 10% and approval is 8%.
>
> It is time to remove school boards and place control in the hands of the county or state because school board members do not bring any special expertise to the board and members are manipulated by its chairman an ex vice principal along with the superintendent. Charter schools and parent choice should be the only consideration given by States so as to educate the children of that state."

Thank you to all who responded. We'll be back with a new question next month. If you have ideas for a question you'd like to see us ask, reply to this email to let

us know!

School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Upcoming school board elections

Ballotpedia is covering all school board elections in Oklahoma on Feb. 14, which districts hold primaries. General elections are on April 4. Some of the districts holding elections include:

- Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Edmond Public Schools
- Moore Public Schools
- Putnam City Schools
- Broken Arrow Public Schools
- Union Public Schools

Ballotpedia is also covering a special school board election to fill a vacancy on the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees on Feb. 7. Two candidates are running for the District 6 seat—Daron Lee Calhoun II and Lee Runyon.

On Feb. 21, Ballotpedia will cover school board primaries in Wisconsin. We'll have more to say about those elections in the coming weeks.
Click here to learn more about 2023 school board elections.

Florida Department of Education rejects African American Studies course

On Jan. 12, the Florida Department of Education's Office of Articulation announced in a letter to the College Board, an education nonprofit that oversees the Advancement Placement (AP) program in high schools, that a pilot AP African American Studies course "is inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value" and would not be included in state curricula. The letter said the state would be willing to reopen discussions with the College Board if it revised the course.

Florida law requires public schools to teach African American history.

AP courses allow public high school students to receive college credit. The African American Studies course is currently being tested in 60 schools across the country, with the aim of offering the course in all high schools in the 2024-2025 school year.

The College Board said "the interdisciplinary course reaches into a variety of fields—literature, the arts and humanities, political science, geography, and science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans." According to the College Board, students in AP classes are expected to analyze issues from different perspectives but are not required to agree with any point of view.

The Florida Department of Education letter did not cite the law the AP African American Studies course is alleged to have violated. In 2022, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) signed House Bill 7, which regulates how schools and businesses can teach topics like race and gender. The law prohibits schools and businesses from requiring students or employees to participate in trainings or classes that teach "an individual, by virtue of his or her race, color, sex, or national origin, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously." DeSantis has referred to the law as the Stop WOKE Act.

On Nov. 17, 2022, U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida Judge Mark E. Walker blocked a part of the law regulating discussions of race in colleges and universities. That case is ongoing. Former President Barack Obama (D) appointed Walker in 2012.

Reactions to the Florida Department of Education's decision largely played out along partisan lines.

Florida state Sen. Shevrin Jones (D) said "Gov. DeSantis' whitewashing of history and book bans are his latest assault on American history and our First Amendment rights. Horrifyingly, it is our vulnerable and underrepresented students who will suffer the most as a result."

DeSantis said, "We believe in teaching kids facts and how to think, but we don't believe they should have an agenda imposed on them when you try to use Black history to shoehorn in queer theory, you are clearly trying to use that for political purposes."

On Jan. 20, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre criticized the decision, saying: "Let's not forget, [the Florida Department of Education] didn't block AP European history, they didn't block music history or art history, but the state chooses to block a course that is meant for high-achieving high school students to learn about their history of arts and culture."

Florida Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, whom DeSantis recommended for the position in 2021, tweeted: "Despite the lies from the Biden White House,

Florida rejected an AP course filled with Critical Race Theory and other obvious violations of Florida law. We proudly require the teaching of African American history. We do not accept woke indoctrination masquerading as education."

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a term that has been used by academics in scholarly works dating back to the 1970s. The term has come into widespread use among politicians, journalists, and others in recent years, particularly in debates about K-12 curriculum outside academia. Since its early development, the term has taken on a wider variety of perceived meanings.

Diaz released a chart highlighting parts of the course the Department of Education found objectionable, including topics focused on Intersectionality and Activism, the Reparations Movement, and Black Queer Studies. The chart said the section on Intersectionality and Activism was a concern because "Intersectionality is foundational to CRT, and ranks people based on their race, wealth, gender and sexual orientation." The chart said the section on the Reparations Movement was a concern because "All points and resources in this study advocate for reparations. There is no critical perspective or balancing opinion in this lesson."

For some, like Jason Nichols, a senior lecturer in the University of Maryland College Park's African American Studies Department, the concern is that the refusal to approve the course is a form of censorship. Nichols said, "Most of all, Americans who are concerned about free speech should be terrified by reactionary government officials like DeSantis, whose answer to complicated questions is authoritarian censorship, book banning, and curtailing academic freedoms."

Writing for *National Review*, Stanley Kurtz faulted the College Board for refusing to release to the public the course material, saying, "This secrecy validates long-standing concerns about the College Board's acting as a de facto unelected national school board." Kurtz said other states should decline to approve the course until the College Board publicly shares the course content.

The College Board said: "The process of piloting and revising course frameworks is a standard part of any new AP course, and frameworks change significantly as a result. We look forward to publicly releasing the updated course framework as soon as it is completed and well before this class is widely available in American high schools."

Ballotpedia has covered a range of CRT- and CRT-adjacent issues. Click the links below to read more of our coverage:

- Areas of inquiry and disagreement related to critical race theory (CRT)
- Responses to trends in curriculum development
- Conflicts in school board elections about race in education/critical race theory, 2021-2022

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- Seizing on Parents' Frustration, GOP Governors Push for Education Savings Accounts | *The 74*
- Easing College-Degree Requirements Should Be a No-Brainer for Conservatives | *National Review*
- A voting system error in New Jersey could flip the outcome of a local school board race | *CNN*
- Top Superintendents Detail the Toll of Divisive Politics—And How They've Responded | *Education Week*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district



We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Adaline Villneurve Rutherford (R), who won outright in the primary for St. Tammany Parish School Board District 3 in Louisiana, and Terri Knudsen, who won in the general election for Morgan Hill Unified Board of Education Trustee Area 3 in California.

Louisiana is one of four states that automatically allow partisan school board board elections or party labels to appear on the ballot.

Here's how Rutherford answered the question, **"Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**



- "Our children deserve better! We need to get back to being the best! At one time the St. Tammany Parish School System was TOP, but now we are ranked 18th. Clearly, we are not utilizing our supportive community resources to maximize our teachers' potential. I want to see CHANGE!
- We need to address teacher and substitute shortages. We need to work harder to retain our teachers. We also need to quickly do background checks and get people signed up to substitute. We can't have this continue the way it is.
- Accountability and transparency are key. My priorities would be to hold the school board accountable fiscally, to be an accessible voice for my constituents and district employees, and move forward in a positive direction."

Click here to read the rest of Rutherford's answers.

Here's how Knudsen answered the question, **"Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**



- I will advocate for responsible budgets that directly impact the classroom. We need to attract and retain excellent teachers and have smaller class sizes.
- If elected, I will listen and seek input from all stakeholders, including students and their families, community members and school staff, before decisions are made.
- Our schools need to identify and provide support for all students,

especially those who struggle, such as LGTBQ, socio-economically disadvantaged, students of color and students with disabilities. As a board member, I will only approve policies that will be in the best interest of all of our students and schools.

Click here to read the rest of Knudsen's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Hello
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: "v-ortiz@neiu.edu" <v-ortiz@neiu.edu>
DATE: 01/25/2023 18:52

Here is my email address.

SUBJECT: Special Meeting Agenda - February 1, 2023
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/25/2023 18:57
ATTACHMENTS (20230125-185714-0000283): "02.01.23 BOE Agenda - Special Meeting.doc"

Good Evening Board Members,

Attached please find the special meeting agenda for February 1, 2023.

The meeting will begin at 5:00 pm in the community room, with the first interview being virtual.

Thank you!

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: School cleanliness
FROM: [redacted]
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 01/25/2023 20:47

SD 308 School Board,

I'm becoming increasingly frustrated hearing and watching the sickness throughout sd308 school buildings that continues to spread as the winter months go on but yet I'm hearing and seeing less and less cleaning happening. Why????

Every single week this winter, my daughter has had to fight congestion in the head, sore throat, headaches, and/or sometimes fevers. Note, I said every single week. From what I hear, the number of kids out every single day in the district seems to be greater than any year in the past (this is child #3 going through SD 308). I recently volunteered for the holiday parties that were rescheduled and I firsthand witnessed the stuffed up heads and coughing. I get it, we are sweeping Covid under the rug but why the heck have we cut back on the cleaning and rarely, if ever, doing deep cleans? This is unacceptable!!

I've kept my daughter home several days this winter because I'd like to do my part to help slow the constant spread. Many parents are not and the school is doing little to try and nip the spread in the bud. If this is about money then I suggest cutbacks happen elsewhere because I do not feel that the kids are learning at the rate they should be with all the sickness. So what really is the goal? Whether residents of Kendall County want to believe it or not, our bodies cannot withstand the constant fighting of viruses. It's about time that the school does more to play a role in stopping the spread.

Very concerned parent,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: School cleanliness
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
DATE: 01/25/2023 21:54

[redacted]

Thank you for reaching out. First, I am VERY sorry that your daughter has had to deal with so many illnesses. I truly hope she is OK. I am certainly not happy that she has had so many disruptions.

Second, I can not speak on behalf of the Board as only the Board President can do that. Therefore, the following is merely my opinion and nothing more.

I can and will certainly inquire to see if we are either short-staffed or have cut back on anything District wide. I was at one of our Schools tonight and saw our night crew cleaning the school. I can't say that I was overseeing them nor paying close enough attention to state whether it was a deep clean or not. Have you checked with the building Principal? I am curious what feedback they may have on this matter? I'm not saying it is their problem, I am just trying to ascertain if it is a District wide issue or a building issue. If the Principal is also feeling they are limited, then I would certainly want to know what is going on District wide. If the Principal is saying these things are and/or should be happening, then I think it important for them to hear from you.

I hope that makes sense. I will inquire from end.

Thanks again.

Cordially,
Jared

On Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 8:47 PM [redacted] wrote:

> SD 308 School Board,
>
> I'm becoming increasingly frustrated hearing and watching the sickness throughout sd308 school buildings that continues to spread as the winter months go on but yet I'm hearing and seeing less and less cleaning happening. Why????
>
> Every single week this winter, my daughter has had to fight congestion in the head, sore throat, headaches, and/or sometimes fevers. Note, I said every single week. From what I hear, the number of kids out every single day in the district seems to be greater than any year in the past (this is child #3 going through SD 308). I recently volunteered for the holiday parties that were rescheduled and I firsthand witnessed the stuffed up heads and coughing. I get it, we are sweeping Covid under the rug but why the heck have we cut back on the cleaning and rarely, if ever, doing deep cleans? This is unacceptable!!
>
> I've kept my daughter home several days this winter because I'd like to do my part to help slow the constant spread. Many parents are not and the school is doing little to try and nip the spread in the bud. If this is about money then I suggest cutbacks happen elsewhere because I do not feel that the kids are learning at the rate they should be with all the sickness. So what really is the goal? Whether residents of Kendall County want to believe it or not, our bodies cannot withstand the constant fighting of viruses. It's about time that the school does more to play a role in stopping the spread.
>
> Very concerned parent,

SUBJECT: Re: Hello
FROM: "Ortiz, Victor" <v-ortiz@neiu.edu>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/26/2023 09:39

Good morning, Board member Ploger,

Thank you for your message. I am at the moment in the process of renewing the IRB approval of my research (https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1758731&HistoricalAwards=false).

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss my research as it pertains to the education of the next generation of adult social members. As it is clear, school socialization and instruction is key in allowing or preventing social cohesiveness.

Best wishes and thanks again

Victor

On Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 6:53 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:

> Here is my email address.

SUBJECT: Re: Hello
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: "Ortiz, Victor" <v-ortiz@neiu.edu>
DATE: 01/26/2023 11:00

Victor,

Yes! I would absolutely be willing to sit down with you and discuss. Let me know what works for you.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

On Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 9:36 AM Ortiz, Victor <v-ortiz@neiu.edu> wrote:

> Good morning, Board member Ploger,
>
> Thank you for your message. I am at the moment in the process of renewing the IRB approval of my research (https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1758731&HistoricalAwards=false).
>
> I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss my research as it pertains to the education of the next generation of adult social members. As it is clear, school socialization and instruction is key in allowing or preventing social cohesiveness.
>
> Best wishes and thanks again
>
> Victor
>
> On Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 6:53 PM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Here is my email address.

SUBJECT: Life Insurance for Illinois School District Employees
FROM: RODNEY TROTTMAN <rodney_trottman@us.aflac.com>
TO:
DATE: 01/26/2023 16:33
ATTACHMENTS (20230126-163345-0000280): "What You Need to Know About Life Insurance.pdf" , "AFLAC Life Insurance Info.docx" , "Brochure - Whole Life Insurance.PDF"

My name is Rodney and I am a licensed ***AFLAC*** agent specializing in Illinois school districts.

This email is your *invitation* to enroll in a life insurance policy from ***Aflac,*** a *Fortune 500* company and leader in supplemental insurance, on a ***direct-to-consumer*** basis.

Please take a few minutes to review the attached files to see *all* of the important life insurance benefits available to you.

This individual policy is portable and is in addition to the life insurance provided by your local school district which is a group policy that goes away when you are no longer employed by the district.

*You can visit **www.aflac.com** to learn more.*

I am available to assist you in completing your ***AFLAC*** life insurance enrollment. Please **REPLY** to this email with your name, phone number, and best time to call to receive a free, no-obligation quote.

Rodney W. Trottman
AFLAC Certified Benefits Counselor
773-480-9581
rodney_trottman@us.aflac.com
Click here to view my digital business card
Click to see my favorite AFLAC commercial.
*Ask me for a **LIFE INSURANCE QUOTE***

SUBJECT: PreK Grants...
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/26/2023 20:06

Dr. Sparlin,

Since we have SO many PreK students scattered throughout various elementary schools, I'm curious if we looked into this at all? https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/25952-Capital_Development_Board_Announces_Recipients_of_Early_Childhood_Construction_Grant.pdf

Do we have the ability to add onto Brokaw?

Thanks in advance.
Jared

SUBJECT: Bussing
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 06:16

Dr. Sparlin,

I understand we are facing a shortage. I am very aware of our situation with bussing. I know we are doing everything we can to try and address the issue from a number of avenues.

That said, when I visited Traughber yesterday, I heard from students LOUD and CLEAR that bussing is NOT working for them! I heard from students waiting for over an hour, unaware that their bus was going to be late. Students arriving late for classes. Students sitting on the floor of busses because there is no room. Staff dealing with upset parents. And then upon reporting my visit, I heard from parents also about the situation as well.

I continue to hear from Junior High parents, students and staff about issues with bussing. I am concerned now as we head into next week and the weather is about to get worse. If I could take days off work and drive a bus for us, I would at this point! I'm sure I'm not alone.

This is the feedback I am receiving as I go out into the community.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: RE: PreK Grants...
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 09:08

Good morning Jared,

We did submit an application, but other districts with higher needs qualified and the dollars ran out. We received the following "Thank you for your interest in the Capital Development Board's Early Childhood Construction Grant program, CFSA 511-00-2113. This letter is to inform you that your organization will not be receiving an award at this time. The Capital Development Board received applications from a number of deserving entities, but only a limited number of grants could be awarded. Although we do not have a timeframe, CDB anticipates a second round of funding for these grants in the future, and we encourage you to reapply, if interested."

I looked at adding on to Brokaw years ago prior to creating the satellite classes we currently have at LB, LC and WC. If I remember correctly we don't have the space at Brokaw to add an additional pod of classrooms and parking for staff and parents.

Thanks,

John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 8:06 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: PreK Grants...

Dr. Sparlin,

Since we have SO many PreK students scattered throughout various elementary schools, I'm curious if we looked into this at all? https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/25952-Capital_Development_Board_Announces_Recipients_of_Early_Childhood_Construction_Grant.pdf

Do we have the ability to add onto Brokaw?

Thanks in advance.
Jared

SUBJECT: Re: PreK Grants...
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 09:11

Thank you! I appreciate that. I will ask about this at the next Board Meeting. I think it's important for the Public to know that we are asking and getting denied.

I appreciate it. I'm assuming we will have some news on Wolf Crossing coming soon? It never ends... Hang in there!

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 9:08 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good morning Jared,
>
> We did submit an application, but other districts with higher needs qualified and the dollars ran out. We received the following “Thank you for your interest in the Capital Development Board’s Early Childhood Construction Grant program, CFSA 511-00-2113. This letter is to inform you that your organization will not be receiving an award at this time. The Capital Development Board received applications from a number of deserving entities, but only a limited number of grants could be awarded. Although we do not have a timeframe, CDB anticipates a second round of funding for these grants in the future, and we encourage you to reapply, if interested.”
>
> I looked at adding on to Brokaw years ago prior to creating the satellite classes we currently have at LB, LC and WC. If I remember correctly we don’t have the space at Brokaw to add an additional pod of classrooms and parking for staff and parents.
>
> Thanks,
>
> John
>
> **Dr. John W. Sparlin**
>
> **Superintendent of Schools**
>
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
>
> 4175 Route 71
>
> Oswego, IL. 60543

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 8:06 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: PreK Grants...

Dr. Sparlin,

Since we have SO many PreK students scattered throughout various elementary schools, I'm curious if we looked into this at all? https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/25952-Capital_Development_Board_Announces_Recipients_of_Early_Childhood_Construction_Grant.pdf

Do we have the ability to add onto Brokaw?

Thanks in advance.

Jared

SUBJECT: RE: PreK Grants...
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 09:20

You are correct, It never ends. Very difficult times in many areas of education. Have a great day!

Thanks,
John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 9:11 AM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Re: PreK Grants...

Thank you! I appreciate that. I will ask about this at the next Board Meeting. I think it's important for the Public to know that we are asking and getting denied.

I appreciate it. I'm assuming we will have some news on Wolf Crossing coming soon? It never ends... Hang in there!

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 9:08 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good morning Jared,
>
> We did submit an application, but other districts with higher needs qualified and the dollars ran out. We received the following "Thank you for your interest in the Capital Development Board's Early Childhood Construction Grant program, CFSA 511-00-2113. This letter is to inform you that your organization will not be receiving an award at this time. The Capital Development Board received applications from a number of deserving entities, but only a limited number of grants could be awarded. Although we do not have a timeframe, CDB anticipates a second round of funding for these grants in the future, and we encourage you to reapply, if interested."
>
> I looked at adding on to Brokaw years ago prior to creating the satellite classes we currently have at LB, LC and WC. If I remember correctly we don't have the space at Brokaw to add an additional pod of classrooms and parking for staff and parents.
>
> Thanks,
>
> John
>
> **Dr. John W. Sparlin**
> **Superintendent of Schools**
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71
> Oswego, IL. 60543

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 8:06 PM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: PreK Grants...

Dr. Sparlin,

Since we have SO many PreK students scattered throughout various elementary schools, I'm curious if we looked into this at all? https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/25952-Capital_Development_Board_Announces_Recipients_of_Early_Childhood_Construction_Grant.pdf

Do we have the ability to add onto Brokaw?

Thanks in advance.
Jared

SUBJECT: RE: Bussing
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 09:38

Good morning Jared,

Thank you for the feedback that you received from the students. As you know, we are continually looking at ways to improve the situation. We made the adjustments that began after the winter break. Mr. DeArmond has been monitoring ridership on the routes and has made adjustments to many. He and myself have been responding to the same feedback you are receiving. In week two after break the adjustments with the new routes seemed to be working well. This week the flu and COVID has been an issue within that department along with some of the office staff being out due to sickness, death in family and things like that. There have been some days with as many as 14 drivers out sick this week.

Let's look at the bussing scenario from a school lens. When you have 14 teachers out in a building we have subs come in. If you can't get subs you have staff fill in the gaps covering classes on their plan. If you can't cover the classes with your existing teachers you may combine classes or put them into a bigger space such as auditorium, cafeteria or community spaces that are larger. With transportation, we don't have subs due to the driver shortage, office staff will drive routes when needed, and you can't put more kids on busses like the classroom scenario. Drivers do a 3 tier route and can't fill in the other routes until they are done with the ones they are already assigned to. This means after the elementary routes are finished they go back and run the routes that couldn't be covered. It really is a very difficult situation to manage and navigate.

[redacted]

Again, thanks for the feedback. Have a great day!

John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 6:16 AM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Cc: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Bussing

Dr. Sparlin,

I understand we are facing a shortage. I am very aware of our situation with bussing. I know we are doing everything we can to try and address the issue from a number of avenues.

That said, when I visited Traughber yesterday, I heard from students LOUD and CLEAR that bussing is NOT working for them! I heard from students waiting for over an hour, unaware that their bus was going to be late. Students arriving late for classes. Students sitting on the floor of busses because there is no room. Staff dealing with upset parents. And then upon reporting my visit, I heard from parents also about the situation as well.

I continue to hear from Junior High parents, students and staff about issues with bussing. I am concerned now as we head into next week and the weather is about to get worse. If I could take days off work and drive a bus for us, I would at this point! I'm sure I'm not alone.

This is the feedback I am receiving as I go out into the community.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: FW: Special Thanks to our Bus Drivers
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 10:38

Good Morning Jared,

I wanted to follow up the email I sent you earlier with a positive one that I received yesterday.

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 3:52 PM
To: mdearmond@sd308.comorg; jsparlin@sd308.org
Subject: Special Thanks to our Bus Drivers

Dear Mr DeArmond and Dr Sparlin,
I wanted to take the time to send a special thanks to my kids bus drivers and aides. I know many times you only get upset or concerned emails, especially with the current staff shortages. It is important to also recognize and say thank you to people. I can't imagine the pressure and stress your team have every day and then add weather on top of it. Thank you to them for getting my kids to school safely (and even for my daughter going to hunt club on time both days - Bus 31/Mr Armstrong). Please make sure to pass along my thanks to all the bus drivers, especially ELC 313/200 (I'm afraid I don't know their names) and HC 31 (Mr Armstrong). They have been awesome!
Kind regards,
[redacted]

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

SUBJECT: Re: Bussing
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 10:47

Dr. Sparlin,

I DO understand. I appreciate the feedback. I appreciate everyone doing the best they can. I know everyone else is just as frustrated. Hang in there. Illness striking our drivers is more than enough for me to go back to them with.

Thank you!

Cordially,
Jared

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 9:38 AM John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good morning Jared,
>
> Thank you for the feedback that you received from the students. As you know, we are continually looking at ways to improve the situation. We made the adjustments that began after the winter break. Mr. DeArmond has been monitoring ridership on the routes and has made adjustments to many. He and myself have been responding to the same feedback you are receiving. In week two after break the adjustments with the new routes seemed to be working well. This week the flu and COVID has been an issue within that department along with some of the office staff being out due to sickness, death in family and things like that. There have been some days with as many as 14 drivers out sick this week.
>
> Let's look at the bussing scenario from a school lens. When you have 14 teachers out in a building we have subs come in. If you can't get subs you have staff fill in the gaps covering classes on their plan. If you can't cover the classes with your existing teachers you may combine classes or put them into a bigger space such as auditorium, cafeteria or community spaces that are larger. With transportation, we don't have subs due to the driver shortage, office staff will drive routes when needed, and you can't put more kids on busses like the classroom scenario. Drivers do a 3 tier route and can't fill in the other routes until they are done with the ones they are already assigned to. This means after the elementary routes are finished they go back and run the routes that couldn't be covered. It really is a very difficult situation to manage and navigate.
>
> 

Again, thanks for the feedback. Have a great day!

John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 6:16 AM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Cc: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Bussing

Dr. Sparlin,

I understand we are facing a shortage. I am very aware of our situation with bussing. I know we are doing everything we can to try and address the issue from a number of avenues.

That said, when I visited Traughber yesterday, I heard from students LOUD and CLEAR that bussing is NOT working for them! I heard from students waiting for over an hour, unaware that their bus was going to be late. Students arriving late for classes. Students sitting on the floor of busses because there is no room. Staff dealing with upset parents. And then upon reporting my visit, I heard from parents also about the situation as well.

I continue to hear from Junior High parents, students and staff about issues with bussing. I am concerned now as we head into next week and the weather is about to get worse. If I could take days off work and drive a bus for us, I would at this point! I'm sure I'm not alone.

This is the feedback I am receiving as I go out into the community.

Cordially,

Jared

SUBJECT: RE: Bussing
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 11:09

Thanks Jared!

John

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 10:48 AM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Re: Bussing

Dr. Sparlin,

I DO understand. I appreciate the feedback. I appreciate everyone doing the best they can. I know everyone else is just as frustrated. Hang in there. Illness striking our drivers is more than enough for me to go back to them with.

Thank you!

Cordially,
Jared

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 6:16 AM
To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Cc: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
Subject: Bussing

Dr. Sparlin,

I understand we are facing a shortage. I am very aware of our situation with bussing. I know we are doing everything we can to try and address the issue from a number of avenues.

That said, when I visited Traughber yesterday, I heard from students LOUD and CLEAR that bussing is NOT working for them! I heard from students waiting for over an hour, unaware that their bus was going to be late. Students arriving late for classes. Students sitting on the floor of busses because there is no room. Staff dealing with upset parents. And then upon reporting my visit, I heard from parents also about the situation as well.

I continue to hear from Junior High parents, students and staff about issues with bussing. I am concerned now as we head into next week and the weather is about to get worse. If I could take days off work and drive a bus for us, I would at this point! I'm sure I'm not alone.

This is the feedback I am receiving as I go out into the community.

Cordially,
Jared

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 103-02
FROM: "IASB Legislative Report" <zmessersmith@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 12:03

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (103-2)

Bill Filings Continue as Senate Gets Organized

The Illinois Senate was in session in Springfield January 24 and 25. Only one vote was taken on the Senate floor as most of the work being done was operational and administrative. Due to a major renovation of the Capitol building, many Senators' offices have been relocated within the Capitol Building or in the Stratton Office Building. A list of Senators and their office locations can be found at https://www.ilga.gov/senate/. One remaining operational task is the assignment of committee chairs. While most of the standing committees are staying the same as they were in the previous General Assembly, the Senate has added several appropriations committees as well as the Early Childhood Education Committee.

The 103rd General Assembly was sworn in on January 11 with Democrats holding supermajorities in both the House and the Senate. While there has been little legislative action so far in the 103rd General Assembly, we expect that to change quickly.

With the Senate in session reading bills into the record and the House continuing to introduce bills, a flurry of bills that could impact schools has been filed by Illinois General Assembly members. Over 1,600 bills have already been filed with more being

filed daily until the Introduction deadline of February 10 in the Senate and the 17th in the House. IASB legislative staff members are already engaged in conversations around several issues including, but not limited to, mandates, early literacy/dyslexia screening, alternative school placement, limiting use of school resource officers, providing kosher and halal meals, and student data and privacy. We expect that list will continue to grow. Your IASB team in the Capitol will keep you apprised as these issues develop and will reach out for your support, action, and feedback whenever needed.

Advocacy Resources **Legislative Reports**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 1.27.2023
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/27/2023 14:01

January 27, 2023

SD 308's Employee Newsletter

To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission

See Something, Say Something!

#SD308BetterTogether

W2s for Tax Year 2022 are READY!

Click Here to be taken to the Intranet
Log into the Employee Access portal
Click on "My Pay"
Where it indicates "Tax Documents" switch years to "2022"
Download: "W2 for tax year: 2022"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Date	Day	Event
5Essentials Survey (Now through March 31st) **Teachers: This survey is a 25-minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment.** Click here to take the survey and select the appropriate survey to begin. **Note:** you must choose Kendall County in order to locate all SD 308 Schools.		
January 28 (9am-6:30pm)	Saturday	Hopes for Hope Basketball Games @ Yorkville High School's main campus
January 30 (5-7:30pm)	Monday	Board Advisory: Policy & Legislative Committee Meeting / DAC
January 31 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting / DAC
February 1 (5-7:30pm)	Wednesday	Special Board of Education Meeting @ OE Community Room
February 3 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry - Oswego Satellite 61 Franklin Street, Oswego
February 3 (6-8pm)	Friday	OE Mosaic Presents: 14th Annual International Fest Around the World in One Night (Click here for flyer)

		Location: Oswego East, PAC and Commons
February 6 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ OE Community Room
February 11 (10am-1:00pm)	Saturday	Black History Month - Professionals Fair Oswego East High School
February 13 (5-7:30pm)	Monday	Board Advisory: Policy & Legislative Committee Meeting / DAC
February 15 (9:30-11:30am)	Wednesday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Fox Chase, Hunt Club, Long Beach)*
February 15 (3:30-6:00pm)	Wednesday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Fox Chase, Hunt Club, Long Beach)*
February 15 (6-7:30pm)	Wednesday	Board Advisory: Community Advisory Committee Meeting / Oswego East
February 16 (5-6:30pm)	Thursday	NEED GROCERIES? Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Location: Fox Chase Elementary School, 260 Fox Chase Drive North Oswego
February 16 (5:30-6:30pm)	Thursday	Board Advisory: Equity Committee Meeting / DAC
February 17	Friday	3.5 Hr Student Attendance - School Improvement Day (No Early Childhood) End of 2nd Trimester (K-5)
February 20	Monday	No School - Presidents Day

Kindergarten Registration Dates

FEBRUARY 6
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 9
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 13
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 15
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Students currently attending Brokaw or a Satellite Early Childhood location do not need to attend one of these sessions.

For a complete details of calendar events, please view the District Calendar

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

I hope this message finds you well. Later today I am requesting through our parent newsletter that families take some time to talk with their child(ren) about the importance of keeping threatening words and/or inappropriate discussions out of school. Recently we've worked through a number of situations where students said things that caused fear in others. While harmful intentions may not always be real, if potentially threatening language or topics

are discussed it necessitates a response. We want all our students and our staff to feel safe while at school and we try to minimize disruptions as much as possible.
Please continue to help push the message of "See Something, Say Something" to our students. I am so proud of the students who have come forward to report to a trusted adult when things they see or hear are concerning. We take each of these reports seriously and conduct a full investigation in order to maintain a safe learning environment in our schools.
It's important that we remind students that their choice of words and actions can cause serious repercussions when they generate fear and disruption at school. Resources are used each time we investigate these situations, including consultation and sometimes response from police.
It's hard for students to understand that even when they're joking, certain statements have to be taken seriously and consequences may be significant.
I appreciate your help in reiterating this important message to your students.
I hope you have a wonderful weekend and stay warm as temperatures drop and the snow continues to fall. As always, know that you are valued and appreciated here at SD 308!

- *John*

Staff Info

2023-2024 School Calendars Approved - To view the calendars for the 2023-24 school year visit, 2023-2024 School Calendar and 2023-2024 School Year Month View Calendar.

Volunteers Needed For Black History Month Professionals Fair
At Oswego East on February 11, students are invited to join in engineering activities, a panel discussion and booths to explore many exciting careers. Open to all students, the event features a variety of professionals including scientists, business owners, pilots, doctors, lawyers and business entrepreneurs. Contact Valerie Talton with Accelerate Career through Education, LLC if you're interested in helping to make this event a success (a c e@comcast.net)!

Aurora Public Art will display artists Donnell Collins, Perry Slade, and Dr. Charles Smith from February 3rd to March 18th! Aurora Public Art takes place on the 3rd Floor Gallery, 20 E. Downers Pl, Aurora, IL. Events and Gallery Admission are free and open to the public!

Concordia University Chicago - Master's, Doctoral & Endorsement Programs: Please click here to view a full list of programs offered by Concordia. They are currently enrolling for March and May.

Illinois 5essentials Survey: Students, teachers, and parents across Illinois now have an opportunity to participate in the eleventh annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of a school. For parents, this opportunity allows them to share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about their child's school. If at least 20 percent of parents at each school complete this survey, a parent supplement report will be generated.
To take the survey visit https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/ and select the appropriate survey to begin. Note: you must choose Kendall County in order to locate all SD 308 schools. Please complete the survey between now and March 31.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

PushCoin Payment Plan Update: PushCoin has been updated to now allow families to set up their own payment plans through an automatic payment EFT each month. This means families no longer need to fill out paper forms and wait for notification of approval. To learn more about the process, click here.

HUMAN RESOURCES

W2s for Tax Year 2022 are Ready! Click Here to be taken to the Intranet

- Log into the Employee Access portal
- Click on “My Pay”
- Where it indicates “Tax Documents” switch years to “2022”
- Download: “W2 for tax year: 2022”

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY! Emergency Contact Information - Please be sure to update your emergency contact information in the Employee Access Portal. Go to "My Information" click on "Profile" click on "Emergency contacts" Employees have the ability to add and update emergency contacts at any time through the portal. Contact the HR department at ext. 4648 if you have any questions.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District’s PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Huntington Learning Center - WANTED: Part-Time Teachers: Teacher certification not required to teach SAT/ACT prep. Contact Kim Velazquez, Center Director, at 630.551.4145 or oswegoIL@HLCMail.com for more information. Click Here for Flyer.

Service Dog Foundation Seeking Volunteer Foster Trainers. VIP is a 501c(3) non-profit charity organization who facilitates service dogs and companion dogs to Veterans, developmentally disabled, and/or physically disabled individuals. Local homes are needed to foster and train puppies. Volunteers receive puppies at 10 weeks old and meet as a group for training once a week in Naperville, then work with the dog daily at home. The foster is with the dog 9-12 months until they are given to a Veteran, a person with a disability or as an emotional support dog. Learn more here.

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** ***Special Meeting*** **-** Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School.
  - *BOE Summary from 01.23.23*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Substitute teacher/TA pay
FROM: "'Jessica Biehl' via BOE" <boe@sd308.org>
TO: jsparlin@sd308.org, BOE@sd308.org
DATE: 01/27/2023 15:15

To whom it may concern,

As many of you know, the current MINIMUM wage pay per hour is currently $13.00 in the state of Illinois. I am a substitute teacher in the district and the current pay for TA subs is $91 for a whole day, which is equivalent to $12.13 per hour a 7.5 hour day. As much as we appreciate that $.13 raise from 2022, it still doesn't equal $13 an hour. Please consider raising the pay for substitute TAs to minimum wage.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Biehl-Kosciukiewicz

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 15:35

Online Update

January 27, 2023

IASB Constitution and Position Statements Updated

The IASB Constitution and Position Statements have been updated to reflect the votes of Association members during the 2022 Delegate Assembly. In November of last year, delegates approved one new Position Statement, Position 2.49: Fund Balances-Miller Ratio Adjustment, and amended seven other past positions to reflect current priorities. Delegates also approved the removal of outdated positions and revisions to the IASB Constitution, including adding a requirement of a 2/3 majority vote to pass future resolutions.

IASB Legislative Report

The latest IASB Legislative Report looks at some of the education-related issues and topics that are among the more than 1,600 bills filed by the 103rd General Assembly. Also highlighted is the assignment of Senate Committees and temporary office locations as renovations continue at the Capitol.

Spring Division Meetings

The first IASB Division Meeting for Spring 2023 will take place February 1 in the DuPage Division, followed by the Starved Rock Division Meeting on February 2. Registration is open to IASB members through the Events Calendar. Other Spring Division Meetings will commence on March 1 and continue through the month. A list of Division Meeting dates, locations and topics are available on the IASB website.

Registration Open for Multi-Division Regional Events

IASB Developing Training Course for Trauma-Responsive Practices

Bertrand's Next Move Will be to Lead National Organization

Upcoming Deadline for Early Registration Discount, COSSBA National Conference Speakers Announced

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/27/2023 16:07
ATTACHMENTS (20230127-160730-0000281): "Superintendent's Update - January 27, 2023.docx" , "JQ.docx" , "IMG-5517.jpg" , "IMG-5499.jpg" , "20230127 Annual TIF Meeting BOE Update.pdf" , "20230127 Preventative Maintenance BOE Update.pdf" , "20230127 Three Year Architect Fee BOE Update (1).pdf" , "Envision 308 update for BOE.pptx"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. I hope that you all have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Advisory Committee Meeting Agendas and Documents
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/27/2023 17:27
ATTACHMENTS (20230127-172737-0000246):
"01.30.23_Policy_and_Legislative_Agenda.pdf" , "11.30.22 Policy Meeting Minutes.Draft.pdf" , "1.31.23 Finance.Facilities.Agenda.pdf" , "6.28.22 Draft Finance.Facilities Committee Minutes 1 (3).pdf" , "FY23 Complete 5-year Projection scenarios.pdf" , "FY23 Final Budget for FFC.pdf"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached please find the agendas and documents for this week's Advisory Committee meetings.

- Monday, January 30, 2023 - Policy & Legislative Committee at 5:00 p.m. in room 61 at DAC
- Tuesday, January 31, 2023 - Finance & Facilities Committee at 6:00 p.m. in room 61 at DAC

Just a quick reminder to send me your food order for the special meeting as well as any additional questions for the search firms by Monday!

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Learn Your Student Loan Forgiveness Options In 4 Steps.
FROM: "Info SLHG" <info@contactslhg.com>
TO: Jared-Ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/30/2023 08:04

Good Morning Illinois public school employees,

Student loans have gone through several adjustments over the years, but in the last 18 months, there have been criteria changes, payment pauses, and more. Our mission at TSLHG is to educate borrowers and help them navigate this intricate system that lacks any helpful guidance. Below we've simplified how we can help you with important information regarding the forgiveness programs:

Step 1: Have Federal Student Loans

↓

Step 2: Be interested in loan forgiveness programs.

↓

Step 3: Book your complimentary consultation

↓

Step 4: Take action

Why should you trust TSLHG's advice?

TSLHG has worked with teachers across the country for over a decade. We have maintained excellent ratings and reviews, including an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau because we are transparent about your options. Schedule your complimentary appointment at a time of your convenience below.

Schedule your appointment

Continue with phone

The Student Loan Help Group | FL DOACS LIC *#TC5038*

O. 844.599.5589 | F. 561.207.8007

tslhg.com

*The Student Loan Help Group assists consumers with all federal student loan filing services. TSLHG is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Zenmax inc. dba The Student Loan Help Group, 11911 US-1 #201-39, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408, United States

You may unsubscribe or change your contact details at any time.

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/30/2023 14:56

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Special Board of Education Meeting
Date: February 1, 2023 (Wednesday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DBa6M_TjjsgawE4Bwu4p8dReaP44r8XkRnA1KN3-2FccEFq2crEwlxec1XFemhUpAbzWLGLQD0nSo-2FSPXidc-2FYmUjg472fSpmWsqKaxjPgu45nY7ClYyPuPjpMqj07zysDZgP-2B9kGz0k0lFmJzHoTzap3v7dPoCcV3-2F9oOCDCodMNZxiEPII7P54mtvSjiFykxTMSZSDkYhrsRvwqhI1t4ipPfj6vQ-3D-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: Kishwaukee Division Meeting 3/23/23 - Registration Now Open
FROM: "Laura Martinez"<lmartinez@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/30/2023 15:24

Click here for a mobile/web version



Kishwaukee Division

Thursday, March 23, 2023 - 6 p.m. - $45

Northern Illinois University Barsema Alumni Center
231 N. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb map here

Parking is directly behind the Barsema Alumni Center or in the overflow parking lot to the south off of Stadium Drive East.

All participants should be prepared to comply with all health and safety guidelines that are in place at the time of the division meeting.

Program

Is your school experiencing student learning loss? Don't reinvent the wheel, use a proven approach!



Presenter: Lori Hensold, Director, Illinois MTSS Network, Center for P-20 Engagement at Northern Illinois University

Schools across Illinois are looking for ways to address student learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Illinois students deserve an evidence-based, systemic, and sustainable solution. MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) is an evidence-based framework for identifying learners' needs and organizing school resources to meet those needs. MTSS has over 20 years of research backing its effectiveness. The good news is that RtI/MTSS has been a part of the Illinois educational delivery system since 2008 and schools can leverage the strengths of this framework to address learning loss and provide the needed learning supports to close the learning loss gap for all students. During this presentation you will learn more about the ways school boards can empower schools to organize existing resources within an MTSS framework to address learning loss--without reinventing the wheel!

Lori Hensold serves as Director of the Illinois MTSS Network in the Center for P-20 Engagement at NIU. In collaboration with the Network, Lori has supported districts and schools across Illinois to develop and use an MTSS framework to successfully improve student learning outcomes for all students, including students with IEPs. Lori designs and delivers professional learning and coaching for large and small groups. Lori has presented at the national, state, and local levels.

Agenda

6 P.M. - REGISTRATION/NETWORKING
6:15 P.M. - INTRODUCTIONS/DINNER
7:00 P.M. - BUSINESS MEETING/PRESENTATION

Registration

Registration Fee: $45. All registrations must be completed online through the IASB database management system. ***ADA dietary requests and accommodations should be processed online while registering. Reservations are requested by March 15, 2023.**

**All dietary requests are taken into consideration, IASB cannot guarantee that any menu item is completely free of allergens.*

REGISTER NOW

Payment may be made by credit card, or the district can request that it be billed. This is a legitimate school board expense. Registration fees will be refunded only for cancellations received two days prior to the meeting. To cancel, please email registrar@iasb.com.

By participating in this Illinois Association of School Boards (hereinafter IASB) event, you are automatically authorizing IASB and its employees, agents, and assigns to use your name, photograph, voice or other likeness for purposes related to the mission of IASB, including but not limited to publicity, marketing, websites, other electronic forms of media, and promotion of IASB and its various programs.



Attendance at this event earns participants five points in IASB's Board Leader Recognition Program.

DIVISION OFFICERS

Director
Robert Geddeis, Hononegah CHSD 207
Chair
Paul Troy, Huntley Community SD 158
Vice Chair
Bob Gonzalez, West Aurora SD 129
Resolutions Chair
Stephen Nelson, Sycamore CUSD 427
Directors-at-Large
Evelyn Meeks, Harlem SD 122
Karen Parks, Harrison SD 36
Lisa Saitta, Sandwich CUSD 430

QUICK LINKS

- Events Calendar
- Joint Annual Conference
- Board Training
- Legislative Reports
- Policy Services



Laura Martinez
Field Services Director
(630) 629-3776, ext. 1245
lmartinez@iasb.com



Cindy Rispens
Administrative Assistant
(630) 629-3776, ext. 1229
crispens@iasb.com

Click here to unsubscribe and/or manage your subscriptions.

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: IASB Federal Legislative Report 117-15
FROM: "Governmental Relations Department" <mbuch@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/30/2023 17:00

Click here for a mobile/web version

Federal Legislative Report

(117-15)

January 30, 2023

Both chambers of Congress were in recess last week but returned this week to continue organizing. The State of the Union will take place February 7 with members now awaiting the release of President Joe Biden's FY 2024 budget request. A review of recent federal public policy issues affecting K-12 education and employment follows. Points of interest include a prize challenge for innovative learning technologies, the future of teaching American History, a grant to expand community schools, the importance of youth career development, and awards to support cradle-to-career solutions.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION LAUNCHES $6 MILLION PRIZE TO DEVELOP K-12 LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

A $6 million prize challenge was recently launched by the National Science Foundation to develop innovative learning technologies for K-12 students. Known as the Visionary Interdisciplinary Teams Advancing Learning (VITAL), the challenge will focus on providing funding and training to build K-12 learning technology.

WEBINAR DISCUSSED FUTURE OF TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY

In mid-January, a webinar hosted by the American Enterprise Institute's Conservative Education Reform Network discussed the future of teaching American History. Political ideologies and viewpoints often shape the curriculum taught in classrooms while student reading levels have not yet been developed in primary grades. An archived recording of the webinar can be found online.

ED ANNOUNCES $63M TO EXPAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Department of Education announced $63 million in new five-year Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) grants. The grants will help expand existing community schools or establish new programs in several states and territories, including nearly $6 million awarded to five Illinois locations. Additional information can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website.

EXPERT PANEL EXAMINES IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT

A webinar titled "New Skills for a New Economy: The Rising Importance and Popularity of Youth Career Development" was recently hosted by the Progressive Policy Institute. Career learning in high schools provides opportunities like those that currently exist in postsecondary education. An archived recording of the webinar is available.

ED AWARDS OVER $35M TO SUPPORT CRADLE-TO-CAREER SOLUTIONS

New awards totaling over $35 million awarded to the *Promise Neighborhood* and *Project Prevent* grant programs were recently announced by the Department of Education. Coordinated support services and programs provided to students from low-income backgrounds as well as local educational agencies (LEAs) impacted by community violence. Additional details can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website.

EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES IN THE NEWS

These 4 Charts Explain Federal Fiscal 2023 K-12 Spending

K-12 Dive (January 13, 2023)

Creating Equitable Access to Computer Science Education

EdNote (January 19, 2023)

Workforce Development, K-12 Teacher Shortages Top List of State Higher Ed Leaders' Concerns

Higher Ed Dive (January 20, 2023)

FUTURE HEARINGS AND EVENTS

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Webinar: White House Black Initiative Lunch and Learn on Grant Opportunities (E&S)

Subject: Department of Education program staff in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will brief stakeholders about upcoming grant opportunities.

Time: Noon EST (11 a.m. Central time)

Registration: Register here.

Webinar: Smart ESSER Investments: Leveraging Edtech for Equitable Learning Acceleration (E&S) Subject: Whiteboard Advisors will explore the role emerging technologies can play in accelerating learning and addressing the ongoing effects of lost instructional time during the pandemic.

Participants: Anna Edwards, Chief Advocacy Officer, Whiteboard Advisors; Shawn Bird, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer, Houston Independent School District; Leann Bradshaw, Assistant Superintendent; Orange County (Florida) Public Schools; and Sophia Mendoza, Director of Instructional Technology Initiative, Los Angeles Unified School District.

Time: 3 p.m. EST (2 p.m. Central time)

Registration: Register here.

LINKS FOR FEDERAL HEARINGS, LEGISLATION, AND EVENTS

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor]

[U.S. Senate Budget Committee]

[U.S. House Budget Committee]

[Congressional Budget Office]

[Federal legislative information]

This Federal Legislative Report was written with assistance from the Consortium of State School Boards Associations.

Legislative Reports **Advocacy Resources**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Your Request
FROM: info@iasb.com
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/30/2023 20:15

Dear Jared Ploger,

We have received your password request. The link below is good for one use and will expire 15 minutes after it is issued. Please follow the link below within 15 minutes to reset your password:
click here

If you did not make this request, please contact us immediately.

Thank you

SUBJECT: Password Reset
FROM: info@iasb.com
TO: jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 01/30/2023 20:16

Dear Jared

Your password has been reset.

Illinois Association of School Boards, 2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688 | www.iasb.com

The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: "IASB Communications" <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/31/2023 09:07

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

Focusing the Board on Renovation

February 2, 2023 — noon

The board plays a major role in the maintenance of facilities, including planning for summer renovations. Districts should review the five-year maintenance program at regular board meetings, selecting projects to be completed and finding the funding. Terry Fielden, Vice President at International Contractors and a former board member at Naperville CUSD 203, will be joined by a panel of practitioners regarding the expectations of board planning and funding for facility renovations.

Register Now

More Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

Beyond March 2020:
High-Quality Virtual Learning
February 9, 2023 — noon

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

Implementing an Effective Superintendent Evaluation Process
February 23, 2023 — noon

Register Now

IASB Events Calendar

View Calendar

DuPage Division Meeting
February 1, 2023

Starved Rock Division Meeting
February 2, 2023

Lake Division Legislative Breakfast
February 11, 2023

Northwest Division Hybrid Meeting
March 1, 2023



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Fwd: December Staff Update
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/01/2022 09:11

Good Morning, BOE,
This is the December Staff Update that was sent to all staff this morning.
Thanks for reading,
Faith

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Engagement
FROM: Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/01/2022 10:47

Hey there!

Last month, Possip hosted an event with four different school leaders on the impact of feedback in school communities. I've included the recording below and a few key highlights to focus on.

Stories of Impact: Parent Feedback from Possip

- How Possip feedback is used to **spread positivity**: 5:48
- Different ways schools are using Possip feedback to drive **anti-bullying initiatives**: 10:55
- Strategies to gather **over 50% multi-lingual feedback** from families: 13:28
- **Increase in 'crucial conversations'** as a result of asking for staff feedback: 25:05
- Impact of asking middle schoolers for feedback and the illuminating information shared on their **academic & social needs:** 27:30
- How consistent feedback through Possip helped **increase school satisfaction by 9%**: 35:46

I'm not sure who would be the best person to connect with to chat about what kind of impact Possip could have. Could you help point me in the right direction?

Thank you!

Natalie Sessoms
Possip Sales & Partnerships
931-625-2522
www.possip.com
Schedule a Meeting

On Wed, Nov 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM, Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com> wrote:

> Hey Jennifer,
>
> Houston ISD, Chicago PS, and Metro Nashville PS have all been working with Possip to help improve stakeholder engagement.
>
> Possip provides quick surveys (in 100+ languages) to families, staff, and students - enabling schools to hear from ~60-70% of their populations over the course of the year in a simple, non-confrontational way. Our partnering districts gain a systematic way to hear from their *entire community* - not just the loudest voices - to know what's going well and what issues can be resolved quickly.
>
> Does this sound like a solution that could help your community as well? If so, would really appreciate your guidance on the best person to connect with.
>
> **Natalie Sessoms**
> Possip Sales & Partnerships
> 931-625-2522

www.possip.com
Schedule a Meeting

On Fri, Nov 18, 2022 at 1:18 PM, Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com> wrote:

> Hi Jennifer,
>
> Not sure if you can help me but maybe you can point me the right direction.
>
> Whom should I speak with to introduce myself and **Possip**?
>
> Both innovative and simplistic by design, we use **routine, multi-lingual SMS Pulse Check™ surveys** to give you the power of feedback and information. Possip helps you manage feedback from families, staff, and students in an easily digestible way.
> Here's a little bit about us: **Possip Fast Facts**
>
> So appreciate any help you can provide!
>
> **Natalie Sessoms**
> Possip Sales & Partnerships
> 931-625-2522
> www.possip.com
> Schedule a Meeting

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/01/2022 12:34

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education
Meeting
Date: December 5, 2022 (Monday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DXpkW_jrUqf5zwH7FzSx1F7hMR784Uk6tmIBLnzYQhft7PcGrRCGL4OMimWdXfFXI9BTZcZUskfaZMe7pdb4bNr8pimTIpf8j7wR0hGTNVvDXPFrjuqzBzoG6syFaQVS6v6uib7z5GMhIE-2FVvnhK1uDCMZAj3ZqHHPS02nPXR6YV1aF2Ltl3DP3JaBgYEzpKt7kdUfuFKqkcRLX1XrR8UfdIhxR7s-2Fc88ZjAh4OlhDWGU8at8-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: Families In Need
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Allstaff <allstaff@sd308.org>
BCC: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/02/2022 11:37

Dear 308 Staff,

Our district community is fortunate to have local programs that are helping our students and families in need. Many of these programs rely heavily on the involvement and donations of the SD 308 community to help them fulfill the needs and wishes of local families.

There are numerous children and families left needing a sponsor this year, please consider getting together with colleagues, friends, or your family to provide gifts and household items for those needing some extra help this holiday season.

How you can help:

Programs listed below are doing their best to bring cheer to the community this holiday season and would really appreciate your support!

- **Community Cares** - Continuing the 38 year tradition of the Oswego Christmas Project known now as the Community Cares Holiday Project. Help bring cheer to local families by signing up to sponsor a family, or consider volunteering your time on December 17th to help with sorting gifts/and or making deliveries.

  Sponsor a Family
  Volunteer

- **Toys for Tots** - Now through December 9th, all 5 SD 308 Junior High schools are collecting toys to be donated to Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps in conjunction with the Oswego Fire Department. You can donate an unwrapped toy for a child ages 1-13 with a cost of $10 or more.

- **3:11 Project** - Did you know that the 3:11 Project was initially created because the founder wanted to help families during the holidays? This organization provides assistance year-round to area families. Help 3:11 Project in their mission to create holiday joy for local children. Use the link to sponsor a child, the deadline to drop off gifts is December 2nd.

  3:11 Project

Have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: SD 308 Fine Arts December Newsletter!
FROM: Michael Jon Skura <mskura@sd308.org>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 11:59

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
World-Class Schools Serving Caring Communities

Fine Arts November Newsletter

SD 308 Fine Art Colleagues, Happy Monday, December 5th, 2022! There is SO much in this month's newsletter; OHS ILMEA District 9 Congratulations, Traughber Choir being Festive, OEHS & OHS Artists Make their Mark at NIU & More! ***"Make it Happen"*** and bring out the best creativity & skill from our SD 308 Fine Arts Students!

Check Out All that is in this Newsletter!

OHS Congratulating Their Band ILMEA Students!
Traughber Panther Choir Community Outreach
Congratulations, OEHS Wolf Artist at NIU!
OHS Panther Artist takes 1st Place at NIU!
OEHS Large Scale Perspective Murals!
ILMEA Conference
Scholastic Regional Art Competition

ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

From the OHS Band Department, congratulations to the following students! Check out www.ohsband.org **for screenshots of selections!**





Panther Choir Community Outreach



Traughber Panther Choir will perform at the annual Oswego Christmas Walk on December 2nd, both at street level in front of the library and at the Little Which School Museum. Be sure to check it out!

On Dec 8 & 9, they will be touring the community retirement villages, bringing holiday cheer to the residents.

Finally, they will showcase their music at the **Traughber Holiday Choir Concert on Monday, December 12th, at 7 pm** in the Traughber Cafe.

OEHS Senior wins NIU School of Art and Design Scholarship!



Congratulations to OEHS Senior Chloe Thavong, one of two students who won a $1000 scholarship to NIU Art and Design School on Saturday, November 19th, during the closing reception of NIU's High School Invitational Exhibition!

OHS Panther Artists exhibited their artwork at the annual NIU High School Art Exhibition, also bringing home 1st Place!






CAFE










FEMINISM
IS NOT A DIRTY WORD
LET ME SPEAK
OBJECT
Barbra Walters
Betty Friedan
Gloria Steinem
Simone de Beauvoir
Eleanor
IF YOU'RE NOT ANGRY
YOU'RE NOT PAYING
ATTENTION
LISTEN





Congratulations to our Oswego High School Panther Artists who displayed their great artwork this past weekend at Jack Olson Gallery at the Northern Illinois University high school art exhibition November 7th–19th!
Students in the northern Illinois region produce artwork for this high school exhibition.
1st Place: Christian Mattern
Honorable Mention: Lauren Sullivan, Gracelyn Hooks, Jessica Dove, Nicole Stankiewicz, Jenna Allen, & Jenna Lovell

---

OEHS Foundations Art 1 students created large-scale tape murals in small groups this month to show their understanding of one-point perspective. Check them out at OEHS in the Visual Arts hallway before finals week, when they will be taken down.









ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars -

we can't wait to see you **January 25-28, 2023, in Peoria for IMEC 2023!**

ATTENDEE PREREGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2023 ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE!

Click Here to Register and Find Out More



CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

Both students and educators can create an account using our online registration system. This is where you'll find your school and enter your work.

Click Here to Create Your Account

Fine Arts Mission Statement

The SD 308 Fine Arts provides balance to each student by nurturing an environment that fosters the development and understanding of artistic skills and sensibilities, producing lifelong learners with the ability to create, appreciate, and contribute to culture.

Illinois Art Education Association, our Annual Conference, is coming this November! Please consider attending! Not a member yet? Consider being part of the united front of Art Educators & Partners. Click on this LINK to register or renew your membership!

ILMEA

ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Illinois Music Education Association! Click on the LINK for more information.

Educational Theatre Association™

Illinois Thespian Society**-Are you an Honor Troupe? Please consider applying for this prestigious honor by clicking HERE.**

Arts Alliance IL

Arts Alliance Illinois-Please check out their NEWSLETTER by signing up! Also, consider being a member!

Some Important Dates to Make A Note of:

Dec. 5th & 6th-Winter WonderActs Auditions 2:30-4:30 pm
Dec. 9th Chicagoland 4x5 Traveling Show at Water Street Studios in Batavia Opening at 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Dec. 10th Crystals 5:00 – 9:30 pm
Dec. 11th Crystals 2:00 – 6:30 pm
Dec. 17th Scholastic Deadline!
Dec. 19th Wind Symphony at Midwest 11:45 am – 12:45 pm
Have a VERY CREATIVE FALL!

This email was sent to jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
SD 308 Fine Arts · 4175 Route 71 · Oswego, Il 60543 · USA

mailchimp

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 15:05

Online Update

December 2, 2022

2022 Joint Annual Conference Coverage

Take a look back at the 2022 Joint Annual Conference that took place November 18-20 in Chicago. The Conference Overview includes highlights of events, Conference features, and summaries of the First, Second, and Third General Sessions. A number of awards presented to school leaders are also featured. A Conference Photo Gallery and highlight video of the three-day event are also available.

Panel Presentations Requested for 2023 Conference

School districts and related education organizations are invited to submit proposals for "Share the Success" panel presentations at the 2023 Joint Annual Conference. The 60-minute presentations should be based on actual school system experiences with insight and practical information on how to solve common problems and innovative programs succeeding in their districts. Those submitting panel proposals are advised to preview the Request for Proposals prior to completing the online submission form. Proposals must be submitted by March 6, 2023.

IASB Delegate Assembly Results

The 2022 IASB Delegate Assembly took place took place on November 19 in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference. Representatives from 409 IASB member school boards reviewed three new resolutions and amendments to five existing positions in the Association's Constitution. The Assembly approved a resolution on school district ratios of available funds to average annual expenditures. Amendments to existing positions were approved under topics of capital funding for school construction, school safety grant funding, periodic review of state and federal mandates, and financial contributions in school board elections. Delegates also approved Constitutional changes that will require future resolutions to pass with a 2/3 majority vote, and to allow the Resolutions Committee at its discretion to change the timeline for appeals.

IASB Board Meets Twice, Committees Assigned

Filing Period for School Board Candidates Opens December 12

November '22 Referendum Results

Joint Annual Conference Survey and Handouts Available

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards **@ilschoolboards**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62703-5929, (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148, (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.2.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/02/2022 15:48

December 2, 2022

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 12-18: Hanukkah
December 18: International Migrants Day
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

Today, December 2nd, is Special Education Day.
We would like to express our appreciation to the Special Education staff who work to address the unique needs of our students with disabilities and help ensure optimal educational outcomes for them.

Date	Day	Event
December 2 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall Co. Community Food Pantry Satellite Location Open at Old Traughber (Open to all!)
December 3 (12-4pm)	Saturday	Oswego Vocal Music Department Boosters Holiday Gift Wrap
December 5 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ Oswego East High School (Community Room) and streaming live online at www.sd308.org.
December 9	Friday	Crosstown Basketball @ OE Girls' Basketball Varsity Game @ 5:00 Boys' Basketball Varsity Game @ 6:30
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Weathering the Storm Click Here to Register
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	EL Parent Program Presented in Spanish: The Power of No: A small word that will give wellbeing to your mental health. El Poder del 'NO'. Una Pequeña Palabra que Te Dará Bienestar y Salud Mental
December 15 (5:00pm)	Thursday	Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry @ Lakewood Creek Elementary

December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break District Closed: 12/23, 12/26, 12/30, 01/02)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family-
As we near the holiday season, many of us look for extra ways to spread kindness and joy to others. Our district community is fortunate to have local programs that help our students and families in need, both now and throughout the year. Two of these organizations, the 3:11 Project and Community Cares, are asking for our help as they assist area families, many of whom are SD 308 families, with gifts for the holidays.
There are numerous children and families left needing a sponsor this year, please consider getting together with colleagues, friends, or your family to provide gifts and household items for those needing some extra help this holiday season. Community Cares is also looking for volunteers to assist with sorting and delivering gifts.

- **Community Cares** - Continuing the 38 year tradition of the Oswego Christmas Project known now as the Community Cares Holiday Project. Help bring cheer to local families by signing up to sponsor a family, or consider volunteering your time on December 17th to help with sorting gifts/and or making deliveries.
- **3:11 Project** - Did you know that the 3:11 Project was initially created because the founder wanted to help families during the holidays? This organization provides assistance year-round to area families. Help 3:11 Project in their mission to create holiday joy for local children. Use this link to sponsor a child, the deadline to drop off gifts is December 4th.

I am always so proud of this district community each time opportunities like this arise; when we all give a little it adds up to a lot! If you choose to assist with one of these two organizations, or the countless other ways you can give back to our community, I thank you. Now and always, you are valued and appreciated.
Take care.

~ John

Staff Info

Emergency Notification System - A test of our mass communications system for staff (Blackboard) will occur next week. Additional details will be sent out on Monday about the test message scheduled for Thursday evening. The communication system will send an email, phone call, and text message to all staff. If you don't receive the message on Thursday via all communication channels, and you've verified that your information is correct, you'll complete a simple online form so that HR and Communications staff can determine why the message failed to reach you.
The ability to communicate with staff is especially important when weather-related closures or other emergencies arise.
At this time, we ask that you please take a moment to go into the Employee Access system on the Intranet to

confirm that your contact information is correct by following these simple steps:

- Open Intranet
- Select “Employee Access”
- Select “My Information” from the left panel
- Select “Profile”
- Update your email and cell phone information if needed

Please watch your email on Monday for more details.

Crosstown Basketball Games: This year’s girls’ and boys’ basketball Crosstown games between Oswego and Oswego East High Schools will be on Friday, December 9th at Oswego East High School. The girls’ basketball varsity game will start at 5:00 with the boys’ basketball varsity game scheduled to tip off at approximately 6:30. The crosstown game has become very popular, selling out many years. Students, staff, alumni, parents, families, and the community are eager to show their school spirit and cheer on their favorite team. All tickets $5.00/person. NO Passes allowed. Tickets sold on GoFan: OEHS / OHS

Foreign Languages Available on Website: Did you know you can now translate the website into 33 languages? Simply click on the “Translate” button at the top right of the page and then choose the language you prefer.

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter [redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

From the Schools

Oswego Vocal Music Department Boosters Holiday Gift Wrap - Saturday, December 3rd (12-4 pm) in the OHS Atrium- door 1. Enjoy LIVE holiday music by the OHS choir students as your gifts are wrapped for you! Hot cocoa and treats available for purchase. Goodwill donations to the OHS Choirs appreciated. Click here for details.

Thrift Day is being held at Oswego East High School on December 10th. This is an event that will serve SD 308 families through generous clothing donations provided by other members of the community. Click here for more details. ALL are welcome to participate….whether you are in need of new clothes or if you just want a wardrobe update! We encourage donations of gently used clothing of all sizes and styles: Baby/Toddler, Youth, Teen, and Adult. The clothes will be free, but cash donations will be accepted at the event!

A German Christmas – Celebrate an evening with Sankt Nikolaus, Krampus, Knecht Ruprecht, and Perchta with A German Christmas at Oswego East High School on Friday, December 9 @ 5:30-7:30. ($5/per person). Click here for more details.

Expanding Student Voice

Interviews were conducted by members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee this week to add seven

additional students to the group. Superintendent Dr. John Sparlin and Director of DEI Dr. Jadon Waller joined the students in reviewing applications and conducting in-person interviews with students. The goal of the committee is to grow membership in order to provide a vast representation of their student bodies at each high school, creating a conduit between students and district leaders. The committee meets on topics identified as most important by students through surveys. The group provides the student perspective, brings forth questions, concerns and feedback to the district's senior leadership team. From this committee, two Board of Education Student Ambassadors provide updates to the Board, and serve as the student perspective in discussion at Board meetings. The formation of this committee and the Student Ambassadors was started last year as part of the strategic initiative to include student voice in decisions that impact their educational journey.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

Congratulations to the November/December PRIDE winners! PRIDE stands for Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence and was established in 2015 to celebrate the many contributions made by teachers and employees around the district. **TEACHERS:** Stephanie Allen (Oswego East High School), Beth Prigodich (Oswego High School), Katelyn Willmann (Grande Park), Julie Wulff (Wolf's Crossing); **EMPLOYEES:** Kelley Budd (Lakewood Creek), Nicole Weaver (Fox Chase). These individuals will receive recognition at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 5. Thank you to Allied First Bank, Chick-fil-A, Huntington Learning Center, and Culver's for sponsoring this program.

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Livongo Health Benefit! If you have Diabetes or High Blood Pressure, Livongo empowers you with tools, insights, and expert support you need. Click Here for flyer. Livongo uses advanced technology, personalized recommendations, and real-time communication to provide you with the right information to help you reach your health goals. CLICK HERE to register and use the company specific registration code: CUSD308.

New FREE Healthcare Benefit for Staff Started 12/1 with First Stop Health (FSH)
Our district is proud to bring a free, convenient program providing employees and their families with easily-accessible medical care without any out-of-pocket costs!
All employees subscribed to district health plans for 2023 are automatically enrolled and eligible to take advantage of the program now! With a few simple clicks, a call, or use of the app on your phone, you can secure an appointment with a physician via phone or video for acute care situations and primary care. Services include evaluation of minor illnesses and injuries, medication refills, and primary care needs. Additionally, the service provides access to licensed counselors for phone/video mental health support sessions.

All immediate family members of eligible staff are also able to access this benefit, even when they're not enrolled as

dependents on your insurance plan!
With ERs and Urgent Care centers busy,overcrowded, with long waits, this FREE access to care is a huge benefit! No co-pays, deductibles or other required payments are collected! Only pharmacy co-pays will apply if/when medications are received.

Save time, travel, and the headaches of accessing care on weekends, holidays, and after hours with this service free to use 24/7! You can download the app, create your account online or simply call 888-691-7867 to request an appointment.

Common conditions treated via telemedicine:
• infections (e.g., urinary, ear, upper respiratory, eye, etc.)
• sinus- or allergy-related problems
• sore throat & cough
• colds & flu
• swelling and/or soreness
• nausea and/or vomiting
• rashes
• other minor illness & injuries

Reasons to speak with a counselor:
• stress
• anxiety
• depression
• grief
• marital/relationship issues
• drug/alcohol dependencies
Counseling visits include a licensed counselor conducting an initial assessment then a match with a Master's-level counselor who has expertise in the member's area of concern. Typical counseling sessions are 45-60 minutes.

To learn more, you can click HERE to watch a short video about telemedicine, and HERE to learn more about virtual counseling

CLICK HERE for Patient Dashboard (use SSN to login!)

For additional information please visit the district's website at https://www.sd308.org/Page/27054.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, Dec. 5, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Expenses for Triple I
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/02/2022 16:38

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Please remember to bring me your reimbursements on Monday so I may reconcile the travel expenses for the conference.

Dominick - could you please send me the final resolutions from the delegate assembly so they can be posted on our website?

Thank you very much!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

Through kindness every day holds the possibility of change

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 12/02/2022 16:40
ATTACHMENTS (20221202-164058-0000351): "Superintendent's Update - December 2, 2022.docx" , "BOE Friday Update - CyberSecurity.pdf"

Good Afternoon,

Here is this week's update. Have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: School District 308 - Your Pension & Retirement Plan
FROM: Jessica Shaw <jessica@mystatepensionplan.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/03/2022 19:15

Hi Jennifer,

You are cordially invited to attend a specialized consult designed to help you understand:

- Your Pension Plan
- 403b/457b Benefits
- Tax Savings - Through Your Employer-Sponsored Plan
- Your Retirement Plan

Learn more by **scheduling a complimentary appointment today** with a licensed representative appointed with carriers working in school districts across the country.

Space is limited with the representatives working in your area for this complimentary event, we recommend scheduling your appointment today.

SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY APPOINTMENT WITH A LICENSED AGENT HERE

Jessica Shaw
My State Pension
mystatepension.com

My State Pension is not affiliated with, or contracted to provide services for, any government agency. We will connect you with one of our Licensed Agents and Registered Investment Advisors from our network of trained specialists in retirement planning for Education, State, and Municipal government employees.

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Financial Documents
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <Jsparlin@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/04/2022 14:25

Drs Sparlin and Petzke,

I'm grateful for the progress we have made on the Vendor document, but now is not the time to settle for the bare minimum. Together, we have a massive fiduciary responsibility to spend our tax dollars wisely. Without procedures, processes, and transparent reporting and documentation we are not doing all we can.

When I first requested the vendor list, I asked for contract dates. Since it's been created, I've continued to ask for these dates --- please note when the contract was initiated and when it's up for renewal. Please make sure this is documented on the vendor report by the next board meeting.

Also, I requested a monthly variance report. This is a report that any financial software should be able to run, if our software cannot run this, we need to know.

These documents are critical for board members to be able to make informed and responsible financial decisions/approvals.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Jennifer Johnson
Board Member, Oswego School District 308

SUBJECT: Raise Morale Monday: Follow the 30 Second Rule
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 04:00

Hello Jennifer,

When people first meet or greet someone, they are typically worried about how they will look or sound, searching for ways to make themselves look or feel good.

Here is a strategy I learned from my mentor John Maxwell that he learned by watching his father lead, it's called the 30-Second Rule.

"The key to the 30-second rule is reversing this practice of worrying about how you look or sound and when you make contact with people. Instead of focusing on yourself, search for ways to make others feel good," John told me.

This might look like:

- Looking at your calendar in the morning, if you know who you are going to see, maybe at a meeting, take a few moments to pause and think about encouraging words to share with them;
- Thanking them for something they have done for you or a friend;
- Complimenting them in front of others based on something they accomplished;
- Praising them for a personal quality they may exhibit; or,
- Complimenting their appearance.

The practice isn't complicated but it does take time, effort and discipline. I tried a few of these examples last week during trainings and group coaching sessions I led. I could really see a difference in how people gave effort, interacted with each other and opened up to me when most in the room were comfortable with silence.

"All people feel better and do better when you give them the **Triple A Treatment**; *attention*, *affirmation* and *appreciation,"* John shares.

This week, during the first 30 seconds of your encounters, give people your undivided attention. Affirm them, and show your appreciation for them in someway. Then watch what happens to their energy and motivation!

To apply the 30 Second Rule to Your Life:

Forget about: Searching for ways to make yourself look good. Instead, search for ways to make others look good.

Ask: What positive, encouraging thing can I say to each person I will see today?

Do it: Give everyone you meet the Triple-A Treatment - attention, affirmation, and appreciation.

Remember: Within the first thirty seconds of a conversation, say something

encouraging to and about that person.

Now...go make a difference!

Dr. Tom

Special Note: If this short lesson added value to you I'd like to invite you to join any of our Digital Leadership Programs. Digital Leadership Program Store

Starting at just $24, you will find a program for you and your team guaranteed to accelerate your personal and professional goals for 2023.

Use the coupon code BLACK50 and save 50% for a limited time.

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Jennifer, too bad you couldn't join our webinar, here's a recap of what you missed
FROM: "First Student" <email@firststudentinc.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 10:04

FIRSTstudent



School districts are being inundated with calls and emails regarding the Clean School Bus Program. Round two is right around the corner.

We know how busy you are, so we created an easy to read one pager with everything you need to know in one place.

Download Now

If you have any questions or want to speak with one of our EV experts, please email us at electrification@firststudentinc.com.

Connect with First Student

First Student
600 Vine Street Suite 1400
Cincinnati, OH 45202, US

Contact Us | Manage Subscriptions | Privacy | Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] Change to Active Agenda Item.
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 11:21

Dear Executive,

There has been a change to an active agenda item.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education Meeting
Date: December 5, 2022 (Monday)
Category: 10. Information
Item: 10.1 Financial Statements

See the item by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2BosPcu2wAP3VD0sZtqEPxHCsUDdY4cETScGgKWE3wm-2BJL4X9i0ggefUHMaypi4M4C-2BwS7J_jrUqf5zwH7FzSx1F7hMR784Uk6tmIBLnzYQhft7PcGqy7hzIBBcp08Y3ZOSE29epcN-2FbS4vw3h7DlKn-2FQ2rfCsy-2B1FxwU-2BDO3qwFGVRzzAQSrtkH9PI-2BWbRReCu395wAHNmLZpreKLiNjVFYbd1xAv9Xohj2E5O1XFAA5qzjMILiqwf2ICr6XfI41yY-2FMVEmencPtmiZvX5c7qNAi2XXqvQSVxKlkUI0nFgVltGaI8E-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: Re: Financial Documents
FROM: John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <Jsparlin@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 11:22
ATTACHMENTS (20221205-112203-0000350): "Financial Statements - November 2022.pdf" , "Financial Reports - November 2021 - Variance.pdf"

Hi Jennifer,

I have Amanda adding contract start/end dates to the documentation that was provided last week. I will have that uploaded by the end of the day today.

In addition, based on our last conversation about a variance report - it was my understanding that you were looking for a comparison of our monthly financial reports from one fiscal year as compared to the previous year. Based on this, I have Ursula adding the November FY22 financial report to compare to the November FY23 financial report. I will share a few insights on both revenue and expenditures based on these two documents. I have the FY22and FY23 Financial reports attached here for you...

John

On Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 2:25 PM Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:

> Drs Sparlin and Petzke,
>
> I'm grateful for the progress we have made on the Vendor document, but now is not the time to settle for the bare minimum. Together, we have a massive fiduciary responsibility to spend our tax dollars wisely. Without procedures, processes, and transparent reporting and documentation we are not doing all we can.
>
> When I first requested the vendor list, I asked for contract dates. Since it's been created, I've continued to ask for these dates --- please note when the contract was initiated and when it's up for renewal. Please make sure this is documented on the vendor report by the next board meeting.
>
> Also, I requested a monthly variance report. This is a report that any financial software should be able to run, if our software cannot run this, we need to know.
>
> These documents are critical for board members to be able to make informed and responsible financial decisions/approvals.
>
> Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.
>
> **Jennifer Johnson**

> Board Member, Oswego School District 308

--

Dr. John Petzke
Assistant Superintendent of Operations/CSBO
Community Unit School District #308
71 Stone Hill Road
Oswego, IL 60543
(630) 636-3180
jpetzke@sd308.org

SUBJECT: BlackBoard Messaging Test- This Thursday
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 13:00

Good Afternoon SD 308 Staff,

This Thursday, Dec. 8 at 5:30pm a full staff test message will be sent using our BlackBoard mass communication system. This test will include utilization of a phone call, text message, and email. This system is utilized to communicate any weather-related closures or other emergencies to all staff.

The contact information included in Employee Access on the Intranet is what populates your contact information in the communication system.

At this time, we ask that you please take a moment to go into the Employee Access system on the Intranet to confirm that your contact information is correct by following these simple steps:
Open Intranet
Select “Employee Access”
Select “My Information” from the left panel
Select “Profile”
Update your email and cell phone information if needed

If you do not get the message on Thursday at 5:30pm through all communication channels, you will need to complete this form to provide feedback to the Communications and HR teams.
Thank you!
--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: "BOE@sd308.org" <BOE@sd308.org>
CC: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 14:41

Hello School Board Members,
I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.

December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance.
https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: Message to HS Families
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/05/2022 15:31

Good afternoon,

[redacted]

Hello High School Students and Families,

This is a reminder about the importance of not spreading sensitive or harmful content through social media and/or texts.

We are aware of an inappropriate recording circulating through students at both of our high schools today. This is unacceptable and may include consequences for students who continue to share and send the recording. The police have been notified and are monitoring the situation.

If you see, hear, or read anything inappropriate you are asked to report it to a trusted adult at school, and not to forward the message to others. We appreciate your assistance in helping to stop the dissemination of this recording, and any other inappropriate content.

Thank you.

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Proposed school tax levy increase - Meeting 12/5
FROM: abby jackson [redacted]
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 18:45

Dear Board Members,

I am not able to attend tonight's meeting [redacted] However, I would like to provide comment on the tax increase you are voting on tonight. Homeowners are facing 9-10% increase in assessed values. We are also facing record inflation across all industries without a dime extra in pay. I find it appalling as a board you would consider adding more fiscal pain to this community. We don't have the extra money!!!!! Voting to increase taxes would only show how out of touch our voted representatives really are. Where is the plan to reduce costs like all other industries have been forced to do? Just a thought.

A concerned citizen,
Abby Jackson

SUBJECT: Thompson [redacted]
FROM: April Russell [redacted]
TO: latonya-simelton@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, dominick-cirone@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, jared-ploger@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org
DATE: 12/05/2022 19:47

Hello,

My name is April Russell and [redacted] Thompson Jr High. [redacted] bus 20 which has had considerable issues with running late and poor communication this year.

[redacted] stop is due to be picked up by 7:18am and in order to get to his stop on time which is a 7-8 minute walk he leaves home at about 7:05am.

On 11/30 we received a message at 7:02am that the bus route would be running "around 9am." I drove [redacted] to school this day since I happened to be off of work. At 8:17 we received another text that the route was starting at 8:15. My neighbors child came back home at 9:05 after the bus still had not arrived.

On 12/1 we received a text at 7:19am that the bus was running approximately 25 minutes late. The temperature was 16 degrees and with no notice it would not make sense to have our children walk back home 7-8 minutes to have maybe 9 minutes before they have to walk back so we told [redacted] to stay at the bus stop. The bus should have arrived by 7:43 am running 25 minutes late. I was on my way to work and the phone with [redacted] until 7:53 and the bus had still not arrived so he walked back home after being outside in 16 degree weather for 55 minutes total. He was to the point of tears he was so cold and I called him in for the day.

Other dates this year the bus 20 has ran late:

9/9/22: text at 7:29 that the bus was running 10 minutes late [redacted] was on the bus by the time this text came through)

9/12/22: text at 2:36 pm that the bus would be running 90 minutes late in the afternoon. The students were not told about this. When they went outside there was no bus and it wasnt until I reached out to [redacted] that he found out about the delay. My husband was able to pick him up so I don't know the outcome of this delay.

10/20/22: text at 6:48 that the bus route would start at 9am and another at 8:58 to say it was starting in 15 min and to proceed to the stop if transportation was still needed. This is an example of great communication and the person working that day did a wonderful job.

When I called [redacted] on 12/1, I expressed my concern to the school and they provided me with the number for transportation. The gentleman at transportation I spoke with was very nice but the explanation I received was really that there was nothing they could do as the call in for the driver comes in at 6 am and then they are scrambling.

As a person, I understand there are worker shortages and this situation will occur from time to time but as a parent Im asking for major improvement with communication and planning for the safety of these children.

If the employee call in comes in at 6am there should be a text sent out immediately to parents. Back up plans should be in place and proper communication of accurate pick up times so we don't have children outside for extended periods of time in extreme weather should not be too much to ask.

I know my frustration is shared by other parents of student who take Thompson bus 20 and we would greatly appreciate if a plan could be put into place to improve these issues.

Thank you,

April Russell

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: This Email Will Make Your School Money
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/06/2022 07:00

Hello Jennifer,

Cash is the oxygen which drives the vitality of your school… without it, you will struggle to run the operations effectively.

Every empty seat in your school is at least a $6,000 revenue loss...

Many schools have lost five to maybe twenty percent of their enrollment since COVID-19 hit! This resulted in tens, maybe hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue this year.

However, this should NOT be the case. With school choice on the rise across the country if your enrollment is going down, something is missing.

I have a solution.

It's our Fully Enrolled School Workbook and webinar series.

Access to this information will provide you and your team an easy to utilize framework and set of strategies that will Fully Enroll your school. It includes marketing strategies, how to promote your school, and a process to ensure 100% enrollment on day one!

In addition, you'll get my teaching video on the four steps to ensuring a fully enrolled school. In it I share the most commons problems that I have identified that school leaders make when it comes to ensuring 100% enrollment on day one at your school.

You cannot afford not to have this resource.

For a limited time I have reduced the cost of the workbook and program for you by 50%!

I have a 100% money back guarantee. This less than $50 investment will make your school 100 to 1,000 times your investment...guaranteed!

Purchase your workbook and leadership series now. Click here. Use the coupon code **BLACK50** to save 50%.

Dr. Tom

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 08:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

PRESS and PRESS Plus Issue 110: Timely Updates for Your Board

December 6, 2022 — noon

The long-awaited PRESS Issue 110 is here! Join the PRESS Editors on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, for a webinar to review new and updated material in response to bills passed during the second half of the 102nd General Assembly, regulatory updates, and miscellaneous and five-year review updates. Following the issue review, stay with us for an overview of customized PRESS Plus Issue 110.

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

How to Navigate Running for School Board: Understanding the Board Member's Role

December 8, 2022 — 6:30 p.m.

So, you want to be a school board member? This webinar is designed to provide school board candidates with an overview of an elected school board member's roles and responsibilities and an idea of what to expect if they are successful in the April election.

View Livestream

More Upcoming Events

IN-PERSON EVENT

South Cook Division Winter Breakfast

January 21, 2023 — 9:30 a.m.

Register Now

VIRTUAL EVENT

IASB Winter Book Study 2023

January 24 — February 21, 2023

Register Now

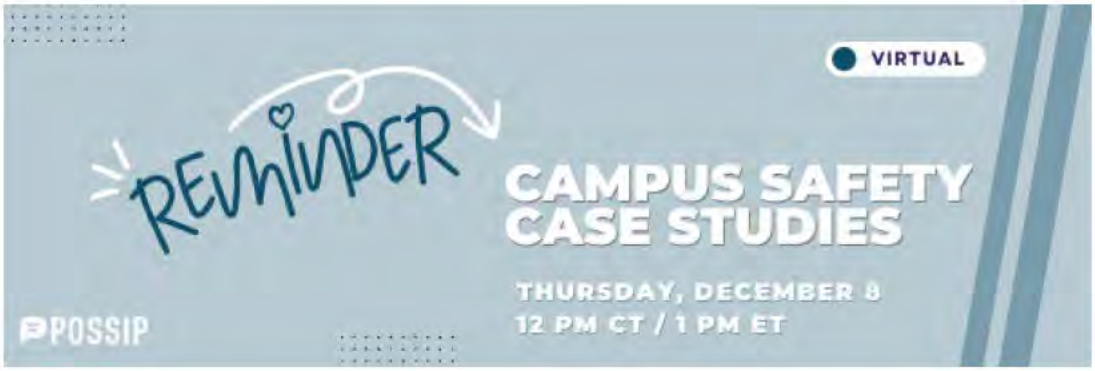


Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Campus Safety Virtual Event - Happening Thursday!
FROM: Lauren McKee <lauren@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/06/2022 09:47



Hi Jennifer,

Join our Founder and CEO, Shani Dowell, on Thursday, December 8th, to talk through Campus Safety Case Studies.

Together, we'll consider these questions:

- How do leaders construct a school safety philosophy?
- How can parents engage in school safety?
- What tradeoffs are we prepared for or willing to make?

Click here to register!

Meet our panelists!



Shani Jackson Dowell,
CEO and Founder of Possip, a former math teacher, and a Possip parent herself



Catherine Cecere
Director of Partnerships and Client Success at Joffe Emergency Services



R. Malené Dixon, LPC-S
Principal Mental Health Therapist at Lofty Life

Possip is on a mission to help schools strengthen their communities through improved communication. Join over 1 million parents, students, and staff that are part of the work.



Possip, 615 Main St., Nashville, Tennessee 37206, United States

Unsubscribe Manage preferences

SUBJECT: Message going to OHS
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Alison Swanson <ASwanson@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jploger@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 09:47

Good morning,
We're in an All Principal meeting this morning and Dr. Sparlin asked me to share this message with you. This is going out from Chris Grays to parents shortly, and OPD will have a message going out soon too.
Good morning OHS students and families,

I'd like to take a moment to address reports being made to the school and help clear up misinformation.
I want to express our thanks to the students and parents who have come forward to provide tips and to share with us what they are hearing and seeing. It is very important to report anything that seems concerning in nature, school officials will investigate all reports and include police when appropriate. However, please do not turn to social media or utilize other communication channels to spread information that is either untrue and/or potentially harmful. This behavior hinders our ability to efficiently sort through and review reports to uncover factual and helpful information. We strive to keep the line of communication open between the school and parents, and will always reach out to you when a serious situation occurs that could impact the health and safety of students or staff. We partner closely with our school resource officers to investigate reported concerns, and to remain proactive in our effort to keep our school safe.
At this time we are working with the police and our staff to investigate the report of social media posts circulating which are causing concern amongst recipients. Oswego Police have investigated and found no evidence of a credible threat. They will be publishing a message regarding this soon.
Thank you for your cooperation and assistance as we work together to keep our building safe and focused on learning.

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Engagement
FROM: Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/06/2022 11:06

Jennifer,

Hi again! I know it's probably daunting to think about introducing any new strategies this year - I get it.

I'd be happy to share details of what a small-scale trial could look like to test out Possip's Pulse Checks at a few select campuses next semester. Think that would be helpful?

Thanks for letting me know!

Natalie Sessoms
Possip Sales & Partnerships
931-625-2522
www.possip.com
Schedule a Meeting

On Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 11:47 AM, Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com> wrote:

> Hey there!
>
> Last month, Possip hosted an event with four different school leaders on the impact of feedback in school communities. I've included the recording below and a few key highlights to focus on.
>
> Stories of Impact: Parent Feedback from Possip
>
> - How Possip feedback is used to **spread positivity**: 5:48
> - Different ways schools are using Possip feedback to drive **anti-bullying initiatives**: 10:55
> - Strategies to gather **over 50% multi-lingual feedback** from families: 13:28
> - **Increase in 'crucial conversations'** as a result of asking for staff feedback: 25:05
> - Impact of asking middle schoolers for feedback and the illuminating information shared on their **academic & social needs:** 27:30
> - How consistent feedback through Possip helped **increase school satisfaction by 9%**: 35:46
>
> I'm not sure who would be the best person to connect with to chat about what kind of impact Possip could have. Could you help point me in the right direction?
>
> Thank you!
>
> **Natalie Sessoms**
> Possip Sales & Partnerships
> 931-625-2522
> www.possip.com
> Schedule a Meeting
>
> On Wed, Nov 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM, Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com> wrote:

Hey Jennifer,

Houston ISD, Chicago PS, and Metro Nashville PS have all been working with Possip to help improve stakeholder engagement.

Possip provides quick surveys (in 100+ languages) to families, staff, and students - enabling schools to hear from ~60-70% of their populations over the course of the year in a simple, non-confrontational way. Our partnering districts gain a systematic way to hear from their *entire community* - not just the loudest voices - to know what's going well and what issues can be resolved quickly.

Does this sound like a solution that could help your community as well? If so, would really appreciate your guidance on the best person to connect with.

Natalie Sessoms
Possip Sales & Partnerships
931-625-2522
www.possip.com
Schedule a Meeting

On Fri, Nov 18, 2022 at 1:18 PM, Natalie Sessoms <natalie@possip.com> wrote:

> Hi Jennifer,
>
> Not sure if you can help me but maybe you can point me the right direction.
>
> Whom should I speak with to introduce myself and **Possip**?
>
> Both innovative and simplistic by design, we use **routine, multi-lingual SMS Pulse Check™ surveys** to give you the power of feedback and information. Possip helps you manage feedback from families, staff, and students in an easily digestible way.
> Here's a little bit about us: **Possip Fast Facts**
>
> So appreciate any help you can provide!
>
> **Natalie Sessoms**
> Possip Sales & Partnerships
> 931-625-2522
> www.possip.com
> Schedule a Meeting

https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities

DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: RE: Grants Rather Than A Levy
FROM: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
TO: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
CC: "BOE@sd308.org" <BOE@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 12:52

Does the school district plan to apply for the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities: BIL: Renew America's Schools grant? Due 1/26/23. $500,000 - $15,000,000 per application.
https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/187011

The Clean Bus Program (https://bplih.ecivis.com/GrantDetails/175102) was due 8/19/22. West Aurora SD is waitlisted for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million).

Kristina Murphy

From: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Grants Rather Than A Levy

Kristina,

The following is not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board. The following is merely my opinion.

I will reach out to DOE again. Here is my question though. I understand your option three. But while we wait we should...?

Thank you.

Cordially,
Jared Ploger

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 2:41 PM Kristina Murphy <confluenceclimate@outlook.com> wrote:

> Hello School Board Members,
> I saw an article about a levy for Oswego 398 School District. Rather than ask taxpayers for additional money, have you applied for any of the Department of Energy (DOE) or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants? There are also state funds available.
>
> December 2, 2022: funding opportunities released (Renew America's School Grant and Energy CLASS prize).
> https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities
>
> DOE recently announced their Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign. https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/ Here are the slides from their November 8th webinar. https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/20221108-EHSC-Webinar-FULL-DECK.pdf. On December 1, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar called "Decarbonization of Schools" which can save the district on energy costs. DOE can provide technical assistance and answer detailed questions. EHSC@lbl.gov

The Illinois section of the US Green Building Council also has school programs and offers assistance. https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/illinois-green-schools-project/ and https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/

EPA has a comprehensive how-to guide for schools. Reducing operational costs saves the district money that can be spent on other necessities. The above mentioned grants can pay for a significant share of these upfront costs to make long-term cost saving improvements. Does the school district look at total cost of ownership costs when purchasing new equipment? There are programs and local companies that offer no cost assessments to determine which improvements have the highest return on investment.

Did you hear that Aurora West School District was waitlisted by US EPA Electric Bus grant program for 25 new electric buses ($6.5+ million)?

I would appreciate if someone can respond to me with a list of federal and state grants that the school district has previously pursued.

Thanks,
Kristina Murphy, CFM, CC-P
2529 Biltmore Circle, Aurora, Illinois
At-Large Board Member of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Co-chair of the Suburban Climate Action Planning committee of Climate Reality Chicago Metro
Chair of Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board
Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force – Building and Development committee
Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition – Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ambassador
Advance Building Energy Efficiency Policy (ABEEP) Task Force

Phone: (630) 363-4731
www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-falat-murphy

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 102-45
FROM: "Governmental Relations Department" <mbuch@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/06/2022 14:07

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (102-45)



General Assembly Adjourns Fall Veto Session

On December 1, The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up a busy week of Fall Veto

Session. Without many or any gubernatorial vetoes to act upon, the General Assembly has turned Veto Session into an opportunity to revisit issues that warrant further attention. The issues that rose to the top of the agenda this fall were the SAFE-T (Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity Today Act) and the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The changes to the SAFE-T Act came about after the law got a great deal of attention on the campaign trail. The follow-up legislation, **House Bill 1095 (Slaughter, D-Chicago)** was seen as needed to address concerns before the January 1, 2023, implementation date. HB 1095 passed along partisan lines and will now head to Governor JB Pritzker's desk.

As jobless claims soared during the early throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, so did Illinois' debt to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. At one point, the debt to the fund was $4.5 billion. After a loan from the federal government and some additional revenue, the UI trust fund debt stands at $1.8 billion. However, after the passage of **Senate Bill 1698 (Holmes, D-Aurora)** Illinois has an agreement to pay back the debt and invest more in the UI fund in the future. SB 1698 passed with bipartisan support in a testament to the agreed bill process used by employer groups and those that represent employees. The appropriation of the money to clear the debt, Senate Bill 2801 (Holmes), has not yet passed the House but has cleared the Senate.

SB 2801 will be one of the many topics addressed by the 102nd General Assembly during a January lame duck session. The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to be back under the dome starting January 4 and wrapping up some time before the 103rd General Assembly is sworn in on January 11. While we do not yet know all that will be on the docket, we will do our best to keep you informed of all that is happening and all that will impact school districts.

Several bills that may impact schools were heard during the Veto Session. Below are three of those bills along with their status.

- **HB 4228 (Morrison, D-Highwood)** clarifies that School Districts are not subject to the requirements of the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act. **Passed by the Senate and awaiting action by the House.**
- **SB 1595 (Cunningham, D-Chicago)** extends various Tax Increment Financing districts across the State of Illinois. **Passed by the House and the Senate.**
- **SB 4244 (Lightford, D-Hillside)** removes the requirement that the township school treasurer shall be a resident of the township. **Passed by the Senate and awaiting action by the House.**

Advocacy Resources

Legislative Reports

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688

One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: With all thats going on Just thought we share a Thank You.
FROM: Wendy Monn <wmonn@sd308.org>
TO: Kristen Paul <kpaul01@sd308.org>, Christopher Grays <cgrays@sd308.org>, Colleen Predl <cpredl@sd308.org>, Michelle Earley <mearley@sd308.org>, Rachel Zeifert <rzeifert@sd308.org>, 308 Superintendent <superintendent@sd308.org>
BCC: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/07/2022 07:32

We figured with all that's been going on this week at OHS (and it's only Wednesday) we would share another reason why we are so thankful for being allowed to run the HIKE program The student below gave us permission to share this email she sent last night about HIKE from last week Thank you again for this opportunity and no need to respond We just wanted to share some positivity with everyone

Tue, Dec 6, 10:02 PM (9 hours ago)

[redacted]
to me

Hello Ms Monn,

I attended Boulder Hill last week for HIKE and I just wanted to say how touching it was to get the chance to attend and how those 2 5 hours really impacted my life in a positive way In my group, I had 2 little girls that spoke a little English but mostly Spanish and I was able to help them a lot with translating and helping them understand the activities we were doing I noticed right away their body language and how they were mostly to themselves trying to help each other understand some of the other mentors and what they were saying but once they found out I spoke Spanish fluently they completely changed and opened up a lot more We connected very well and I could tell they had a blast Towards the end when we did the activity with the Warm Fuzzies I made sure to go up to each one of the kids that were my group and thank them for being so great and for giving us Mentors the chance to kind of get to know them a little I would say that all the compliments I got from the kids were all very touching and I know all of those compliments will stay with me forever but, the responses I got from the little girls that spoke Spanish really made me feel proud of myself for making such a big impact in such little time and really made me feel like I was really a true Hero to them
When you mentioned the reaction the kids would have out in public when they would see you and remember you as someone who went to their school and showed them how to be Heros, I found that very touching and a few days later I experienced that on a personal level On Sunday, my mom and I were out at Walmart grocery shopping when I saw one of the little girls that was in my group and instantly felt so much happiness inside of me A few minutes later the little girl saw me and instantly started jumping up and down with so much joy and told her mom who I was That right there made such a positive impact in my self esteem and really validated the meaning of HIKE A forever moment I will cherish all thanks to HIKE

I want to thank you guys for all your continuous hard work and making HIKE so great!

Sincerely,
[redacted]

--
Wendy Monn
Oswego High School
wmonn@sd308.org
Health Education
630-636-2172

SUBJECT: MindBeat- Mental Health Services in Schools: the New Normal?
FROM: Effective School Solutions <nlaqualia@effectiveschoolsolutions.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/07/2022 09:04

To view this email as a web page, click here

Effective School Solutions

ABOUT US CONTACT CONTENT

MINDBEAT®

A PUBLICATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS

December 7th, 2022

Feature Article:

Mental Health Services in Schools: the New Normal?



School is where students engage in activities, learning, and relationships that play a role in shaping their futures. At the same time, mental well-being is virtually a prerequisite for a rewarding school experience. It's hard to engage academically when anxiety, depression, or other emotional challenges are syphoning off all your energy. This is why mental health services and schools are natural partners. Read our latest article to learn more.

READ THE ESS ARTICLE

Webinar

Taking Advantage of Medicaid Supports for School-Based Mental Health Services

December 14th, 3:30 PM ET



Medicaid is one of the fastest growing funding sources for school-based health expenditures, including mental health. Currently, all states offer the ability for districts to seek Medicaid reimbursement for the cost of mental health services delivered to students with individualized education plans (IEPs). Why aren't more districts taking advantage of this? Join ESS and Jenny Millward, ED.D., the Executive Director of the National Alliance for Medicaid in Education for this impactful discussion.

Register today!

REGISTER NOW

K-12 MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDUP

Keep up with developments in school mental health.

Teens' brains aged faster during the first year of the pandemic

School principals say culture wars made last year 'rough as hell'

Investing in Schools to Address Youth Mental Health

Is your teen's social media use dangerous?



Podcast Corner

Did you miss the first episode of the new podcast? Listen now to **Amy Kennedy, Co-Founder of The Kennedy Forum**, who joined Duncan and Laine last week to discuss the current state of school-based mental health in the US, significant changes regarding mental health in the classroom, the youth mental health crisis, Federal and state initiatives in place to address the crisis, and why we all need to invest in mental health.

LISTEN NOW

© 2022 - Effective School Solutions
Privacy Policy
Unsubscribe
121 Chanlon Rd, New Providence, NJ 07974

SUBJECT: BOE Meeting Summary 12.5.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/07/2022 10:27

SD 308 Board of Education Meeting Summary

12.5.22

Video Link

3. Call to Order - Public Session (7:15 pm)

3.1 Roll Call

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

4. Recognitions

4.1 PRIDE Winners

Teachers of the Month:

Stephanie Allen, Interventionist, Oswego East High School
Beth Prigodich, English Teacher, Oswego High School
Katelyn Willmann, Interventionist, Grande Park Elementary, and
Julie Wulff, Speech and Language Pathologist, Wolf's Crossing

Employees of the Month:

Kelley Budd, Principal, Lakewood Creek Elementary, and
Nicole Weaver, School Psychologist, Fox Chase Elementary

5. Public Hearing

5.1 Public Truth in Taxation Hearing

5.2 Public Comment on Tax Levy

Several comments were made and can be heard on the recording

5.3 Close Public Hearing

6. Public Comment

6.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

Several comments were made and can be heard on the recording

7. Presentations

7.1 Budget Report- Envision 308 Finance Presentation

Dr. John Petzke presented the progress of Envision 308 finance goals and successes. At this time the administrative recommendation is "making progress".

7.2 Dual Credit and Articulated Credit Presentation

Presented by Exec Director of High School Education Mr. Dan Arntzen. The difference between Articulated Credit, Dual Credit, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, exams and resulting credits was discussed. Comparisons were made between the SD 308 offerings and area districts. Additional data requests were made regarding demographics of current students participating in these courses and also what capacity and qualifications our staff may have to expand.

8. Comments

8.1 Superintendent's Report

An overview was provided of the second Community Advisory Committee meeting held. The committee discussed drafts and changes to a revised mission statement, this will also be discussed at the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Tonight is our last 2022 board meeting, wishes for happy holidays! Opportunities to give this holiday season exist across the district- highlighting Community Cares and Toys for Tots collections currently underway.

8.2 Board Member Comments

Mr. Ploger shared from a legislative report regarding the state funding for schools next year and in the future. He shared information about programs at neighboring schools that pull together people to help combat misinformation and change within their community. He highlighted the length of meetings in SD 308, indicating they are very long in comparison with others- suggesting that questions be submitted ahead of the meeting to minimize discussion length.

Mrs. Johnson reiterated her pride in the student presentation at the conference and the follow-up discussion amongst district leaders statewide. Student voice may be the missing piece in pushing public education ahead. Challenge to school leaders to use and seek student voice in the classroom. Pointed out that the Board is asking questions and digging into contracts, financial statements, to make information and resources more accessible to the public and the board- many more things go on behind the scenes.

8.3 Board Committee Reports

Equity Committee: Discussion on the Equity Journey- a new component in the State Report Card. Noticed large gaps in the readiness going into K-1 between children: low-income, black students, special needs students, and EL students. The need to bring more intervention earlier to students, resources for MTSS Tier 1 and 2 practices. Students from demographic groups outside of White/Asian access AP and honors classes less- identify opportunity gaps. Student discipline data demonstrated disparity and a correlation between those with academic achievement gaps, low income, special education students and black males. Greater education, intervention, follow-up after incidents for prevention. Board request to look further into a mentoring program involving community members.

Policy Committee: IASB Press Plus presented and answered questions about existing policies, Press resources, and onboarding to the product over the next year.

8.4 Student Ambassador Report

Students provided an overview of their presentation at the school board/administrator conference and communication with other school leaders and students across the state. A large number of students expressed interest in joining the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee, interviews were conducted and selections were made based upon the needs of representation on the committee. They congratulated all students who applied and showed interest in being part of the committee.

9. Approve Consent Agenda

9.1 Minutes from previous Meeting

9.2 Acknowledgement of Freedom of Information (FOIA) Request

Motion to approve consent agenda- passed 7-0

10. Information

10.1 Financial Statements: November

Finance Statements

Statements with Variance

10.2 Vendor and Contract Review

10.3 Intergovernmental Agreement Update on High School Student Resource Officers

11. Action Items

11.1 Approval of Bills for Payment

Motion Approved 7-0

11.2 Approval of Cyber Security Contract with DarkTrace

Memo Regarding Services

Motion Failed 4-3

11.3 Approval of Cyber Security Contract with Fortis

Motion To Table Indefinitely Approved 5-2

11.4 Approval of Property Tax Appeal Intervention

Motion Approved 7-0

11.5 Approval of 2022 Tax Levy

Motion Approved 6-1

11.6 Approval of Student Information System

Motion Approved 7-0

11.7 Approval of Building Administrator Contract

Motion Approved 6-1

11.8 Approval of Personnel Report

Motion Approved 5-1-1

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:12pm

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #40
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/07/2022 14:07

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

December 07, 2022

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over homework
- In your district: philosophy of education
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Campaign for initiative to allow municipalities to create school districts submits signatures in Nevada
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over homework

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

Does homework help?

Geoff Johnson writes that homework is ineffective. Johnson says homework is not equitable because only some students can work in positive learning environments. He also says homework often causes students to practice problems incorrectly and can cause students to become overworked, unhealthy, and stressed.

Eva Moskowitz writes that homework can reduce educational inequity and help students understand that they don't need an adult to help them learn. Moskovitz says homework assignments communicate to students that they should be learning outside of school and are capable of learning independently.

Geoff Johnson: Piling homework on kids is a mistake that undermines work/life balance | Geoff Johnson, *Times Columnist*

"Even before I realized years ago that my students were not deriving much, if anything, of educational value from homework, I could never grade homework assignments equitably, because each student's homework was being attempted in home environments that could be vastly different. As we discovered during the pandemic shutdowns, and the subsequent reliance on online lessons, education at home is not conducted on an even playing field. Some parents simply did not have space available at home to set up quiet spaces where students could focus on their work uninterrupted by the distractions common to every household. Even if that was possible, homework that was intended to facilitate practice, such as working on solutions to math problems or reviewing a poem or prose piece, could result in a student simply practising mistakes over and over again. In other words, class work being extended into a non-learning environment with no support from the teacher who assigned the work was defeating the gains accomplished in class that day. Then class time needs to be devoted to correcting individual homework mistakes before progress can be made on that day's lesson. If work/life balance is important for adults, it's just as important for kids from kindergarten to Grade 12."

Why homework matters | Eva Moskowitz, *The Fordham Institute*

"It is important to remember that kids only spend a fraction of their time in school. The learning that does or does not take place in the many hours outside of school has a monumental effect on children's academic success and is a root cause of educational inequity. The pandemic gave us a stark demonstration of

this reality. Achievement gaps widened between affluent and low-income children not only because low-income students received less in-person or high-quality online instruction during the years of disrupted school, but also because children of college-educated and affluent parents were already less dependent on schools for learning. Affluent children are far more likely to have the privilege of tutors or other types of supplementary instruction, as well as a family culture of reading, and opportunities to travel, visit museums, and more. Homework is a powerful tool to help narrow these inequities, giving children from all backgrounds the opportunity to keep learning when they are not in school. … Homework cultivates these mindsets and habits. Indeed, when teachers don't assign homework, it reflects an unconscious conviction that kids can't learn without adults. Kids internalize this message and come to believe they need their teacher to gain knowledge. In reality, they are more than capable of learning all sorts of things on their own. Discovering this fact can be both incredibly exciting and deeply empowering for them."

In your district: philosophy of education

We recently asked readers the following question:

What book or essay best reflects your philosophy of education?

Thank you to all who responded. Today, we're sharing a handful of those responses. If you have ideas for a question you'd like to see us ask, reply to this email to let us know!

A community member in Indiana wrote:

> "New to all this but in my limited research I like the book The Core: Teaching Your Child the Foundations of Classical Education."

A school board member in Illinois wrote:

> "Classical and Contemporary Readings in the Philosophy of Education."

A school board member in New York wrote:

> "Out of The Box: How Innovative Learning Models Can Transform K-12 Education."

School board update: filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Louisiana school board elections on Dec. 10

Most states held school board general elections on Nov. 8, and won't hold elections again until 2023. In Louisiana, however, school board primaries took place on Nov. 8, and general elections will take place Dec. 10. Under Louisiana's unique majority-vote system, all candidates running for local, state, or federal office appear on the same primary ballot regardless of their partisan affiliations. If no candidate wins a simple majority of the votes cast, the top-two finishers advance to a general election (what other states might refer to as a runoff).

We're covering the following elections on Dec. 10:

- Caddo Parish Public Schools (Districts 7 and 12)
- Calcasieu Parish Public Schools (Districts 2, 14, and 15)
- East Baton Rouge Parish School System (Districts 4, 7, 8, and 9)
- Jefferson Parish Public School System (District 6)
- St. Tammany Parish Public Schools (Districts 2, 9, and 10)

Campaign for initiative to allow municipalities to create school districts submits signatures in Nevada

In Nevada, a campaign supporting an initiative that would allow municipalities to opt-out of county school districts filed about 220,000 signatures for verification. If enacted, the initiative would amend state statute to allow municipalities to opt-out of a county school district to create a new community school district.

The Community Schools Initiative PAC filed the initiative. County clerks will verify the signatures. The initiative needs 140,777 valid signatures to proceed to the legislature. If the legislature approves the initiative, and the governor signs it into law, the initiative is enacted. If no action is taken in 40 days, the initiative will go before voters on the 2024 ballot.

Republican Joe Lombardo won the Nov. 8 Nevada gubernatorial election, defeating incumbent Democrat Steve Sisolak. As a result, Nevada will, in January, change from a Democratic trifecta to a divided government. Democrats control both chambers of the legislature.

Supporters say Nevada school districts, which are mostly county-based, have

become too large. On its website, the Community Schools Initiative PAC says: "Nevada school districts are currently dictated by county boundaries, not the community or population demand. This has resulted in disproportionately large school districts and our students, parents, families, and teachers have had to pay the price."

The initiative says: "Individual municipalities or municipalities working together may, in some instances, prefer to form more appropriately-sized school districts, because communities may determine that they can better represent and serve children, parents, and families in smaller administrative units."

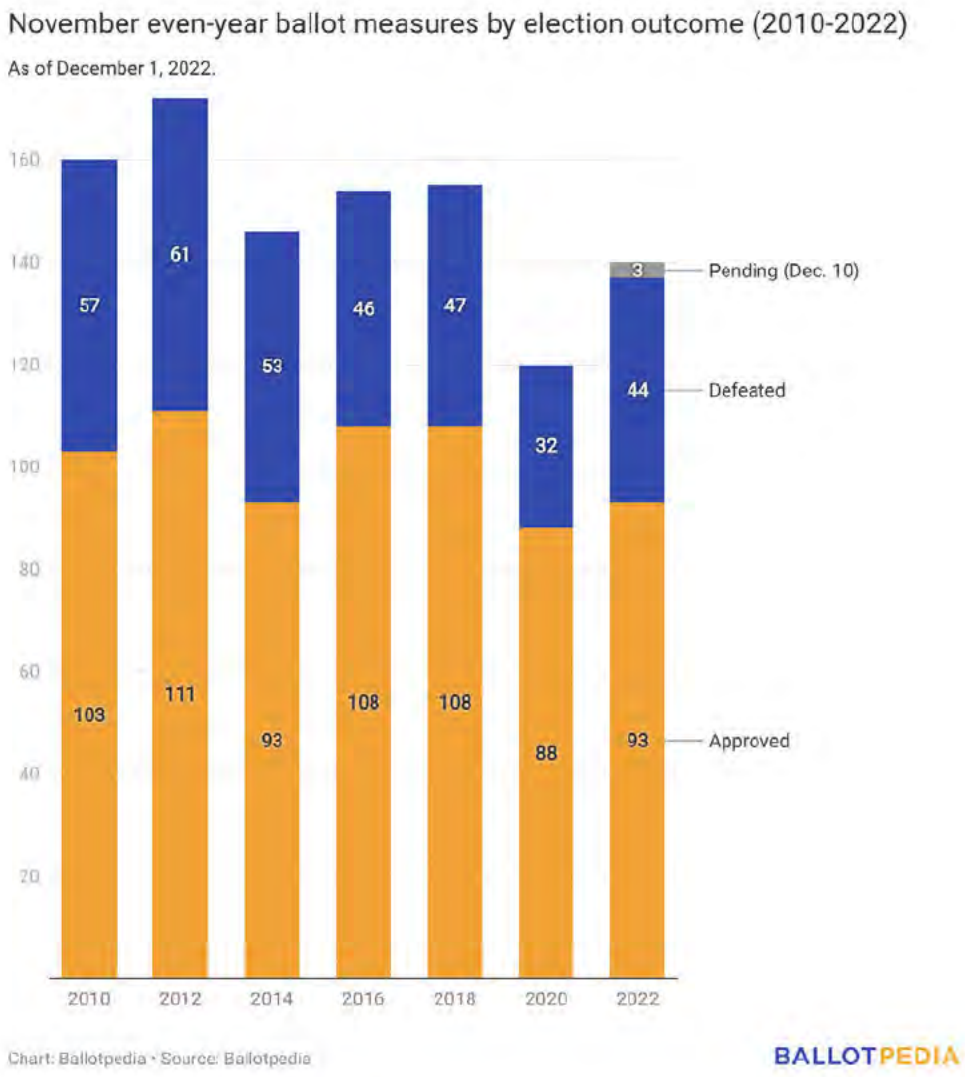
Opponents say the initiative would not resolve underlying issues hampering Nevada's education system. Clark County School District Jess Jara said: "Educating our students adequately requires an honest, reasoned, equitable, accountable, and sustainable strategy supported with optimal funding for the new pupil-centered funding formula to produce outcomes other than Nevada's current 49th in the nation funding levels. This initiative achieves none of these."

The Clark County School District, which has over 300,000 students, is the largest in the state and the fifth-largest in the nation.

The number of school districts in Nevada tumbled following the passage of Assembly Bill 1 in 1956. According to University of Las Vegas Professors Magdalena Martinez and David Damore, "During a 1956 Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, 208 legally active local school districts were eliminated and consolidated into 17 county-based districts."

Nevada counties have until Dec. 23 to certify the submitted signatures.

Nationally, from 2010 and 2020, the average number of statewide ballot measures in an even-numbered year was 164.



Louisiana voters will decide the last three statewide measures of 2022 on Dec. 10.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- "Kids Seem to Be a Paycheck": How a Billion-Dollar Corporation Exploits Washington's Special Education System | *ProPublica*
- Late mail-in vote count topples five conservative school board candidates | *Maryland Matters*
- DeSantis helped flip school boards. They're now making a mark. | *The Washington Post*
- Graham County Education Board member wins by 1 vote in recount | *BPR*
- Boise's teenage trustee says he's 'in exactly the right spot' | *Idaho Ed*

News

- Political rancor has had chilling effect on public education, survey finds | *EdSource*
- The Promise of Habit-Based Learning | *RealClearEducation*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Derek Tisinger, who defeated incumbent Cynthia Brakeman in the general election for Kern High Board of Trustees Trustee Area 1, and incumbent Beverly Slough, who defeated Racheal Hand in the general election for St. Johns County School Board District 1.

Here's how Tisinger answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Individual rights and personal choice. Keep politics and social agendas out of our classrooms. Children belong to their parents and not the government. I am strongly Pro Life. I believe school choice is important for holding or schools accountable in quality education for our children, and also empower our under served communities."

Click here to read the rest of Tisinger's answers.

Here's how Slough answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Providing an excellent education to every student in our county is the focus of my service and candidacy.

Recruiting and retaining the most qualified teachers possible to accomplish this goal is a major focus.

Safety and security of our students is always top of mind."

Click here to read the rest of Slough's answers.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click here to take the survey. And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, share the link with the candidates and urge them to take the survey!

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2022 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2022. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Having trouble seeing this email? View Online

We sent you this email because we have your email address designated as eligible to receive promotions and special offers. We value your privacy and will only use your information in accordance with our Global Privacy Policy available at privacy.hyatt.com

To manage your e-mail subscriptions or to opt out of receiving e-mail marketing from us you may:

1. Manage your subscriptions online
   or

2. Write to (include World of Hyatt membership number):
   worldofhyatt@hyatt.com or
   World of Hyatt Customer Service
   9805 Q Street
   Omaha, NE 68127

Please allow at least seven (7) full business days from receipt of your message for us to remove your name from our subscriber list.

As used herein, the terms "we", "our", "Hyatt", and "Hyatt Hotels & Resorts®" encompass hotels managed, franchised or leased by affiliates of Hyatt Hotels Corporation. Hyatt®, World of Hyatt and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates.

© 2022 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

SUBJECT: [redacted]
FROM: [redacted]
TO: foodservice@sd308.org, "Alexakos, Patricia" <Alexakos-Patricia@aramark.com>
CC: latonya-simelton@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, dominick-cirone@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jared-ploger@sd308.org
DATE: 12/08/2022 20:01

Hello,

Please be advised that [redacted] is NO LONGER allowed to purchase lunch if he does not have funds. He has already gone negative in his account by nearly $20. Last time, he was negative by nearly $50. This is like giving a teenager [redacted] unlimited credit card.

If he is allowed to purchase when his account is negative, we will not be paying for it moving forward.

If he has money in his account, he may purchase. If not, he does not have permission.

I've included the board members on this email so that our school policy can be reviewed and revised. Parents should have full authority on whether or not their child is able to purchase when their account goes in the negative since we are held in full responsibility of the account. An option to turn off pregame should be considered and upheld. Additionally, the law surrounding this is vague and open to interpretation.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and support.

[redacted]

SUBJECT: Don't Let Failure Keep You From Success
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/09/2022 06:00

Hello Jennifer,

I believe that even the best of plans will misfire.



Most people do not realize that failure and success are partners. You cannot have one without the other.

However, only those with **definite purpose and plans** can decipher the difference between a failed attempt and a misfire.

I love what Michael Fullan said about School Improvement,

"The skinny is about finding the smallest number of high-leverage, easy to understand actions that unleash stunningly powerful consequences."

With just a few days left before the holiday break, what information do you need to decide whether an initiative needs a new strategy? Which ones are still on track?

Be sure to schedule some reflection time with yourself and your team before the holiday break.

Just answer these questions:

- What's going well?
- What needs more focus?
- What do we need to keep doing?
- What do we need to stop doing (maybe the MOST important list).

If something you are doing is not providing you clear evidence that it is working, hug it, thank it, then send it on its way. It's alright. A leader needs to set boundaries for themselves and their team.

I just loved this picture when I first saw it.



As you start planning for 2023, what is an idea, a thought, an initiative, a program or maybe a person that you need to let go of?

By holding on to these pain points or unfinished thoughts and initiatives, you are leaking energy, taking up mental and emotional space and creating static towards the Harmony we desire.

If you don't let go of things that do not serve your goals, you will not have room for the new.

So if you need permission to let it go. Here it is. So YOU have room to grow.

Raising your awareness,

Dr. Tom

P.S. There is still time to take advantage of our 50% off everything holiday special. Go to our online store and use the code BLACK50 and save 50%. Or take advantage of our 2 for 1 sale here.

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: (105 ILCS 123/) Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act
FROM: Amanda Sitar <asitar@sd308.org>
TO: [redacted]
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "Alexakos, Patricia" <Alexakos-Patricia@aramark.com>, Andrea Wiaduch <awiaduch@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/09/2022 08:34
ATTACHMENTS (20221209-083431-0000349): "image002.png"

[redacted]

We understand your frustrations and would like to assist in any way we can.

Please see the email below regarding the law you are referring to called the Hunger-free Students' Bill of Rights Act, as well as, additional explanation from the Illinois State Board of Education, which states that we cannot deny a student meals if they ask, regardless of negative balances or inability to pay. We are mandated to follow this law.

We can, however, deny them any a la carte (extra -- i.e. chips, cookies, water, extra entrees, etc.) purchases if they have a negative balance.

We do offer meal applications for Free/Reduced meals if you would like to apply. https://www.sd308.org/foodservice

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Take care,
Amanda
--

Amanda Sitar MBA CSBO
Director of Finance

Oswego Community School District 308

SD308 OSWEGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good afternoon,

So the law you are referring to is the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of rights Act. Basically what this law is saying is that once a child's outstanding balance reaches $500 and the district has made reasonable efforts to collect the debt from the student's parent or guardian for at least one year, the district can seek an offset under the State Comptroller Act. If this is something you are wanting to do you would need to reach out to the Comptroller's Office.

However, this law does also state that you cannot deny a student a federally reimbursable meal at any point. So if you do reach out to the Comptroller's office and the debt is being handled through their process, you are still required to provide that student a meal when requested.

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/09/2022 15:06

Online Update

December 9, 2022

School Board Candidate Petition Filing Opens December 12

Candidates seeking a seat on their local board of education can begin filing nominating petitions on Monday, December 12. The last day for candidates to submit petitions is December 19. IASB has put together a list of key dates for school board candidates. Additional election information for candidates can be found on the IASB website. The four-part "How to Navigate Running for School Board" webinar series is also available and includes videos on the topics of petition circulation and filing, the Statement of Economic Interests, and understanding the board member's role.

IASB Legislative Report

The latest IASB Legislative Report looks back on the Fall Veto Session, including changes to the SAFE-T Act and legislation to pay off dept to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Also highlighted is the upcoming lame-duck session scheduled to begin on January 4 before the 103rd General Assembly is sworn in. Watch the IASB Governmental Relations staff discuss the veto session in this legislative update video.

Board of Directors Minutes

Minutes from August 27, 2022 meeting of the IASB Board of Directors are now available on the IASB website.



[What School Leaders Are Reading Fall 2022]

[IASB Welcomes Three New Staff Members]

[IASB Board Meets Twice, Committees Assigned]

[Filing Period for School Board Candidates Opens December 12]

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/09/2022 16:36
ATTACHMENTS (20221209-163634-0000348): "Superintendent's Update - December 9, 2022.docx" , "Monthly Enrollment Report - 12.02.22.xlsx" , [redacted], "20221209 ISBE Financial Profile BOE Update.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.9.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/09/2022 16:54

December 9, 2022

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 18-26*: Hanukkah
*Sorry for the misprint last week!
December 18: International Migrants Day
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

Date	Day	Event
December 9	Friday	Crosstown Basketball @ OE Girls' Basketball Varsity Game @ 5:00 Boys' Basketball Varsity Game @ 6:30 Tickets must be purchased in advance- buy here!
December 13 6-7:00pm - Virtual	Tuesday	Parent University: Managing Mental Health Around the Holidays. Suicide Awareness and Prevention (presented by SCRC) Click Here to Register
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Weathering the Storm Click Here to Register
December 14 (6:00pm)	Wednesday	*The Power of No, A Small Word That Will Give Wellbeing To Your Mental Health* Parent Presentation in Spanish: El Poder del 'NO'. Una Pequeña Palabra que Te Dará Bienestar y Salud Mental
December 15 3-6pm	Thursday	Creations by Pathways - Holiday Shoppe 4175 Route 71, Door #2
December 15 (5:00pm)	Thursday	Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry @ Lakewood Creek Elementary
December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break Buildings/District Closed: 12/23, 12/26, 12/30, 01/02)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Please enjoy this week's Video Message from Dr. Sparlin!

Giveaways included!!

Staff Info

Emergency Notification System - A test of our mass communications system for staff (Blackboard) was sent out last night through BlackBoard, the district's mass communication system. If you did not receive a phone call, text message and email, please click here, to provide feedback to the Communications and HR teams.

The ability to communicate with staff is especially important when weather-related closures or other emergencies arise. To verify that we have the correct information on file for you, we ask that you please take a moment to go into the Employee Access system on the Intranet to confirm that your contact information is correct by following these simple steps:

- Open Intranet
- Select "Employee Access"
- Select "My Information" from the left panel
- Select "Profile"
- Update your email and cell phone information if needed

Contract staff members are not automatically included in Blackboard Communications staff groups. Therefore, if you did not receive the Emergency Notification Test Message, please register under this link to be included in our "community member" group in the system.

Crosstown Basketball Games: There are still some tickets available for tonight's Girls'/Boys' Crosstown doubleheader. Tickets are only available via GoFan.co. NO Passes allowed. Please have tickets purchased prior to arrival at the game. Tickets sold on GoFan: **OEHS / OHS**

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter [redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Winter Building Closures:

- In order to realize significant energy savings, buildings will be closed December 27 - 29, 2022 and January 3 - 6, 2023. Building and district leadership and office staff will work remotely during this time.

Bus Stop and Route Consolidation

Bus route ridership studies were recently conducted to determine opportunities for consolidation of stops and routes to help reduce delays. Any changes to stops and/or routes will be shared with families prior to the conclusion of

winter break and will begin when school resumes in January.

From the Schools

A German Christmas – TONIGHT! Celebrate an evening with Sankt Nikolaus, Krampus, Knecht Ruprecht, and Perchta with A German Christmas at Oswego East High School on Friday, December 9 @ 5:30-7:30. ($5/per person). Click here for more details.

Tomorrow! Thrift Day at Oswego East High School: Tomorrow, Dec. 10, Oswego East High School's Key Club is hosting a community-wide Thrift Day. This is an event for all community members to come and take any clothing items they would like, free of charge. There are a variety of sizes, ranging from children's clothing to adult clothing. Please enter through door 46 and visit the Silver Gym at Oswego East High school between the hours of 11:00am and 3:00pm to do some thrifting! Cash donations will be accepted at the event to fund more projects like this and to make donations to organizations in the community, but are not necessary. Thank you for your support!

Creations by Pathways - Holiday Shoppe: Thursday, December 15 (3-6pm) - 4175 Route 71 (DAC), Door #2. Creations by Pathways is the student-led Micro-Business of the Pathways Transition Program. They are 18 to 22 year olds transitioning between high school and adult life. *Creations by Pathways* students make dog treats, crafts, and bath products to sell at craft shows and online and use the money for special activities, outings, and items needed for the program. This year they went bowling and have a trip to the mall planned for later this month. All products are created and customized by our students.Click Here for flyer.

PRIDE
(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Free, Convenient Telemedicine and Counseling! Starting December 1, 2022, employees enrolled in SD308s HMO, BCO/ PPO or HCA/PPO plans were automatically enrolled in First Stop Health, a telemedicine and virtual counseling healthcare service. Both services are provided to medical-enrolled employees and their immediate family members for FREE! Your immediate family members (e.g., spouse, parent, child, etc.) can be included on your First Stop Health plan, they do not need to be enrolled on the medical plan with you. Download the mobile app or visit the secure, patient dashboard which is accessible online: https://app.fshealth.com. Use your SSN to login! Or call 888-691-7867 to request your telemedicine or counseling visit.

Livongo Health Benefit! If you have Diabetes or High Blood Pressure, Livongo empowers you with tools, insights, and expert support you need. Click Here for flyer. Livongo uses advanced technology, personalized recommendations, and real-time communication to provide you with the right information to help you reach your

health goals. CLICK HERE to register and use the company specific registration code: CUSD308.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 9, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live
  - *BOE Meeting Summary: 12.05.22 Meeting*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Security alert
FROM: Google <no-reply@accounts.google.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/09/2022 20:25

Google

A new sign-in on Mac

J jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

We noticed a new sign-in to your Google Account on a Mac device. If this was you, you don't need to do anything. If not, we'll help you secure your account.

Check activity

You can also see security activity at
https://myaccount.google.com/notifications

You received this email to let you know about important changes to your Google Account and services.
© 2022 Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

SUBJECT: Register for my FREE virtual book launch!
FROM: Ernest Crim III <info@ernestcrim.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/10/2022 14:02

Can't see this message? View in a browser

Register for my *FREE* virtual book launch!

SUBJECT: A Quick Question if You Don’t Mind
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/11/2022 10:00

Hello Jennifer,

Quick question.

Do you have a personal plan for growth in 2023?

Too often, we choose to work harder on our profession than our personal selves. Not understanding that in the end, it’s not what we do, it is who we become that matters.

What matters is not the title, the power, wealth or control. It’s WHO you choose to become that matters.

Despite being a successful professional, it wasn’t until I participated in a personal growth study did I begin to see significant changes in my personal and professional life. In my health, relationships, self-care, faith and finances.

This personal growth study inspired me to analyze the self imposed expectations I have put on myself both personally and professionally.

After years’ of intentional personal growth I now live with daily harmony, with a clear vision, a sense of purpose and goals. My relationships with family and friends have never been closer.

This personal growth study is for those people who know they can get more out of life but might be feeling a little stuck. Not clear on what they desire in life but know they want and deserve more.

Through this six month personal growth study participants will engage in a self-paced, proven process to capture your ideas, gain a new level of personal confidence while executing on their dream goals.

Other benefits:

… Clarity on Purpose and Goals

... Positive Thinking

… New Outlook on Problems and Challenges

… Tools to Navigate

… Empowered Living

SUBJECT: These are a few of our favorite things.
FROM: SuperEval <info@SuperEval.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/12/2022 17:00

View this email in your browser

SuperEval®

December 2022



“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”
— C.S. Lewis, British Writer



Six Elements of Successful Schools – Collaboration is Key

Successful schools make for successful students. While there is some room for debate, highly effective schools tend to have a few key factors in common, including creating collaborative and supportive environments that allow both students and staff to reach their full potential. When it comes to transforming your school district, consider the following steps to help get your school moving in the right direction.

Read the Six Elements of Successful Schools



Best of 2022: Most Read SuperEval Articles

'Tis the season for 'best of the year' lists! From top songs, to movies, to news stories, you're likely to see some of these lists pop up before the end of the year. We wanted to join in on the fun and thought it would be interesting to take a look at our most popular blog articles. Enjoy this curated list of our top three articles of 2022 and the top three articles of all time!

View Our Most Read SuperEval Articles of 2022



Supporting Small and Local Businesses During the Holidays

When searching for the perfect gifts for family and friends, keeping your holiday shopping small and close to home this holiday season can have a significant impact on your community. Although shopping online or at major retailers is convenient, consider these five reasons to shop small and local this season.

Read the Five Reasons to Shop Local During the Holidays

Need Help With SuperEval?

Our award winning help desk is here to provide you assistance.

Email us at support@SuperEval.com or call us toll-free at 1-844-312-EVAL.

Learn More About Our Help Desk



Our Mission

To strengthen teams through self-reflection, deeper conversations, and continuous growth.

Questions?

Send an email to Bob Hartz at BHartz@SuperEval.com.

Get in touch with SuperEval

About | Contact | Support

SuperEval

Copyright (C) 2022 SuperEval. All rights reserved.
You are receiving this message because you are a current user of SuperEval, subscribed to our

mailing list, or attended a conference and registered to receive information from us.

Our mailing address is:
SuperEval
678 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe

SUBJECT: The student loan payment pause has been extended. What's next?
FROM: "Info SLHG" <info@contactslhg.com>
TO: Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/13/2022 08:04

Good Morning Illinois public school employees,

In August of 2022, the federal government announced the Debt Relief Program, which aims to forgive up to $20,000 in federal student loans for eligible borrowers. Legal challenges to that program have resulted in the extension of the student loan repayment pause.

Per The Department of Education: " *The student loan payment pause is extended until 60 days after the Department is permitted to implement the debt relief program, or the litigation is resolved. If the program has not been implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, 2023, payments will resume 60 days after that* "

What to look out for:

If your loan balance would be fully forgiven with the Debt Relief Program:

The program could provide forgiveness from $10,000 to $20,000 to eligible borrowers. If that covers the totality of your remaining balance, you'll have to wait until the result of the ongoing litigation. We'll keep you up to date about any new developments.

If your balance is larger than $20,000:

Check your eligibility for the other forgiveness programs available. Many programs have been available for more than ten years and some have no limit on the amount forgiven after the requirements are met. Some of the available programs are:

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) - Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) - Income-Driven Repayment Forgiveness (IDRF) - And more.

These are all federal programs that have no cost to apply. However, learning the criteria and understanding your options can require some time. Therefore, learning what you're eligible for and being pointed in the right direction can't hurt.

TSLHG works closely with educators and other public service institutions to provide a complimentary consultation to whoever is interested in learning their options, what they're eligible for, and what is the best strategy to obtain student loan forgiveness (if eligible). You can schedule an appointment at a time of your convenience with the options below.

Schedule your appointment

Continue with phone

The Student Loan Help Group | FL DOACS License *#TC5038*
O. 844.599.5589 | F. 561.207.8007
tslhg.com

TSLHG

*The Student Loan Help Group assists consumers with all federal student loan filing services. TSLHG is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Zenmax inc. dba The Student Loan Help Group, 11911 US-1 #201-39, North Palm Beach, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408, United States

You may unsubscribe or change your contact details at any time.

SUBJECT: Are You Busy
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/14/2022 05:00

Hello Jennifer,

I am going to guess that you agree with me that feeling BUSY is not satisfying.

Yes? You agree? If so keep reading with an open mind.

I believe that being “busy” is the slow death of the school leader.

I believe that being “busy” cannibalizes the things that you should be doing.

I believe that being “busy” causes us to focus on the wrong things.

I believe that being “busy” minimizes productivity.

I also believe that being “busy” can actually cost you time, money and progress towards your goals.

If you agree, and are looking for an easy to use tool that will help you better understand where your "busyness" is coming, from click the button below and be sure to **download the time inventory sheet.**

Click here and learn how to eliminate your busyness

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Does your school have a plan to support students through SEL in 2023!?
FROM: "SEL School Consulting" <molly@selschoolconsulting.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/14/2022 09:49

SECOND ANNUAL

SEL SUMMER INSTITUTE



Our SEL Summer Institute helps prepare leaders and practitioners to develop SEL strategies that support student growth.

August 2 - 4, 2023

Cambridge, Massachusetts



JANUARY
Team of 6
$10,000

Individual
$1,760

FEBRUARY
Team of 5
$10,000

Individual
$2,250

MARCH
Team of 4
$10,000

Individual
$2,795

Annual, supported, spiraled learning that focuses on building an SEL culture with your Team and your unique SEL roadmap.

REGISTER TODAY & SAVE

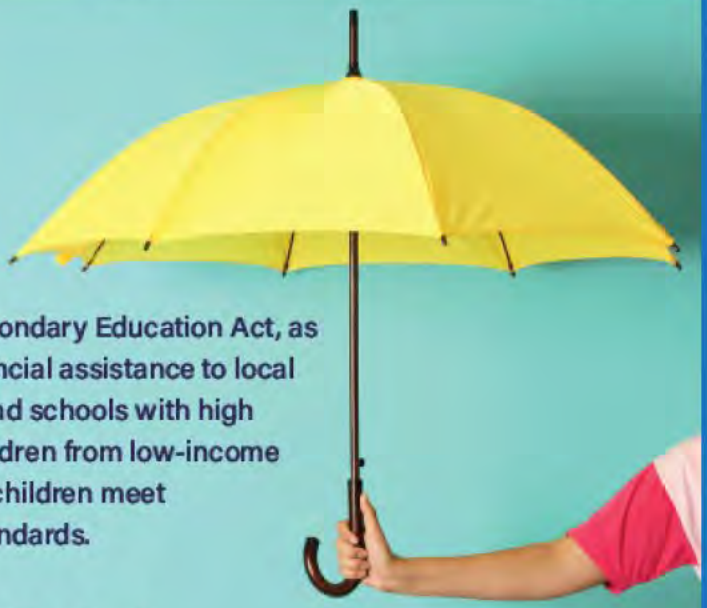
REGISTER NOW

There are resources that offer financial assistance to attend conferences like the 2023 SEL Summer Institute!

Professional Development ★★★

Staffing ★★★★ **Technology** ★★★ **Supplies** ★★

Title 1, Part A



Part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

SEL Supports, it may be allowable to fund:

Attending a seminar or conference

Providing stipends for professional development outside of duty hours

Paying for counselor salary and benefits

Purchasing a tiered program model to prevent/address problem behavior or early intervention services, or software to track data to measure effectiveness programs

Staffing ★★ Technology ★ Supplies ★

Professional Development ★★★★



Title II, Part A

Designed to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher and principal quality and effectiveness.

SEL Supports, it may be allowable to fund:

Providing stipends for professional development outside duty hours.

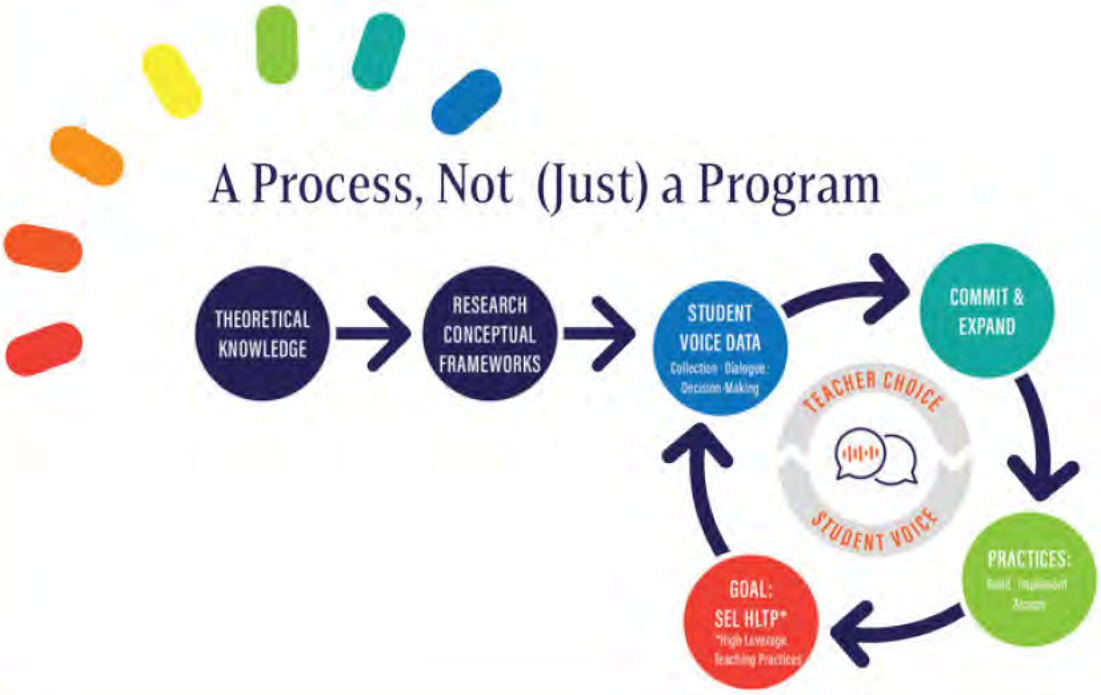
Covering the registration/travel costs to attend seminars and conferences.

Providing incentives to attract or retain teachers who possess SEL skills to support students and school programs.

LEARN ABOUT SEL FUNDING RESOURCES

SEL School Consulting clients receive free admission* for a team to attend the SEL Summer

Institute?



LEARN ABOUT SEL SCHOOL CONSULTING

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

SCHOOL CLIMATE CONSULTING SERVICES

Committee *for* Children®

*Restrictions Apply

SELConsulting, 54 Keewaydin Road, Center Harbor, 03226 NH, USA

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: MindBeat- New Poll! The State of Mental Health Care in Schools
FROM: Effective School Solutions <nlaqualia@effectiveschoolsolutions.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/14/2022 10:16

To view this email as a web page, click here

Effective School Solutions

ABOUT US CONTACT CONTENT

MINDBEAT®

A PUBLICATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS

December 14th, 2022

Announcing a New National Polling of Administrators & Parents on Mental Health Care in Schools

Effective School Solutions commissioned John Zogby Strategies to conduct a nationwide polling of parents and school administrators and found significant concerns about the state of youth mental health. Visit www.effectiveschoolsolutions.com/research to view the results.

VIEW RESULTS

Webinar
Taking Advantage of Medicaid Supports for School-Based Mental Health Services
December 14th, 3:30 PM ET



Medicaid is one of the fastest growing funding sources for school-based health expenditures, including mental health. Currently, all states offer the ability for districts to seek Medicaid reimbursement for the cost of mental health services delivered to students with individualized education plans (IEPs). Why aren't more districts taking advantage of this? Join ESS and Jenny Millward, ED.D., the Executive Director of the National Alliance

for Medicaid in Education for this impactful discussion. Register Now!

REGISTER NOW

K-12 MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDUP

Keep up with developments in school mental health.

Poll finds youth mental health crisis is not getting better

Study: Demand for Mental Health Services Will Increase

Resources for Mental Health Support

Screen Time Linked to OCD in Youth: Study

Desperate Parents Turn to Special Education

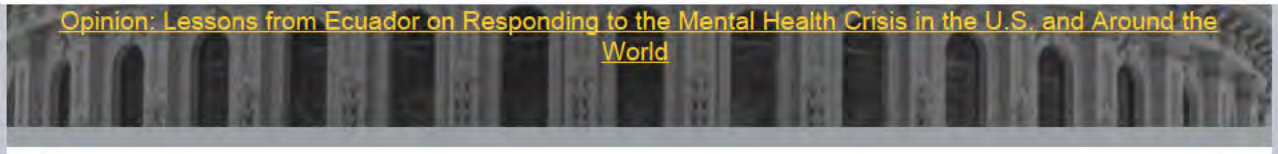
Teens in Crisis



Mental Health Advocacy

Senate Republican Discusses How Mental Illness Impacted His Family

Meeting the Moment on Children's Mental Health: Recommendations for Federal Policy



© 2022 - Effective School Solutions
Privacy Policy
Unsubscribe
121 Chanlon Rd, New Providence, NJ 07974

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #41
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/14/2022 14:05

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

December 14, 2022

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over teachers' union leadership
- Where the nine governors-elect stand on education
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over teachers' union leadership

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues

school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

In a recent interview with *Semafor*, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo criticized the leadership of teachers' unions and said, "The most dangerous person in the world is Randi Weingarten. It's not a close call." Weingarten is the president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teachers' union in America. This week, we'll look at responses to Pompeo's statement.

Ira Stoll writes that Weingarten and other teachers' union leaders are not as powerful or influential as Pompeo says. Stoll says that union leadership represents members and cannot force union policies top-down. He also says responsibility for building curriculum in many states and localities falls to state officials and school board members, not teachers' unions.

Natalya Murakhver writes that teachers' union leaders, including Weingarten, opposed the interests of parents and students and played a large role in lobbying for policies that kept schools closed and students masked during the coronavirus pandemic. Murakhver says such policies contributed to lower math and reading achievement.

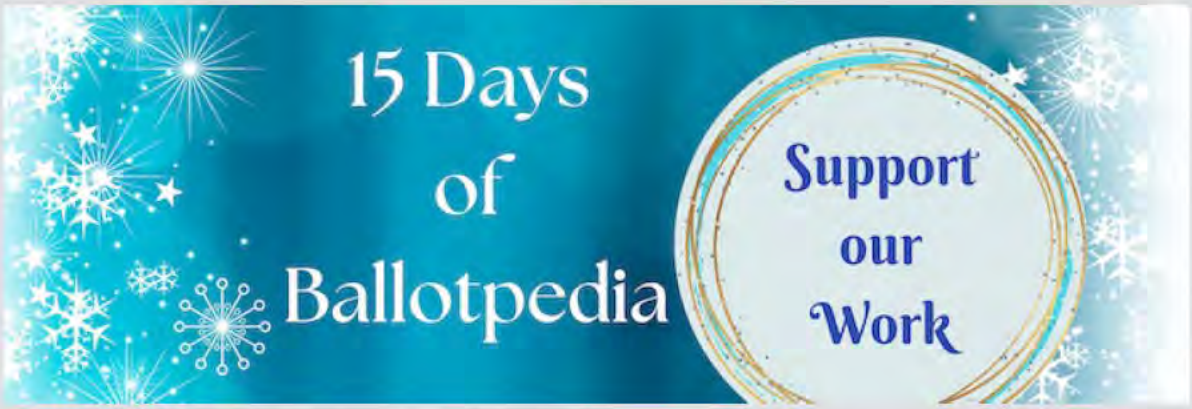
Is Randi Weingarten Really "The Most Dangerous Person in the World"? | Ira Stoll, *Education Next*

"On the substance, Pompeo is off base in a lot of important ways. He singles out Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, by name without mentioning the president of the larger National Education Association. He doesn't mention that rather than imposing her own views, top-down, on the union, Weingarten is elected to represent union members, some of whom are far to her left, and most of whom may be more invested in pay and pension issues than the substance of the social studies curriculum. Weingarten didn't invent the 1619 Project; Nikole Hannah-Jones did. Of all the factors influencing education outcomes in America, teacher-union political power is only one among many. Plenty of jurisdictions with strong unions also have strong math and reading test scores. And in plenty of other places, decisions about textbooks and curriculum are made largely not by the unions but by Republican state and local elected officials. The governments that collapsed most dramatically in recent memory were Communist ones, such as Poland and the Soviet Union, where workers were forbidden from organizing labor unions that were independent of government control."

Mike Pompeo is right: Randi Weingarten IS a danger to our children | Natalya Murakhver, *The New York Post*

"The pandemic lockdowns pulled back the curtain and exposed us to the harsh truth. Suddenly, as parents found themselves fighting on the frontlines to reopen our nation's schools, we were faced with an unfamiliar — and to many of my

fellow liberal Democrats unexpected — adversary. While we may have previously believed we share the same values — commitment to diversity, freedom of choice and all basic civil liberties — it turned out the fake values the unions espoused were not what we thought. Furthermore, they held all the cards while parents were left holding their inconsolable children. … So you'll understand why Mike Pompeo's comment that Randi is the most dangerous person in the world resonated with me. Randi and her fellow union leaders are the ones who kept our schools closed, our children masked and our communities divided during the darkest times of our lives. They had countless opportunities to lead, to help to unite. But they chose to destroy instead. The result? Math tests scores decreased by the largest amount ever. Decades were taken off reading scores. The union, meanwhile, wants fewer tests, less accountability, and an overall lowering of academic standards."



Where the nine first-time governors stand on education

On Nov. 8, voters elected 36 governors—nine for the first time. Of the nine first-time governors, six are Democrats and three are Republicans. Most of the governors-elect will assume office in January 2023, and they will begin carrying out their priorities—which, for all governors, includes making changes to state education policies.

Governors play a central role in influencing education policy. But that hasn't always been the case. According to education and government scholar Arnold Shober, before the 1970s, "many governors felt comfortable leaving education to school boards and state superintendents because states provided relatively modest payments to districts."

Today, governors set a vision for education in their annual State of the State Addresses. Governors also propose state budgets that include education financing, and approve the final version of the budget the legislature passes. In many states, governors appoint state superintendents or state board of education members.

In the sections that follow, we'll briefly look at what the new governors-elect have said about their K-12 public education priorities.

Arizona

Gov.-elect Katie Hobbs (D) defeated Kari Lake (R) 50.4% to 49.6%. Hobbs is the Arizona Secretary of State. Doug Ducey (R) was term-limited.

Hobbs' education plan includes universal Pre-K, hiring more school counselors and social workers, investing in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers, and making charter schools more accountable to taxpayers.

Hobbs opposes Arizona's recently-implemented Empowerment Scholarship Account program. The program allows all K-12 students to use taxpayer-funded education accounts to attend schools or pay for curriculum or tutoring outside the public school system. Hobbs said: "This voucher system we are under now doesn't provide real choice in educational opportunity for most families. It diverts resources from public schools and provides a subsidy for already wealthy children whose parents could already afford private education for them."

Arkansas

Gov.-elect Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) defeated Chris Jones (D) 63.1% to 35.1%. Incumbent Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) was term-limited.

Huckabee Sanders titled her education plan Arkansas LEARNS. The plan calls for improving access to Pre-K (Literacy), curriculum transparency and choice (Empowerment), rewarding quality teachers with higher pay (Accountability), preparing students for the workforce (Readiness), expanding access to high-speed internet (Networking), and school safety and mental health (Safety).

Hawaii

Governor Joshua Green (D) defeated Duke Aiona (R) 67.2% to 32.8%. Green, who was sworn into office on Dec. 7, was the Hawaii Lieutenant Governor. Former Gov. David Ige (D) was term-limited.

Green said he would "develop and fund a universal public Pre-K program" and "expand literacy programs for students who need extra help reading." Green also said he would "hire and retain quality, experienced teachers by offering competitive pay, benefits, and affordable housing" and "conduct a comprehensive review of Department of Education spending to identify and direct more resources into our classrooms."

Green said: "Finding the right superintendent who sets the right culture for the DOE is critical; and my preference for this position would be an individual who has an education background, has experience within the DOE system or one similar to it."

Maryland

Gov.-elect Wes Moore (D) defeated Dan Cox (R) 59.8% to 37%. Incumbent Larry Hogan (R) was term-limited.

Moore's education plan includes fully funding Maryland's Blueprint for Education, a 2021 law that increased education funding by $3.8 billion a year over 10 years, raising teacher salaries and strengthening collective bargaining, providing free Pre-K, and encouraging students to go into STEM fields and funding dual enrollment and apprenticeship programs.

Massachusetts

Gov.-elect Maura Healey (D) defeated Geoff Diehl (R) 63.8% to 34.7%. Healey is the state attorney general. Incumbent Gov. Charlie Baker (R) did not seek re-election.

Healey's education plan includes fully funding the Student Opportunity Act, a 2019 law that would add $1.5 billion to Massachusetts schools over seven years, hiring more school counselors and social workers, updating school buildings, and promoting "policies and legislation that will create a pipeline to better recruit, retain, and promote educators of color."

Nebraska

Gov.-elect Jim Pillen (R) defeated Carol Blood (D) 59.9% to 36.2%. Pillen is an elected member of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Gov. Pete Ricketts (R) was term-limited.

Pillen says: "Our mission in education is to prepare our children for the future, not introduce political ideology. As the parent of a high school junior, I join thousands of Nebraska parents in opposing the proposed State Board of Education 'health standards,' which sexualize students and supplant parental values with a radical view."

Pillen supports charter schools and believes the school funding formula should change: "I'm not talking about defunding. I'm talking about changing the funding. So let's just keep it simple math. A billion dollars of state funds divided by the number of students, and the funding follows a student to the school district. So it's per student funding, not per district funding. "

Nevada

Gov.-elect Joe Lombardo (R) defeated incumbent Gov. Steve Sisolak (D) 49.7% to 46.6%. Lombardo is the Clark County Sheriff.

Lombardo said he will "implement school choice initiatives that empower Nevada families" and "re-prioritize and re-institute pivotal educational programs like Read by Grade Three that have been proven to give students a better chance at success." Lombardo also supports "expanding vocational training and workforce development programs" and working with the legislature to "to repeal 'restorative justice' measures, which have made our schools demonstrably less safe." In 2019, the state enacted a law requiring schools to provide a "plan of action based on restorative justice before expelling a pupil."

Lombardo also wants to evaluate "potential ballot initiatives that would allow for the break up of the Clark County School District and other school districts that are underperforming."

Oregon

Gov.-elect Tina Kotek (D) defeated Christine Drazan (R) 47.1% to 43.4%. Kotek is a former state representative. Incumbent Governor Kate Brown (D) was term-limited.

Kotek said she would "improve Oregon's graduation rates to 90% for all student groups by 2027" and ensure "all children are reading by third grade." Kotek supports real-time assessments over standardized testing and opposes "any effort to undermine public schools by providing taxpayer dollars to private schools in the name of 'school choice.'" She also called for all high school students to take a financial literacy and life skills course to learn skills like budgeting and resume writing.

Kotek said, "I have always supported maintaining rigorous standards for reading, writing, and math. But we don't need to keep adding on more and more standardized testing beyond what is necessary to monitor student progress. We need to let teachers teach – and our students will benefit from more instructional time."

Pennsylvania

Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro (D) defeated Doug Mastriano (R) 54.8% to 43.4%. Shapiro is the current state attorney general. Incumbent Gov. Tom Wolf (D) was term-limited.

Shapiro supports "fully funding and fixing up our schools, prioritizing mental health, empowering students with vocational, technical, and computer training, and ensuring parents have a real voice in their children's education." Shapiro also said he will "ensure that every school building in the Commonwealth has at least one mental health counselor, and end our reliance on standardized testing so we can create more time for kids to learn and more flexibility for teachers to teach."

Shapiro supports lifeline scholarships, a policy that would allow some students

from low-performing schools to use state money on educational expenses, including private school tuition. Shapiro said, "I'm for fully funding public education. I'm for making sure we give parents the ability to put their kids in the best situation for them to be able to succeed. And I'm for making sure we add scholarships like lifeline scholarships to make sure that that's additive to their educations." In April, the Pennsylvania House voted 104-98 to establish the Lifeline Scholarship program. The Senate Education Committee approved the bill in June, but the full Sente has yet to act on it.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- The 10 Most Significant Education Studies of 2022 | *Edutopia*
- A Fast-Growing Network of Conservative Groups Is Fueling a Surge in Book Bans | *The New York Times*
- Florida proposal would add political parties to school board races | *Click Orlando*
- Oklahoma attorney general greenlights religious charter schools | *K-12 Dive*
- The End of High-School English | *The Atlantic*
- Teen brains aged faster than normal from pandemic stress, study says | *The Washington Post*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from incumbent Khem Irby (D), who won the general election for Guilford County Schools school board District 6, and Robert Barr (R), who was one of four candidates who won election to Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools school board District 2 (four seats were up for election).

Here's how Irby answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**

"I am personally passionate about being able to



provide the best possible education with the resources that are given to us. I am committed to working with and advocating along side my colleagues for a greater investment for public good of education. Our policies must show children that we want them to be successful and that we respect and support educators for being the experts in a successful educational system. Policies will show the community that we care about the future of Guilford County, safety in schools, the overall well-being of our staff, educators and students, and ending the pipeline to prison which plagues many school systems around the country. I believe that education is the responsibility of the entire village and it will be successful in this light as we continue to build relationships and invite new partners to the table to share their ideas. I see Guilford County as an up and coming model for families to build a future for success and wealth for those who have been marginalized."

Click here to read the rest of Irby's answers.

Here's how Barr answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Making sure all of our kids have the support and resources to learn. I grew up in public housing, raised by a single parent, and economically disadvantaged. However, because of the support of a guidance counselor and a program called Upward Bound that helped my mother and I navigate the educational system I was able to achieve some success. I have a Masters Degree from Wake Forest and a Bachelors Degree from Winston-Salem State University. Through education and the proper support, all children can learn. I am a big advocate of parental involvement and engagement. Parents are a crucial and critical part of children learning."

Click here to read the rest of Barr's answers.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2022. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Follow up - IGAs
FROM: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Jeremy Bell <jbell01@sd308.org>, Kenneth Miller <kmiller01@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/14/2022 14:37

Good afternoon Ali and Jen,

I wanted to follow up from our last meeting. The IGAs have been added to the Finance and the BOE website.

The link to the BOE page is: https://www.sd308.org/Page/27055

Ursula is also in the process of securing dates with Nick for the continuation of our PRESS Policy alignment. As soon as we have secured this information, we will send out the dates, corresponding sections, and tentative timeline for BOE approval.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Heather
--
Dr. Heather Kincaid
Assistant Superintendent of Student & Staff Services
Oswego Community Unit School District 308

SD308 OSWEGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Share your recent event experience
FROM: "greg.harris@sched.com via SurveyMonkey" <member@surveymonkeyuser.com>
TO: jac2022 <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/15/2022 08:32

Your Recent Event Experience

I understand that you recently attended jac2022.sched.com.

Sched is on a quest to discover the perfect formula for amazing events. We'd love your input!

Would you mind taking 3 MINUTES to answer a few questions about your experience?

Regards,
Greg Harris
VP of Marketing
Sched.com

Which of the following describes the primary goal of the event you recently attended?

- Professional Development
- Personal Development
- Company or Team Meeting
- Multi-company conference
- Fun
- Other (please specify)

Please do not forward this email as its survey link is unique to you.
Privacy | Unsubscribe

Powered by

SUBJECT: Podcast Episode #210: How to Handle Resistance
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/15/2022 12:00

Hello Jennifer,

Our latest Principal's Office Podcast I talk about the sometimes silent but always momentum killer RESISTANCE!!!

You might be feeling this as a leader. You may not know that it is actually occurring in your organization. Either way, you need to build momentum to ensure the best start to 2023.

I know you will gain great insight and ideas from this interview. Be sure to subscribe so you will get updated on when each episode drops!

Click to Listen Now



Keep making a difference!

Dr. Tom

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Congratulations, Jennifer you're featured in the article D-308 board to seat new member next month
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/15/2022 12:10

No images shown? View online

That's Great News

Call Us 888-239-5731

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER



Congratulations you're featured in the article D-308 board to seat new member next month. Make the moment last

Hello Jennifer,

We saw your recent press in the OSWEGO LEDGER, I hope you don't mind me contacting you about it. You must have felt proud to be featured.

I'm offering you a free preview image that shows how your press looks when designed into a wall plaque. It's a great way to make your moment last forever and spread the news. Perfect to hang in your office or anywhere your customers and prospects can see it.

The free preview means you get to see exactly how a plaque looks before buying. Plaque pricing starts at just $189 and a free preview is without any further obligation.

Yes, send my no obligation FREE custom plaque preview >

Your press details are shown below. Something not right? Need a preview sent to a different email address? Just review and edit your details online >

Call **888-239-5731** and quote your personal article ID **11584805** to discuss more options, or reply to this email should you have any questions.

No strings, no cost, no obligation. **One click** is all it takes to request a preview, we'll be happy to oblige. You've nothing to lose by requesting now. Just click for yes.

Article

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Featured

Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District

Publication

OSWEGO LEDGER

Published

Jan 20, 2022



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating

Shopper Approved Reviews

“Kelly Nolan was a wonderful representative. She answered all my questions very clearly and was able to give me all the information that was asked. Customer service was amazing!”

Kids First Pediatric Dentistry

"It's been wonderful working with the company. They have helped us create a beautiful "Wall of Fame" in our office that gets lots of compliments."

Michael E

"I am delighted with the beautiful job That's Great News did on the article on our church. It's even more beautiful than I imagined. "

Unity Church in the Gardens

"Great service and communication from Jennifer"

DeSoto ISD Sports

"The plaque looks great in our office. We were very excited to receive it so quickly. No hassle. We definitely will recommend That's Great News to anyone looking for plaques."

Miranda Insurance

Send my personal free plaque preview

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with credit card. All prices are in USD.
For additional questions please call 1-888-715-4900 and reference CustomerID(11584805).
All Rights Reserved. We'll contact you when we see you featured in a press article. If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.
View email online.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

CustomerID (11584805)

{"id":"34105220","oid":"11584805","oid":"0509390157"}

SUBJECT: Jennifer, see your personal plaque preview below
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/15/2022 14:40

That's Great News is not affiliated with
OSWEGO LEDGER

Congratulations Jennifer,

It feels good to be recognized in the press. To keep that moment, our professional design team has created the image below showing how your press article looks on a custom plaque.



Wood



HD Metal Black



Lucinda Premium

Approximate Size: 12x14

View Larger

Article Name	Featured	Publication	Published
D-308 board to seat new member next month	Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District	OSWEGO LEDGER	Jan 20, 2022

View Plaque Choices

- Our plaques preserve your article forever. The article won't yellow or fade like with conventional article framing.
- Save yourself valuable time and effort and let us deliver your perfectly preserved article, ready to be displayed right to you.
- With a **That's Great News** wall plaque you get a personal touch. Every plaque is handcrafted by our designers using the industries latest state-of-the-art equipment.

Prices are from $199. If you need help call on 888-239-5731 and quote your personal article ID 11584805 or reply to this email should you have any questions.

Kelly Nolan
Customer Care Manager
[redacted]
That'sGreatNews

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

All prices are in USD.
We'll contact you when we see you featured in a press article. If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscr be to avoid us contacting you again.

That'sGreatNews

© Copyright
All Right Reserved.

SUBJECT: STEAM Experience
FROM: Engineers Teaching Algebra <info@engineersteachingalgebra.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/16/2022 10:49

Engineers Teaching Algebra brings an engineer into the classroom and connects algebra to everyday life. *Engineers Teaching Algebra* is a hands-on 'field trip' in a traditional classroom setting-no gadgets, each student with desk space, paper, and a pencil with a good eraser because engineers make mistakes! For 7-8th graders strong or struggling in math, *Engineers Teaching Algebra* is conducted in the belief that a wrong answer is better than no answer, and that problems are solved through trial and error, with patience and imagination. Socratic, engaging, hands-on, relevant and fun. Since 1994 conducted in 5000 classrooms, 1800 schools, 38 states.

Algebra is a tool of expression and discovery in all fields of endeavor.
Math is not a subject, it's a necessary *language.*
Engineers Teaching Algebra

Engineers Teaching Algebra | Project-Based Learning, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Unsubscribe jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by info@engineersteachingalgebra.com powered by

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/16/2022 14:27
ATTACHMENTS (20221216-142725-0000345): "Superintendent's Update - December 16. 2022.docx" , "BOE Grant Memo - November 2022.pdf" , "20221216 Fund Balance BOE Update.pdf" , "BOE - Neighboring Districts SRO Comparison Memo.pdf" , "BOE OSS Report - November SY 2023 FINAL.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. I hope that you have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/16/2022 15:06

Online Update: News from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Online Update

December 16, 2022

2022 Legislative Session Overview

Approximately one-third of the bills introduced by members of the Illinois General Assembly each year have public education implications. The 2022 Legislative Session Overview includes an annual summary of the outcomes and details of bills that were approved, defeated, or amended, and how the proposals impact public education in Illinois.

Updated Finance Election Data

After each election cycle IASB compiles election results from referenda throughout the state and maintains a database of school finance referenda for bond issues (building and working cash bonds), school tax rate propositions, and county school facilities sales tax outcomes. The charts have been updated to include the results from the November 8, 2022 general election, as well as historical finance election data.

[What School Leaders Are Reading Fall 2022]

[IASB Legislative Report 102-45]

[IASB Welcomes Three New Staff Members]

[Filing Period for School Board Candidates Closes December 19]

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.16.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/16/2022 17:21

December 16, 2022

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 18-26: Hanukkah
December 18: International Migrants Day
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

Date	Day	Event
December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break Buildings/District Closed
January 9	Monday	Students Return from Winter Break First Day of 2nd Semester (grades 6-12)
January 9 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ Oswego East High School (Community Room) and streaming live online at www.sd308.org.
January 13 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry-Oswego Satellite Location @ 61 Franklin Street, Oswego **Spread the word: Open to all Kendall Co residents AND residents living within SD 308 boundaries. When attending for the first time, please bring an ID and piece of mail to show your address.**
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day (No School/District Closed)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

Stay warm this weekend, winter sure came quick! This week I spent three days in elementary schools, and I was

once again blown away by the amazing things going on in our classrooms! Keep up the awesome job!! Our students are experiencing extraordinary things, hands-on learning that will stick with them forever. These final days before break are challenging to stay focused and keep students engaged- but I know you'll finish strong! I do hope that throughout this busy holiday season, you find time for yourself and time to be with your family and friends. It's easy to get so wrapped up in the unrealistic pressure of making things perfect. Remember that you're a blessing, and we're so glad you're part of our district family! Warmest holiday wishes to you all!

Staff Info

WELCOME: Pamela Panozzo, *Interim Assistant Principal, The Wheatlands Elementary School!* CLICK HERE for more information about Pam.

CONGRATULATIONS AMY TRUEMPER! Amy Truemper is 1 of 20 individuals selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short Term Program (Fulbright DAST). She will be traveling to Vietnam this Spring, working with teachers at the Nguyen Quang Dieu High School for the Gifted in Yen Bai City, Vietnam. The team will be working on a project, The Language of STEM: Strengthened Pedagogical Approaches and Curriculum Design in English. The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange program and has been supported by the people of the US and partner countries of the world since 1946. Fulbright alumni include 61 Nobel Prize laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 40 who have served as a head of state or government.

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter [redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Winter Building Closures: *(Original memo can be found on Intranet)*

- In order to realize significant energy savings, buildings will be closed December 27 - 29, 2022 and January 3 - 6, 2023. Building and district leadership and office staff will work remotely during this time.
- Please be sure to have Winter Signs posted, indicating building closures over break.

From the Schools

B.I.O.N.I.C. - OHS Giving Tree: B.I.O.N.I.C. would like to thank all who helped with this year's Giving Tree. Through all the generous donations, they were able to provide gifts and gift cards for 11 families this year. Approximately 50 students stayed after school to help wrap all the gifts to get the trees ready to give away and to make the holiday season magical for these families. CLICK HERE for video.

Oswego High's Special Ed Dept. Shouted Out as Local Hero, *published by The Patch on 12.13.22.* The Patch has recently launched an initiative to help recognize heroes making a difference in the community and working to share their outstanding stories. CLICK HERE to read this shout out regarding our OHS Special Ed Department.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Save Money on High-Cost Medicines with FlexAccess - We are happy to introduce **FlexAccess**, a new Blue Cross and Blue Shield of IL benefit that will start January 1, 2023 for employees enrolled in either the PPO or HCA plans. **FlexAccess** is a cost assistance program designed to help lower the cost of certain specialty and other high-cost medicine(s). Please note: If at any time your medicine(s) are no longer part of the program, the amount you would pay for your prescription will be based on plan benefits. You can call **FlexAccess** at 1-888-302-3618, or email **FlexAccess** Member Services at member.services@flexaccessrx.com to find out if your drug is covered under this program or for any questions about this program.

PRIDE
(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Huntington Learning Center - Now hiring Part-Time Teachers: Special Education, K-12 Academic Skill Building, High School Math & Science, ACT/SAT Prep. CLICK HERE for more information or email: oswegoil@hlcmail.com.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 9, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live
  - *BOE Meeting Summary: 12.05.22 Meeting*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.

Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: My [redacted] needs help Oswego high is doing NOTHING
FROM: [redacted]
TO: "BOE@sd308.org" <BOE@sd308.org>, [redacted]
DATE: 12/17/2022 09:46

Hello,

My name is [redacted] I am the mother of [redacted] who is currently enrolled in Oswego High School district 308. She is [redacted] to be in her sophomore year in high school her [redacted]. Before Covid before high school [redacted] was an outgoing happy child who loved to be outside. [redacted] never was a straight a student, but she did well, and she always tried her best and always had a smile on her face. When she started her freshman year everything started to change. She began going to Oswego High School around October of her freshman year since we just bought a home in the school district. She transferred [redacted] which I'd like to add she was having similar problems [redacted] but I was getting a lot more help from them. Oswego High School has given me almost no help up until recently and this I am being told can take up to three months so by then she will be done with her sophomore year . My daughter is currently in the middle of her sophomore year and only has one and a half credits. Her freshman year I worked nights, so I was able to drop her off and watch her walk through the front doors of the school, this year I am working mornings, so her stepfather drops her off at the bus and watches the bus drive away. Several hours into the day while I'm at work I check the parent portal and or I receive an automated email from the school saying my daughter has not attended all her classes or sometimes only a few classes. This has been going on for two school years now and Oswego High School has done nothing to help me I have spoken to numerous people emailed numerous people and I'm getting the same response from everyone. Stating there are 2800+ students and they cannot keep track and cater to each of them individually. My daughter is now getting all F's and has been basically since she started attending high school. I truly believe that this school is only intended to help students that don't have emotional, behavioral, or academic problems. Why would I think otherwise since they have done absolutely nothing for my child besides point the finger at myself and her and not taking accountability for not doing their jobs and giving my daughter the proper education and safety her and I deserve. not to mention a school by LAW is supposed to give those things. I recently took my daughter completely out of school since I only have two choices which I am completely unhappy with both. I can continue to let her go, where we watch her get on the bus and then later that day find out she didn't go to any of her classes. I can be sick to my stomach all day wondering who she's with, where she's at and what she's doing. Is she safe is she dead is she doing drugs is she being raped all these questions have been running through my mind for the last two school years while I am at work, nor is she getting not any education at all with this option. My other option Is keeping her home with her older sister who has already graduated high school and can watch her knowing she is safe all day, in my home and possibly getting some sort of work done. This has played a big part on my health and is probably why [redacted] Most of the teachers which I have emailed have either not emailed me back or will not except any or most of her work since she is not attending the classes. I have explained to them the situation and told them I do not like either of my choices, but this is the only choice at this time I have, where I know my daughter is safe since they cannot do that for me. I am angry that this is even going on that I have gotten no help and it is making things in my home hard with the rest of our family. I have explained to the school as she has, telling them what is going on, and that she feels uncomfortable at that school because of the number of students in each class and the things that are allowed to go on which distracts her. The school district (as many other schools) allowing phones in classrooms is ridiculous my child is there for an education not to play on social media. The first day of her sophomore year I walked her through to each of her classes and I could not believe what I seen every student that was a female was dressed completely inappropriately butt cheeks out, breast out, stomach showing and not one person said anything to anyone. I spoke with one of the deans and was basically brushed off that this is how it is now and at the dress code has changed. He did go on to tell me how this makes some of the "male teachers uncomfortable " are you serious??? What does that mean???? These are children, and the school is teaching them that they can act like adults dressed like adults and make their own decisions. Schools and parents are there to Guide children, not allow them to do as they please this is why things are getting so bad now and everyone is

just making it worse by not doing anything and I will not allow this to affect my children and who they become as adults. My name WILL BE known in the school district, I will be all over please if someone does not do something to help my child. I do not have the money to put her in a private school. I should not have to put my child in a private school since there is supposed to be a perfectly good public high school right down the road from my home . I believe district 308 should be responsible for the cost of whatever school I choose to put my child in since they cannot do their job and give my daughter the education and safety they are supposed to by law. I'm assuming I will not get a response from any of you as it has been impossible to contact anybody and when I have, I get no response from the school. I'm assuming the same will go with the school board. My next step is looking into lawyers and the only reason why this has not been done is the cost but at this point I will spend my last dollar to make it happen. I want my daughter to graduate high school not a GED not go to an alternative school with a bunch of missed behave children and be taught at grace school level... please don't tell me different as I know this for a fact is how it's fine in alternative schools. My daughter needs more than that she is not a bad kid she is polite, good, and kind and deserves so much more attention than she is getting from the school district. I am close to going to the papers, but I figured I would try to speak with you guys hoping someone will care someone will help us. I understand you may all be new to this situation so I will try to be Understanding of that, but I need you all to understand that this is not new for me I have been doing this for two years now and I've gotten nowhere with anyone, my daughters future is at stake. I demand HELP!!!!!!

Sincerely an angry concerned compassionate mother,

[redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS
This electronic transmission contains confidential information from FXI and is intended only for the proper recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message. Any unauthorized review, copying, disclosure, or other use of the contents of this message, is prohibited.

SUBJECT: ASBJ Brief December 2022
FROM: ASBJ Brief <asbjbrief@nsba.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/17/2022 10:03



Lead Story

Protecting Your District Online

December's *ASBJ* looks at various aspects of school safety and security, including districts' online safety. Contributor Philip Reitinger, an expert in cybersecurity practices and policies, poses questions to help school board members and district administrators better protect their schools online. Reitinger, a member of Virginia's Falls Church City School Board, also highlights valuable resources to reduce your personal and district risk.

Read More

In Focus



Enhance School Safety: Embrace Education as Reparations

Consider school funding and its ability to repair the trauma and environmental harm inequitably experienced by students in urban schools,



Quality Education With Limited Resources

NSBA's Center for Public Education (CPE) explores recent federal data to examine the performance and challenges facing



Continue Your Journey To a Smarter School!

Learn how federal ESSER funds can accelerate your school's transformation into the best learning environment for students.

urges CUBE chair Micah Ali.

students in rural schools.

This article is brought to you by Siemens Smart Infrastructure

Read More

Read More

Read More





Climate Counts

Frank S. Henderson Jr., NSBA's 2022-23 President

Putting policies in place that improve school climate and strengthen relationships at every level in the district will make your schools better places to work and to learn. It is the right of every student to feel safe and secure in their classrooms so they learn and grow into healthy adults. It is our duty as school board members to ensure that happens.

Read More

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Promising Practices

MTSS offers enormous promise, but implementation challenges run rampant. PowerSchool's Sarah Singer discusses five implementation pitfalls and



Safe Alternative Transportation You Can Trust

At EverDriven, we go above and beyond to ensure that vulnerable students across the country have equal access to quality education through safe alternative



Students That Can't Read, Can't Learn

Teachers hold the key to reversing pandemic learning decline; technology enables the necessary scale so no students are left behind, writes Terry Nealon.

how to overcome them.

This article is brought to you by PowerSchool.

Read More

transportation. Every trip, every day.

This article is brought to you by EverDriven.

Read More

This article is brought to you by Learning Without Tears.

Read More













Join NatCon

Stay up-to-date on dynamic issues affecting schools, students, staff, parents, and community partners across the nation. Program benefits include complimentary webinars, daily industry news, *American School Board Journal* magazine, and more.



Newly Released! CPE Research Brief

A new research brief from NSBA's Center for Public Education (CPE) examines the characteristics of community schools and describes how they engage parents and all stakeholders to improve student achievement and well-being.

Learn More

Learn More

Share

Tweet

Share

National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Fl 2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493
For questions or to advertise with us, please contact advertising@nsba.org.
Click here to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.

SUBJECT: There's still time to take advantage of early bird pricing!
FROM: "Corwin" <info@k12.corwin.com>
TO: "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/17/2022 11:53

Take advantage of early bird pricing before it's too late! Webversion



Come and Get Your Shine On!

Experience the excitement of the Annual Visible Learning+ Conference with us in Orlando, Florida! With the theme of Evidencing Impact: Making Learning Visible, the keynotes and sessions will include many of the key elements of Visible Learning: Teaching, Leading, Learning, and Equity, which will accelerate growth and make the biggest impact on student learning.

Secure your spot at the 2023 Annual Visible Learning Conference early and take advantage of these amazing savings! Sign up now to claim your seat at the discounted price. See below for pricing information.

Learn More

Early Bird Pricing:

(through March 13th, 2023)

Virtual Sessions: $449 per person

Pre Conference Only: $350 per person

Post Conference Only: $350 per person

Main Event Only: $699 per person

Main Event + Pre Conference: $1,149 per person

Main Event + Post Conference: $1,049 per person

Main Event + Pre and Post Conference: $1,399 per person

Corwin Connect Blog | Contact My PD Advisor | Manage My Account

Follow us @CorwinPress

Corwin has one mission: to enhance education through intentional professional learning. We build long-term relationships with our authors, educators, clients, and associations who partner with us to develop and continuously improve the best, evidence-based practices that establish and support lifelong learning.

Find out more

2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA | (800) 233-9936
77 Bloor St. W., Suite 600 Toronto, ON M5S 1M2, Canada | 1 (647) 875-2115
Level 20, 114 William Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia | (03) 8612 2000
www.corwin.com | au.corwin.com

To ensure our emails reach your inbox, add info@pl.corwin.com to your address book.

View our privacy policy.

This message was sent to jennifer-johnson@sd308.org. If you'd rather not receive emails from Corwin, you may unsubscribe.

© 2022
[e1INS22209901]

SUBJECT: How Was Your Year?
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/18/2022 09:00

Hello Jennifer,

Over the last five years I have...

- Traveled across the globe (three continents) to teach leadership to over 10,000 people.
- Doubled my personal income.
- Paid off over $125,000 in student loans (now debt free)
- Built a business with six months cash reserve.
- Maintained a 40lb. weight loss without dieting.
- Lived out my purpose of teaching leadership and transformation.
- Never stressed over personal finances.
- Strengthened my personal relationships.
- Spent over 48 weeks on vacation from the beach, to the sea.
- Spent June of 2022 traveling around Europe
- Published a book on high performing charter schools.
- And many more personal and professional accomplishments I am proud of.

I don't share this to brag.

I share this to gift to you the foundation framework for this personal transformation and harmony I have created for my family and myself.

It is a five step "Year in Review" and action planning guide.

>> Get it here. <<

Take this guide and over the next two weeks lay the foundation to design the life of your dreams!

Download it now and begin the first steps of your “Year in Review” today!

After Christmas I am going to be leading a series of live, transformational teaching lessons to go deeper into this reflection, vision casting, goal setting and goal achieving process.

I hope you’ll consider joining me.

To your success,

Dr. Tom

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Being Great is the Enemy of Growth
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/19/2022 09:00

Hello Jennifer,

I believe that trying to be great is the enemy of personal and professional growth.

Here is what I mean.

Eleven years ago I earned the right to turn the tassel, earning my Doctorate in Education Leadership!



When this picture was taken I was in my third year as a middle school principal.

Two weeks later my wife and I decided to take a position working for the NC Department of Public Instruction Office of Charter Schools as a consultant.

NC had just eliminated the cap on charter schools and massive growth was expected.

At the time, I did not know too much about charter school law, HOW to write a charter school application and to oversee the opening of the nine fast track schools approved to open in six month.

But I learned.

Over the next two years I was fully responsible for managing the application process (over 250 applicants submitted in three cycles), developing and overseeing the Ready To Open process (over 50 schools opened in three years) while being the compliance consultant for all charter schools west of Charlotte.

All of this without knowing HOW. But I did it.

Then in April of 2014 I made another decision.

I was going to start a business.

I did not know HOW to start a business.

I did not know who my ideal client was. How to price my services. How to market and brand.

HOW to sustain a grow a business that served over 7,000 school leaders this year.

I didn't know HOW to navigate schools through crisis management. How to lead people and leverage resources through a pandemic. How to overcome 40% employee attrition mid-year to finish the school year over staffed and academically stronger than we started.

When it comes down to it, when this picture was taken I did not know HOW to do much of anything.

I had a degree. I had a title.

That's about it.

The first time I knew that I could do anything is after the first time I did it.

Then I got better and better each time I did it.

And every time I did, I became more AWARE of my potential and more AWARE that I could do more and BE more.

So, if right now you don't know HOW to do something.

Stop worrying.

At one time in your life you did not know how to do anything.

Don't let being "great" before you get started stop you from just getting good first.

Keep making a difference,

Dr. Tom

P.S. If you have yet to take advantage of our 50% off everything Holiday Sale click here and use coupon code Holiday50.

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: OSWEGO LEDGER proof
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/19/2022 09:03

Hello Jennifer

I can send you a plaque of your press below with a free 30 day period - just email me back to confirm.

Click here to see your custom plaque. If you're after something special, look at the metal plaque finish.

Are you okay with the layout?

Jennifer, if you have any questions or need any assistance placing an order someone from our team will be happy to help.

Publication: OSWEGO LEDGER
Date: Jan 20, 2022
Subject: D-308 board to seat new member next month

Our plaques start at $199 (+10% for shipping).

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News

888-239-5731

PS. All plaques from That's Great News come with our 30 day satisfaction guarantee, a full refund if you don't like the plaque.



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published
Jan 20, 2022

View my plaque

All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with credit card. All prices are in USD.
For additional questions please call 888-239-5731 and reference CustomerID(11584805).
All Rights Reserved. We'll contact you when we see you featured in a press article. If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.
View email online.

CustomerID (11584805)

SUBJECT: Security alert
FROM: Google <no-reply@accounts.google.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/19/2022 16:20

Google

A new sign-in on Mac

J jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

We noticed a new sign-in to your Google Account on a Mac device. If this was you, you don't need to do anything. If not, we'll help you secure your account.

Check activity

You can also see security activity at
https://myaccount.google.com/notifications

You received this email to let you know about important changes to your Google Account and services.
© 2022 Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

SUBJECT: Tactical Urbanism
FROM: Ambria Spencer <ambria.spencer@granicus.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/19/2022 16:57

Hi Jennifer,

Other Administrative Assistant to the Board's we're talking to are working to use tactical urbanism and build better communities. A great example of this that was discussed was Denver CO using community feedback to improve their downtown and bring locals back after Covid.

We received some great feedback from the webinar on how our engagement platform is helping others to increase participation in projects and get feedback to influence decision-making.

If this is a priority for Os, let's set up a call to share how Oswego Community Unit School District we are helping others and see if we would be a good fit for you as well. Do you have 20 min this upcoming Thursday or Friday?

Best!
Ambria

Ambria Spencer

Business Development Representative

P: **202-963-4518**| E: Ambria.Spencer@granicus.com

SUBJECT: A holiday greeting from your supporters at Possip!
FROM: Lauren McKee <lauren@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/20/2022 09:30

Dear Jennifer,

In this season of gratitude, we celebrate the **one million voices** who are using Possip to make their voices - in **64 languages** - heard.

We hope you have a restful holiday and we have the opportunity to connect **to support you in intentionally listening** to families, staff, and students to build stronger schools.

Watch this holiday greeting from our team.

We wish you joy and peace in the New Year!

* □□□□□□ * Lapè * Thayu * £в . * Paz * □□□□ * Barış * □□



Join us for our upcoming events!



30 Minutes: Possip Live Demo, it's easy as 1-11-23!

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
11 AM CT / 12 PM ET

Ready to learn more about how Possip can serve you?
Engage families, improve morale, and solve problems.

Ask. Listen. Act.



Ideas for Improving Attendance and Increasing Enrollment

Tuesday, January 24th, 2023
12 PM CT / 1 PM ET

Join Possip's CEO Shani Dowell along with invited guests as we share ideas for improving attendance and increasing enrollment.

Register today to learn more!

Register for our events here!

Before you go...

Possip Resource Corner:

- Celebrating Possip Partners
- Still stuck on gift ideas for your staff?
- Get ahead of mid-term vacancies!

Possip is on a mission to help schools strengthen their communities through improved communication. Join over 1 million parents, students, and staff that are part of the work.



Possip, 615 Main St., Nashville, Tennessee 37206, United States
Unsubscribe Manage preferences

SUBJECT: School Board Member Survey
FROM: David Houston <noreply@qemailserver.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/20/2022 13:45

Dear School Board Member,

Greetings! We are assistant professors David Houston (George Mason University) and Michael Hartney (Boston College).

The last few years have been an extraordinary time in American education, and many people have strong opinions about what has gone well and what has gone poorly. **However, we too rarely hear the views of an essential group of policymakers: school board members like yourself.**

To better understand the local dynamics of education policymaking today, we have developed a brief survey to learn what school board members think about a range of education issues. We know that, as public servants, board members are incredibly busy. We've worked diligently to create a survey that can be completed in **10-15 minutes**. Again, you can access the survey here.

Please know that this research was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University (study reference #1998126-1) and that all of your responses are required to be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. **Under no circumstance will board member names or even school district names be used in this research.** Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may elect to skip any questions or even discontinue taking the survey at any point in time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston Michael Hartney
dhousto@gmu.edu michael.hartney@bc.edu

Follow this link to the Survey:
Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:
https://gmucehd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy?Q_DL=caTWb9fi3WaOYm2_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy_CGC_wDrTXZ3jfUiIIyR&Q_CHL=email

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:
Click here to unsubscribe

SUBJECT: MindBeat: Get Ready for the New Year!
FROM: Effective School Solutions <nlaqualia@effectiveschoolsolutions.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 10:46

To view this email as a web page, click here

Effective School Solutions

ABOUT US CONTACT CONTENT

MINDBEAT®

A PUBLICATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS

December 21, 2022

CEO Corner

Greetings MindBeat Family!

As 2022 draws to a close, I want to say thanks to all of you on behalf of Effective School Solutions for your readership, and most importantly for the role that you play in supporting the mental health and social-emotional wellness of our young people. Students (and the adults that support them) have faced significant disruption and trauma in the past three years, and the support of caring adults in our schools has therefore never been more important. At ESS, we believe that "every interaction matters" and whether you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or mental health professional, we thank you for all of the positive interactions - big and small - that you are part of every day.

On behalf of all of us have a wonderful holiday season and we'll see you in 2023!

Duncan

Our national poll from last week is breaking the news! See what Fortune.com had to say.



The national poll, released on December 14th from Effective School Solutions, found that the country's school administrators, parents, and students continue to battle a youth mental health crisis. READ MORE

READ THE FORTUNE.COM ARTICLE

K-12 MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDUP

Keep up with developments in school mental health.

Rural Schools Face Disparities

Worsening Health of Young People

A Teen With Nowhere to Go

Inside Boston's Youth Mental Health Crisis



PODCAST CORNER

In this episode, John Zogby, Founder and Senior Partner of John Zogby Strategies, joins Duncan and Laine to discuss the recently announced ESS-Zogby survey of parents and school administrators about school-based mental health care, stigmas around mental health, priorities for funding these initiatives,

parents' attitudes about what level of mental health support schools should provide, and how to prioritize school-based mental health in the future. LISTEN NOW

LISTEN NOW



© 2022 - Effective School Solutions
Privacy Policy
Unsubscribe
121 Chanlon Rd, New Providence, NJ 07974

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #42
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 14:06

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

December 21, 2022

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

A note to readers: *It's the holidays, and so we'll be off next week to celebrate accordingly. We'll return to your inbox again on Jan. 4, 2023. Thanks, as always, for reading, and we'll see you in the New Year!*

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over school vouchers and whether they hurt or help rural communities
- The top five *Hall Pass* education stories of 2022
- In school board elections, conflict issues break along existing party lines, incumbents lose at higher rate
- Oklahoma attorney general says law prohibiting religious charter schools likely unconstitutional
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection Survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over school vouchers and whether they hurt or help rural communities

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

School vouchers and education savings accounts give parents money to spend on education at public schools, tuition at private schools, tutors, homeschooling curricula, and other educational materials. Today, we'll look at discussions about whether the policy would help or hurt students in rural school districts.

Corey DeAngelis writes that school voucher and education savings account programs work well in rural areas. DeAngelis says competition between schools benefits students and families and does not reduce the quantity or quality of educational resources. He also says teachers unions are more powerful in rural areas relative to other political organizations and says they are responsible for arguments against vouchers in those areas.

Jill Long Thompson writes that school voucher and education savings account programs are bad for students and hurt rural schools more than urban schools. Thompson says such programs divert resources away from public schools that already lack the resources needed to provide quality education. Instead, these programs lead to the creation of a variety of low-quality private schools. She says rural public schools need more funding, not more competition.

The Little Red Schoolhouse Could Do With a Little Competition | Corey DeAngelis, *Wall Street Journal*

"Teachers unions and their allies are arguing that giving families choices in education would devastate their state's rural public schools. This claim is neither new nor persuasive. … These same politicians also claim that rural constituents wouldn't benefit from school choice because the local public school is their only option. These arguments can't both be true. If rural families didn't have any other options, public schools wouldn't suffer. And if rural public schools are as great as the teachers unions say they are, they would have no need to worry about a little competition. The truth is that rural families benefit from school choice as much as any others do. More options are better than none, and supply isn't fixed. If you put taxpayer-funded education dollars in the hands of parents, new private education providers will sprout up to meet demand. … Despite a growth in private options, the mass exodus from rural public schools that many have warned about hasn't happened. In fact, 25 of the 28 studies on the topic find that

private-school choice leads to better outcomes in public schools, from increased test scores to reduced absenteeism and suspensions. Competition is a rising tide that lifts all boats. … [G]iving families more options doesn't result in a net loss of jobs; school choice simply allows families to determine where those jobs are concentrated."

Vouchers can't make rural schools great again | Jill Long Thompson, *The Journal Gazette*

"For rural communities, in particular, voucher programs create a business model that simply will not work. Running a rural school is very challenging because the resources are always limited, and oftentimes scarce. Vouchers encourage the creation of small private schools. But, we don't need more schools in rural communities; we need more resources to strengthen the schools we have. Increasing the number of schools means increasing the overhead, which is why vouchers dilute resources even further. A school voucher program is the education policy equivalent of a county highway program that would give residents money to build little private roads anywhere they want. That would not only be costly and inefficient; it would not serve the community's transportation needs. One must look no further than our own state, with its aggressive voucher program, to see the problems it causes for small rural school systems. Since 2011, Indiana has shifted $520 million into the state voucher program. Unfortunately, many of the schools receiving the vouchers have not performed as well as the public schools that lost funding because of the vouchers. A voucher program is not the solution to the challenges facing public education."

The top five Hall Pass education stories of 2022

Hall Pass launched on Feb. 9, 2022. Thank you for joining us in this newsletter —we are grateful to have you as a subscriber.

Every Wednesday, we've helped you understand the debates shaping education and curricula policy and make sense of the ever-changing world of school board politics. As we close out the year, let's take a look back at our top education stories.

Understanding the country's more than 82,000 school board members

On Aug. 24, we released a comprehensive report on the country's 82,423 school board members and 13,194 school districts. Our research detailed the nationwide gender composition of school boards, the number of board members by state, and the breakdown of at-large and by-district school board seats.

The seven education-related ballot measures voters decided on Nov. 8

Education was on the ballot in seven states on Nov. 8, with voters deciding measures related to college tuition, school meals, legislative oversight of state board rules, and more. Find out which measures passed in our story recapping the Nov. 8 ballot measure results.

A brief history of school boards in early America

In this article, we traced the development of public education and school boards in America from the colonies through the beginning of the 19th century.

How states fund public schools: an introduction

Public school funding, which comes from federal, state, and local sources, isn't the easiest topic to grasp. In this article, we explained the three primary funding formulas states use to allocate education funds. Learn how your state allocates funds at the link above.

Charter schools in America: some basics

Did you know Minnesota was the first state to pass a law authorizing charter schools in 1991? In this article, we took a look at the history of charter schools and provided an overview of charter school funding. We also walked you through charter school statistics, including the number of charter schools by state and recent enrollment figures.

We're looking forward to bringing you more education stories in 2023. If you have ideas for a topic we should cover, reply to this email to let us know.



In school board elections, conflict issues break along existing party lines, incumbents lose at higher rate

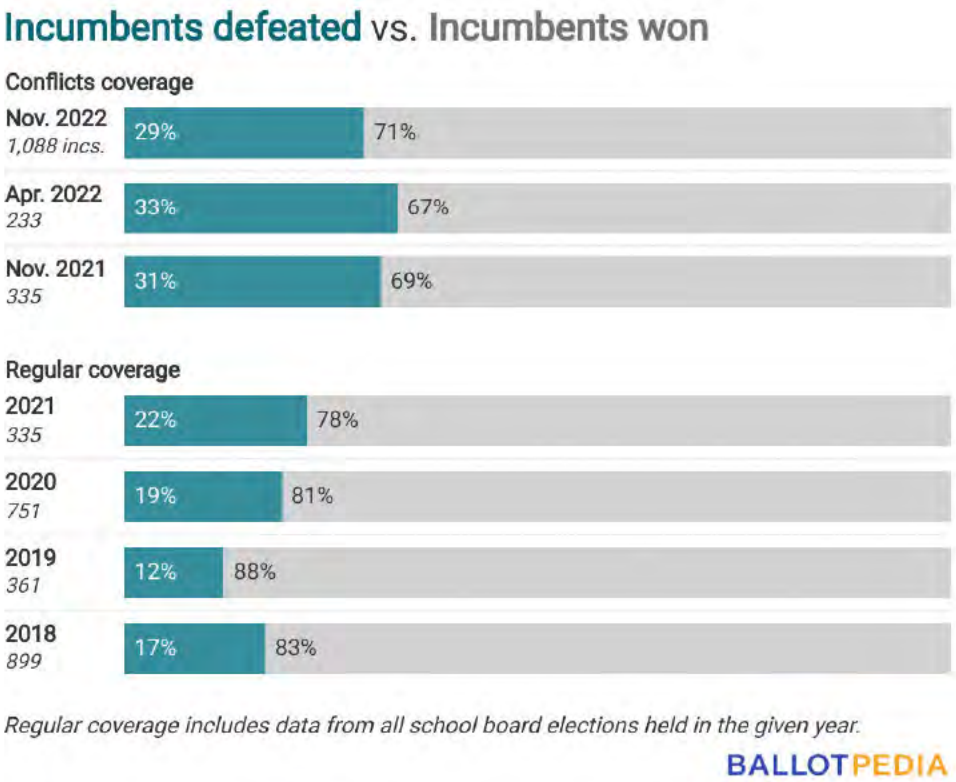
Since Nov. 8, we've brought you periodic updates on our progress tracking the results of school board conflict updates. We've finished our analysis of 1,779 races in 545 school districts where candidates took a stance on at least one of

three topics—**race in education, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, and sex and gender in schools.**

Here's what we found.

- Candidates who supported measures like equity plans, mask requirements, and gender inclusion won 45% of these seats
- Candidates who opposed those policies won 31%
- Candidates whose stances could not be identified won 23%

Continuing a trend we observed in school board conflict elections in 2021 and earlier in 2022, **just under one-third of incumbents lost to challengers in those races on Nov. 8.** In our regular school board coverage from 2018 to 2020, 18% of incumbents lost re-election, on average.



We label each winner as either supporting or opposing the three conflict topics. If we cannot determine a stance, we mark the winner unclear. Broadly, we label a candidate *supporting* if they support things like including the role of race in curricula or learning materials, mask and/or vaccine requirements, or the inclusion of topics in sexual education regarding orientations and gender identities. We label a candidate *opposing* if they oppose things like critical race theory, mask and/or vaccine requirements, or comprehensive sexual education. In cases where we labeled a winner as *supporting* on at least one topic and *opposing* on another, we used the category *mixed.*

Candidates *supporting* things like equity plans and mask requirements won 58.6% of seats in counties Joe Biden (D) won in 2020, while candidates *opposing* those policies won 43.5% of seats in counties Donald Trump (R) won.

Of all 791 winners we labeled *supporting*, 75% won in counties Biden carried. Of the 558 winners labeled opposing, 60% won in counties Trump carried.

	Biden	Trump
Districts	313	232
Seats	1,011	768
Supporting	58.6%	25.9%
Opposing	22.2%	43.5%
Mixed	1.0%	2.0%
Unclear	18.3%	28.6%

BALLOTPEDIA

Click here to learn more about conflicts in school board elections.

Oklahoma attorney general says law prohibiting religious charter schools likely unconstitutional

On Dec. 1, Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor (R) released an advisory opinion saying that, in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decisions, a state law prohibiting religiously affiliated charter schools likely violates the First Amendment.

Oklahoma is one of 45 states that permit charter schools. Like traditional public schools, charter schools are publicly funded. In all 45 states, charter schools must be secular schools.

Oklahoma first established charter schools in 1999, when then-Gov. Frank Keating (R) signed the Education Reform Act.

The law states: "A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. A sponsor may not authorize a charter school or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic

sectarian school or religious institution."

O'Connor writes: "We do not believe the U.S. Supreme Court would accept the argument that, because charter schools are considered public for various purposes, that a state should be allowed to discriminate against religiously affiliated private participants who wish to establish and operate charter schools in accordance with their faith alongside other private participants."

O'Connor references three recent SCOTUS decisions he believes undermine state law prohibiting religious charter schools—*Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer, Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue,* and *Carson v. Makin.*

- In *Trinity Lutheran Church,* decided in 2016, the court ruled 7-2 that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources violated Trinity Lutheran Church's First Amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources had denied the church's request for a grant that would have helped its associated preschool and daycare center resurface its playground.
- In *Espinoza*, decided in 2020, the court ruled 5-4 that a provision of the Montana Constitution prohibiting religiously affiliated churches or schools from receiving taxpayer money was unconstitutional. The majority said that disqualifying recipients from a public benefit because of their religious character inhibits the recipients' free exercise of religion.
- Finally, earlier this year, the court ruled 6-3 in *Makin* that a nonsectarian requirement in a Maine tuition assistance program violated the Free Exercise Clause. We covered *Makin* in-depth in these pages earlier this year here.

O'Connor released the advisory opinion after Archbishop Paul Coakley, the head of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, expressed an interest in establishing a Catholic charter school. Shortly after O'Connor released his opinion, the Archdiocese announced it intended to submit an application. According to The *New York Sun*'s Raina Raskin, the state charter board's decision, which could come within a few months, will likely trigger litigation.

Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) said, "Attorney General John O'Connor's opinion rightfully defends parents, education freedom and religious liberty in Oklahoma. Ultimately, government takes a backseat to parents who get to determine the best learning environment for their child." Secretary of Public Education (and incoming superintendent of education) Ryan Walters (R) said, "there's never a more important decision than to protect one's religious liberties."

The Oklahoma Education Association, which opposes O'Connor's advisory opinion, said, "The recent decisions of the US Supreme Court are not contextually similar to the suggestion that a publicly funded school district requiring affirmation of particular religious tenets and doctrine as a condition of admission would receive a similar endorsement from a court. The predictions suggested by the Oklahoma Attorney General are exactly that – predictions by a political figure of how a court may rule if faced with that legal question."

In 2016, Oklahoma voters rejected State Question 790, with 57.12% voting against the measure and 42.88% voting in support. The measure would have repealed Section 5 of Article 2 of the Oklahoma Constitution, which prohibits public money from being spent for religious purposes. The measure was proposed largely in response to a state supreme court ruling that found a Ten Commandments monument displayed on the grounds of the Oklahoma state capitol violated Section 5 of Article 2 of the state Constitution.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- Many schools find ways to solve absenteeism without suspensions | *The Hechinger Report*
- The Essay's Future: We Talk to 4 Teachers, 2 Experts and 1 AI Chatbot | *The 74*
- There's a Reason There Aren't Enough Teachers in America. Many Reasons, Actually. | *The New York Times*
- 4 K–12 Tech Trends to Follow in 2023 | *EdTech*
- Teachers are exempt from FOIA, Michigan judge rules after parent sued | *Michigan Live*
- Kentucky Supreme Court affirms decision to strike down school choice bill, but supporters aren't giving up | *The Lion*
- These 4 charts illustrate the pandemic's impact on homeless students | *K-12 Dive*
- Report: Half of Largest School Districts Changed Leaders Since Pandemic | *The 74*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Jane Lea Smith, who won the general election for San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Education Area 3 in California, and Edward Buster, who was one of two candidates who won in the general election for Vail Unified School District Governing Board At-large in Arizona.

Here's how Smith answered the question, **"What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**



- "Restore functional governance and effective leadership through an emphasis on professionalism, clear role delineation, and a transparent, rigorous search for an experienced superintendent who understands and embraces our unique community.
- Address financial stability and accountability concerns, prioritizing expenditures that directly affect student safety and the quality of our educational programs.
- Embrace diversity and equity by ensuring all students feel welcome, supporting vulnerable students, addressing achievement gaps, and continuing to expand opportunities for all students."

Click here to read the rest of Smith's answers.

Here's how Buster answered the question, **"What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**

- "The main reasons for my desire to serve on the Vail School District Governing Board, is our school district's positive influence on the successes of my five now adult sons. With this opportunity, I can now pay it forward to an extraordinary community that so warmly embraced me and my family when we



moved to Corona de Tucson almost 16 years ago.

- I have long been and continue to be a strong proponent for education. I am running because the school board should set the direction for our schools through a collaborative vision, advancing policy, demonstrating accountability, developing a consensus and by maintaining leadership roles in the community.
- My overarching vision is to ensure as our well-prepared students go away to college, trade school, accept apprenticeships, or establish themselves, they will one day endeavor to return to the Greater Vail Area to raise their families as it is in the community's best interest to have and maintain a smart, well-educated, community-minded, and healthy workforce."

Click here to read the rest of Buster's answers.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2022. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT: Remote Learning Thursday
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 14:51

Hello Staff, the message below is being sent out to all families soon.
Please shut down and turn off all computers, small appliances and other devices prior to leaving today in order to assist with energy savings over the break. Please take home any supplies you may need over the break when you leave today.

Tomorrow, Thursday, Dec. 22 all SD 308 schools will be utilizing emergency remote learning plans for inclement weather for early childhood, elementary, and junior high students. The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning beginning at 9am tomorrow, through 6am on Saturday. The warning cites rapidly decreasing temperatures with ice formation, low visibility with blowing snow, and very strong winds. For the safety of our students and staff, schools and district buildings will not be open on Thursday (Dec. 22). All activities, athletics, and building rentals are canceled for Thursday (Dec. 22) and Friday (Dec. 23). Kids Connection programs are also canceled.

High schools were not scheduled to be in person tomorrow and will not follow the remote learning plan, however students should complete their google attendance form by 9:30am, which will be emailed tomorrow to all students. Those students who were scheduled to take make-up exams should reach out directly to their teacher.

As a reminder, winter break begins on Friday (Dec. 23), and students will return to school on January 9, 2023.

Please stay warm and safe during the winter storm.

We wish you a very happy holiday season.

--
Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: School For Tomorrow
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 15:09

Good afternoon,

I wanted you to know that we have made the decision to go remote tomorrow. On Thursday, Dec. 22 all SD 308 schools will be utilizing emergency remote learning plans for inclement weather for early childhood, elementary, and junior high students. The high school students were not scheduled to be in session tomorrow. The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning beginning at 9am tomorrow, through 6am on Saturday. The warning cites rapidly decreasing temperatures with ice formation, low visibility with blowing snow, and very strong winds. For the safety of our students and staff, schools and district buildings will not be open on Thursday (Dec. 22). All activities, athletics, and building rentals are canceled for Thursday (Dec. 22) and Friday (Dec. 23). Kids Connection programs are also canceled.

Thank you,

John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Re: School canceled on their last day before winter break?!?!?
FROM: [redacted]
TO: BOE@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 15:16

I also have to work, I cannot sit and teach my kids tomorrow, that is what teachers are for so I guess my kids will be counted absent.

On Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 3:15 PM [redacted] > wrote:

> I am livid. My kids have missed enough school and class interaction and now you decided to call off school tomorrow?!?! I signed up to volunteer at my child's classroom party, bought all the supplies for crafts, and now school and their party is cancelled???? REALLY!?? Thanks a lot, my kids are going to be heartbroken to miss another school party and now I have to go home to tears about it.
>
> VERY disappointed parent,
> [redacted]

SUBJECT: THANK YOU
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 12/21/2022 16:57

Thank you so much for your kindness and for thinking of me today!

Your thoughtful and very generous gift is very much appreciated and I look forward to working with you in 2023!

Enjoy time away with your families! Happy Holidays!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Jennifer, 3 options for your recent press plaque
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/22/2022 09:15

Not interested? Tell us to stop, unsubscribe now.

That'sGreatNews

Call Us 888-239-5731
That's Great News is not affiliated with
OSWEGO LEDGER

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Jennifer

I hope you've had a chance to view the plaque design we created for you, in recognition of your press article in the OSWEGO LEDGER.

We know you have a few different options for getting your article framed. So what's the best way to do this?

You can try scrapbooking, one of the most time-honored manners used to preserve articles from newspapers or magazines. But scrapbooking is tedious, and doesn't your achievement deserve to be on full display?

There's also framing. You can go to the local art supply store and get some matting and frame, and maybe make a passable display. You also always pay to preserve articles through a professional framer, but that's expensive, and still lacks the customization and personality that you might want. And after all that the framed article will quickly fade and look tired.

So what then is the answer? Preserving articles and clippings with custom wall displays is the way to go!

- Our process stops articles fading, backed by a lifetime guarantee.
- We re-touch images to remove blemishes.

- Saves you a ton of time as we do all the work. From getting the article original to layout and crafting the final plaque.



Wood



HD Metal Black



Lucinda Premium

Approximate Size: 12x14

Enlarge Plaque Image

View Plaque Choices

We want you to be totally satisfied, so we make a simple promise. If when you've received your plaque you don't like it we'll give you your money back.

When you want the best, look at the metal finish. That is something you can't get from a traditional framing shop.

No time today? Just reply to this email saying 'yes' and someone from our team will send you your acrylic Lucinda Premium plaque costing $199.

Article

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Featured

Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District

Publication

OSWEGO LEDGER

Published

Jan 20, 2022



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating





Shopper Approved Reviews



"Paul Kelly was great and very helpful. The plaque is beautiful and I am

glad that I did this."

Cindy

"Your customer service is top-notch. I emailed about an issue and it was resolved quickly, completely, and with a positive attitude. My plaque looks great and I appreciate your team"

A Reid

"When I ordered the plaque , I could not believe how nice the lady was that took my order. Thanks."

Harold C

"Candice was very prompt in responding. The plaque was delivered faster than we expected and looks awesome - we hung it on our wall immediately!"

RingoFire Digital M

"Great product! Wonderful customer service. Kelly Nolan is so helpful"

Pamela

[See your news on a Plaque]

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with credit card. All prices are in USD.
For additional questions please call 888-239-5731 and reference CustomerID (11584805).
All Rights Reserved. We'll contact you when we see you featured in a press article. If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.
View email online.



CustomerID (11584805)

{"val":"34165220","cid":"11584805","cvv":"65093501"}

SUBJECT: Change of Date for Policy Committee Meeting
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/22/2022 12:07

Good Afternoon Ali and Jen,

I just heard from Nick that the first draft of Sections 1, 2 and eight will not be ready in time for the committee to be reviewed on January 17th.

Would you be available on Wednesday, January 25 at 5:00 pm?

Thank you very much!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 12/22/2022 13:04
ATTACHMENTS (20221222-130424-0000344): "Superintendent's Update - December 22, 2022.docx" , "Dec Update on Employee Culture and Climate Survey Action Plan-.docx" , "BOE Memo_ Production Organization.docx" , "20221223 Construction Grant Award BOE Update.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. Have a great holiday season!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: SD 308 Friday Update Employee Newsletter 12.22.22
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 12/22/2022 14:07

December 22, 2022

Our Last Update For 2022!

SD 308's Employee Newsletter

Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!

To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission

#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In December:

December is:
December 18-26: Hanukkah
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Kwanzaa Begins

A WINTER STORM WARNING CONTINUES THROUGH SATURDAY AT 6AM. TEMPERATURES ARE DROPPING TO DANGEROUS LOWS- STAY SAFE!

Date	Day	Event
December 22	Thursday	End of 1st Semester (Grades 6 - 12)
December 23 - January 6, 2023	Friday	No School - Winter Break Buildings/District Closed
January 9	Monday	Students Return from Winter Break First Day of 2nd Semester (grades 6-12)
January 9 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ Oswego East High School (Community Room) and streaming live online at www.sd308.org.
January 13 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry-Oswego Satellite Location @ 61 Franklin Street, Oswego **Spread the word: Open to all Kendall Co residents AND residents living within SD 308 boundaries. When attending for the first time, please bring an ID and piece of mail to show your address.**
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day (No School/District Closed)
For a complete District Calendar of Events, please click here.		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,
Many heartwarming stories of giving continue to roll in; we are certainly part of a kind and generous school community!
Several individual departments, student groups, and classes across the district have adopted families through local organizations helping to purchase gifts and household essentials for those in need. Last week a local barber set up at one of our schools to offer free haircuts. Two different families anonymously donated to pay off all negative meal balances at their schools; at The Wheatlands they covered $1,272 in fees, and at Old Post it was $1,952. Our junior highs joined with Oswego Fire again this year, collecting hundreds of toys with Toys for Tots.
We can all appreciate the joy of giving and spreading cheer to others at this special time of year, and remember the importance of paying forward community stewardship all year through.
I hope that you stay warm these next few days and really enjoy your time with loved ones. I wish you a very happy and wonderful holiday season!

- *John*

If you have a chance to enjoy the winter weather over break (when it's not quite this frigid!) here are some resources for local sledding and ice skating at area Oswegoland Parks:
SLED HILLS
If you relish in the brisk winter air kissing your nose and cheeks as you descend a hill at lightning speed, we have several parks with sledding hills for you! Bring your favorite saucer, tandem bobsled, or inflatable snow tube and come enjoy the great outdoors. Oswegoland Parks with snow hills include:
Prairie Point Community Park; Northampton Park; Chesterfield Park; Ogden Falls Park; Deerbrook Park; Community Park at Grande Park. Click here for guidelines and additional information about sledding at area parks.
ICE SKATING
Lace up your skates and head over to Prairie Point Community Park when the green flag is flying to take a spin or drop a puck on the seasonal ice rink.

Staff Info

Congratulations to these SD 308 teachers who join the 336 teachers across the state who have recertified as a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT).
The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University is excited to celebrate and congratulate these teachers along with thousands of other educators currently pursuing Board certification – seen as a mark of accomplished teaching.
National Board Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment of a teacher's pedagogical skills and content knowledge. The certification process generally takes one to three years to complete.

- Robin Ceres
- Cristina Hernandez
- Brett Malas
- Pamela Phelps
- Elizabeth Prigodich
- Angela Scharbert
- Amy Severinski
- Joyce Shumate
- Kelly Waldron

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter [redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Winter Building Closures: *(Original memo can be found on Intranet)*

- In order to realize significant energy savings, buildings will be closed December 27 - 29, 2022 and January 3 - 6, 2023. Building and district leadership and office staff will work remotely during this time.
- Please be sure to have Winter Signs posted, indicating building closures over break.

From the Schools

Fox Chase Elementary held Holiday Haircuts on Dec. 14, as a partnership with RazorSharp Barber Shop in Yorkville and Oswego. Over twenty families came to get their haircuts by the amazing barbers who donated their time for this event.

Thompson National Junior Honors Society members have been working hard this semester to raise money to help families in need this holiday season. Through their hard work and dedication, students were able to raise enough money to adopt a family with eight children. Students came together at Walmart in Oswego to shop for their adopted family. Walmart graciously donated one hundred dollars to be applied towards their purchase. Over the last week, students were busy wrapping gifts, adding ribbon, and making sure every present had a bow!

Vision and Hearing Screenings Make A Difference! A hearing referral was recently sent home for a student, who is the son of a staff member. Consequently, the student was diagnosed with a mild hearing loss that needs to be monitored for possible future treatment.The staff member was very grateful for the nurses who help deliver these screenings for students!

HUMAN RESOURCES

Save Money on High-Cost Medicines with FlexAccess - We are happy to introduce **FlexAccess**, a new Blue Cross and Blue Shield of IL benefit that will start January 1, 2023 for employees enrolled in either the PPO or HCA plans. **FlexAccess** is a cost assistance program designed to help lower the cost of certain specialty and other high-cost medicine(s). Please note: If at any time your medicine(s) are no longer part of the program, the amount you would pay for your prescription will be based on plan benefits. You can call **FlexAccess** at 1-888-302-3618, or email **FlexAccess** Member Services at member.services@flexaccessrx.com to find out if your drug is covered under this program or for any questions about this program.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Huntington Learning Center - Now hiring Part-Time Teachers: Special Education, K-12 Academic Skill Building, High School Math & Science, ACT/SAT Prep. CLICK HERE for more information or email: oswegoil@hlcmail.com.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 9, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live
  - *BOE Meeting Summary: 12.05.22 Meeting*

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Sad News
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/23/2022 08:29

Good Morning,

I was informed this morning that last night [redacted] was shot and killed near Boulder Hill. [redacted]. There is limited information in this news report but we have spoken to the parent. There are no siblings in the district. I will follow up on any information we receive. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank You,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308

SUBJECT: Study.com achieves ESSA Level 4 certification
FROM: Study.com <foundation@foundation.study.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/27/2022 22:08



360 Learning Solution

Comprehensive Curriculum	Skills Practice & Assessment	Virtual Village Tutoring

Study.com **meets ESSA Level IV evidence standards** for improving learning outcomes.

Our certification is based on our **360 Learning Solution**, which is comprised of:

- ***Comprehensive Curriculum***
- ***Skills Practice & Assessment***
- ***Virtual Village Tutoring***

Trusted by teachers in over 9,000 districts nationwide. Whatever you teach, we've got you covered.

SEE THE EVIDENCE

or email us at institution@study.com

100 View Street #202, Mountain View, CA 94041
Prefer not to receive emails? Unsubscribe.

SUBJECT: Policy Meeting January 25
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
CC: Kenneth Miller <kmiller01@sd308.org>, Jeremy Bell <jbell01@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Nicholas Baumann <nbaumann@iasb.com>
DATE: 12/28/2022 11:59

Good Afternoon,

Ali will not be able to meet on January 25th. I asked her about 1/26 (Thursday) and 1/30 (Monday).
Just wanted to make sure that there are no potential conflicts on your end.

Thank you!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Re: Policy Meeting January 25
FROM: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
CC: Kenneth Miller <kmiller01@sd308.org>, Jeremy Bell <jbell01@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Nicholas Baumann <nbaumann@iasb.com>
DATE: 12/28/2022 12:11

Ursula,

Thank you for reaching out. Either of your proposed dates will work for me.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,
Heather

On Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:59 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Afternoon,
>
> Ali will not be able to meet on January 25th. I asked her about 1/26 (Thursday) and 1/30 (Monday).
> Just wanted to make sure that there are no potential conflicts on your end.
>
> Thank you!
> Ursula
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

SUBJECT: Come and Get Your Shine On at AVL 2023 in Orlando
FROM: "Corwin" <info@k12.corwin.com>
TO: "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/28/2022 13:47



You're invited to...

The 2023 Annual Visible Learning Conference!

Experience the excitement of the Annual Visible Learning+ Conference with us in sunny Orlando, Florida! With the theme of Evidencing Impact: Making Learning Visible, the keynotes and sessions will include many of the key elements of Visible Learning: Teaching, Leading, Learning, and Equity, which will accelerate progress and make the biggest impact on student learning. Secure your spot at the **2023 Annual Visible Learning Conference** early and take advantage of amazing savings!

Shine Up Now!

EARLY BIRD PRICE AVAILABLE

Early Bird pricing ends February 13, 2023

Main Event Only: $699.00

Pre-Conference Only: $350.00

Main Event & Pre-Conference: $1,049.00

Post-Conference Only: $350.00

Main Event & Post Conference: $1,049.00

Main Event with Pre & Post Conference: $1,399.00

Virtual Sessions: $449 per person

Corwin Connect Blog | Contact My PD Advisor | Manage My Account

Follow us @CorwinPress

Corwin has one mission: to enhance education through intentional professional learning. We build long-term relationships with our authors, educators, clients, and associations who partner with us to develop and continuously improve the best, evidence-based practices that establish and support lifelong learning.

Find out more

2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA | (800) 233-9936
Level 20, 114 William Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia | (03) 8612 2000
www.corwin.com | au.corwin.com | ca.corwin.com

Email not displaying correctly? View in browser.

To ensure our emails reach your inbox, add info@k12.corwin.com to your address book.

View our privacy policy.

This message was sent to jennifer-johnson@sd308.org. If you'd rather not receive emails from Corwin, you may unsubscribe.

© 2022
[1INS22213850]

SUBJECT: More good news about your recent press article: D-308 board to seat new member next month
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/29/2022 12:00

Hello Jennifer

Because press articles carry high credibility and authority, it makes good sense to preserve and spread your news; put your recent article on display for all your visitors to see. So I wanted to let you know there's a special offer coming tomorrow for a custom wall plaque featuring your article.

We've also a new style option, HD Metal plaques for stunning image quality and finish. The HD metal production process infuses the image into the metal surface, creating a rich depth of color and lucid glass finish. Take a look at the samples here.

Call me on 888-239-5731 quoting ID 11584805 for more details. If you're not interested in preserving your news then please unsubscribe below and we won't contact you again.

Celebrating your great news,

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News

888-239-5731



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published
Jan 20, 2022

View my plaque

All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with credit card. All prices are in USD.
For additional questions please call 1-888-715-4900 and reference CustomerID(11584805).
All Rights Reserved. We'll contact you when we see you featured in a press article. If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.
View email online.

CustomerID (11584805)

SUBJECT: Updated invitation: Policy Committee Meeting @ Thu Jan 26, 2023 5pm - 7:30pm (CST) (jennifer-johnson@sd308.org)
FROM: Ursula Studer <ustuder@sd308.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, aswanson@sd308.org, kmiller01@sd308.org, jbell01@sd308.org, hkincaid@sd308.org
DATE: 12/30/2022 10:40
ATTACHMENTS (20221230-104057-0000342): "invite.ics"

This event has been updated
Changed: title, time, location, conferencing

When CHANGED

Thursday Jan 26, 2023 · 5pm – 7:30pm (Central Time - Chicago)
~~Wednesday Jan 25, 2023 · 5pm – 7:30pm (Central Time - Chicago)~~

Location CHANGED

District Administration Center, 4175 Route 71, Oswego - Door #2 Room 61
View map

Guests

ustuder@sd308.org - organizer
aswanson@sd308.org
kmiller01@sd308.org
jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
jbell01@sd308.org
hkincaid@sd308.org

View all guest info

Reply for jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

Yes | No | Maybe | More options

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to calendar notifications. To stop receiving these emails, go to Calendar settings, select this calendar, and change "Other notifications".

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer, be added to the guest list, invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or modify your RSVP. Learn more

SUBJECT: Jennifer, here's the plaque offer I promised you
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/30/2022 12:01

No images shown? View online

That'sGreatNews

Call Us 888-239-5731

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Free shipping – next 7 days

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Dear Jennifer

Yesterday I promised you a special offer to celebrate with a plaque of your recent press article.

Here it is , if you order your press article plaque in the next 7 days we'll give you **free shipping**. just use **code ENFS** at the checkout. Start by taking a look at the choice of plaque designs.



Wood



HD Metal Black



Lucinda Premium

Approximate Size: 12x14

Enlarge Plaque Image

Pick plaque options

Use **free shipping code ENFS** at the checkout. Alternatively reply to this email to request we ship the plaque with an invoice or call us on 888-239-5731 quoting ID 11584805.

Article

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Featured

Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District

Publication

OSWEGO LEDGER

Published

Jan 20, 2022



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating





Shopper Approved Reviews



"I was surprise of just how speedy your service was and above all, the Plaque, is simply gorgeous !!! I am going to have 3-4 more done - working on one now."

Papa Boudreaux's Cajun Cafe & Catering

"Kelly Nolan was a wonderful representative. She answered all my questions very clearly and was able to give me all the information that was asked. Customer service was amazing!"

Kids First Pediatric Dentistry

"I have used That's Great News for all of my plaques. They are a fantastic company and I would not ever think of going to a competitor."

Adria Gross MedWise Insurance

"We received great service from "That's Great News". Absolutely no complaints."

Cardinal Ritter P

"The plaque was very well put together and beautiful! The customer service team was amazing! They were very quick to respond, handled my concerns without any problems and were very nice. I would definitely use their services again"

Medic Murder Mix hydrating holistic bug

See your news on a Plaque

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

That's Great News, 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. All Rights Reserved.
Call Us: 888-239-5731 and reference Customer ID (11584805)

Free shipping T&Cs i) Shipping to Continental US/Canada ii) Payment with Credit Card.
All Prices are in USD

If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.

View email online.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Re: Policy Meeting January 25
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
CC: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Kenneth Miller <kmiller01@sd308.org>, Jeremy Bell <jbell01@sd308.org>, Nicholas Baumann <nbaumann@iasb.com>
DATE: 12/31/2022 03:28

Hello,
I will be [redacted] on business. I will be back in time for the 1/30 date.
Jen

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 28, 2022, at 12:11 PM, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Ursula,
>
> Thank you for reaching out. Either of your proposed dates will work for me.
>
> Please let me know if you have any additional questions.
>
> Thank you,
> Heather
>
> On Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:59 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:
>> Good Afternoon,
>>
>> Ali will not be able to meet on January 25th. I asked her about 1/26 (Thursday) and 1/30 (Monday).
>> Just wanted to make sure that there are no potential conflicts on your end.
>>
>> Thank you!
>> Ursula
>>
>> --
>> Ursula Studer
>> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
>> Board of Education Secretary
>> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
>> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
>> Direct: 630-636-3084
>> Fax: 630-636-3665
>>
>> *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

SUBJECT: Automatic reply: Policy Meeting January 25
FROM: Nicholas Baumann <nbaumann@iasb.com>
TO: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 12/31/2022 03:29

Thank you for your email. I am out of the office until Tuesday, December 3rd. I will get back to you as soon as possible after that time.

Thank you,
Nick Baumann | Policy Director
Illinois Association of School Boards
One Imperial Place
1 East 22nd St., Suite 20
Lombard, Illinois 601480-6120
630/629-3776 ext. 1214

SUBJECT: [Free Resource] Download Dr. Tom's Year-End Review Now!
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 12/31/2022 07:07

Hello Jennifer,

I believe that wisdom and insight do not come from experience.

Wisdom and insight come from EVALUATIVE EXPERIENCE. Reflection and processing what went well. What went wrong? How will I improve?

You see, I regret the decisions I did not make more than the bad decisions I did. Then I would have insight on whether or not I was on the right track.

There is GOLD in the reflection process. The problem with us school leaders is we do not always take the time to do so. We are so busy being busy.

I know, over this past twelve months I was the head principal of three different schools. All while running my strategic consulting and leadership development company. We served over 10,000 leaders in 2023! Providing consulting and training services for over 100 schools. I finalized and published my book on the Ten Indicators of High Performing Charter Schools.

My team and I were able to take over ten weeks in vacation in 2022. I spent the month of June in France traveling from town to town with my wife and two children.

We also visited Denver, Seattle and Vancouver to see professional sports (NHL and MLB) games. All part of my life goals that came from me identifying my purpose.

My WHY in life.

If you have yet to begin your Year in Review process I've added mine to the download here.

At minimum, I would reflect and do some authentic journaling on these questions.

- What did I love in 2022?
- Who did I love spending time with in 2022?
- When was I at my best? Where was I and what was I doing?
- Where and when did I make the greatest impact?
- What work sucked the life from me?

When you are done, write out your 2023 vision statements.

I will spend more time doing…

I will not do…

I will spend more time with…

I will spend less time with…

I will look for more opportunities like…

These statements become your guiding principles, affecting how you plan your calendar and how you make your decisions around time and money next year!

Be safe and God bless!

Dr. Tom and Team

Download your Year in Review Template

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Re: Policy Meeting January 25
FROM: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
CC: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Jeremy Bell <jbell01@sd308.org>, Kenneth Miller <kmiller01@sd308.org>, Nicholas Baumann <nbaumann@iasb.com>
DATE: 12/31/2022 11:19

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season!

Thank you,
Heather

On Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 9:39 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning!
>
> This date works for Nick and Dr. Kincaid. If nobody else has a conflict, I'll change the date to January 30.
>
> Happy New Year to all of you!
>
> On Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 3:29 AM Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Hello,
> > I will be in San Francisco on business. I will be back in time for the 1/30 date.
> > Jen
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > > On Dec 28, 2022, at 12:11 PM, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org> wrote:
> > >
> > > Ursula,
> > >
> > > Thank you for reaching out. Either of your proposed dates will work for me.
> > >
> > > Please let me know if you have any additional questions.
> > >
> > > Thank you,
> > > Heather
> > >
> > > On Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:59 AM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:
> > >
> > > > Good Afternoon,
> > > >
> > > > Ali will not be able to meet on January 25th. I asked her about 1/26 (Thursday) and 1/30 (Monday).
> > > > Just wanted to make sure that there are no potential conflicts on your end.
> > > >
> > > > Thank you!
> > > > Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

--
Dr. Heather Kincaid
Assistant Superintendent of Student & Staff Services
Oswego Community Unit School District 308

SD308 OSWEGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Registration Open for the SEL Summer Institute!
FROM: "SEL School Consulting" <molly@selschoolconsulting.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/01/2023 07:32

Register Early and Save Big!



SECOND ANNUAL

THE SEL SUMMER INSTITUTE

Registration Now Open!

August 2 - 4, 2023

Cambridge, Massachusetts

As we reconnect as educators in professional learning spaces, it is critical we keep our eyes on the prize: students' academic, emotional, and social successes. We can impact our future by SEL integration throughout our school communities, so all students know they matter. Join us to implement SEL in your school communities!

- Building Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Practices Through the Lens of SEL - with Strategies to Support Relationships First and the Whole Child Approach
- Student Voice & Teacher Voice using the TIP Model: Thoughtful, Intentional, and Purposeful SEL Implementation
- SEL as a Process, Not (just) a Program
- Apply an Equity Lens to SEL Implementation in School-Wide Practices and Policies
- Develop an Individualized School Community Plan for SEL Integration

LEARN ABOUT REGISTRATION



JANUARY
Team of 6
$10,000

Individual
$1,760

FEBRUARY
Team of 5
$10,000

Individual
$2,250

MARCH
Team of 4
$10,000

Individual
$2,795

Annual, supported, spiraled learning that focuses on building an SEL culture with your Team and your unique SEL roadmap.

REGISTER TODAY & SAVE

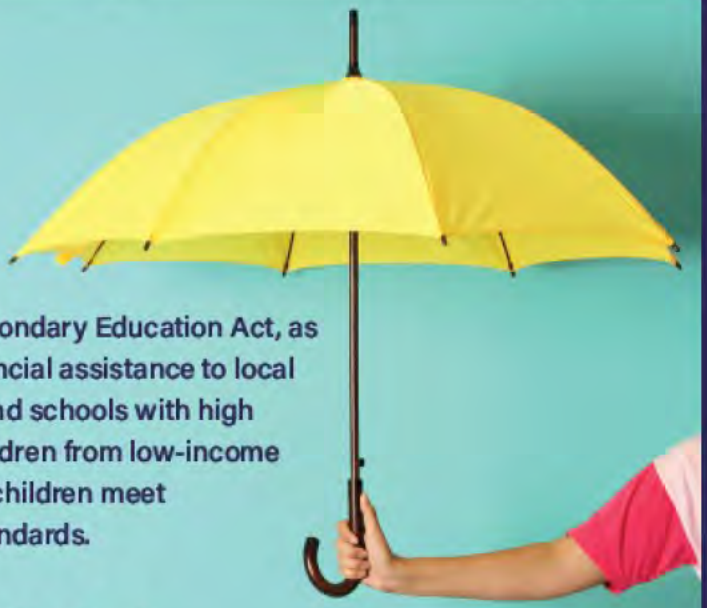
REGISTER NOW

There are resources that offer financial assistance to attend conferences like the 2023 SEL Summer Institute!

Professional Development ★★★

Staffing ★★★★ **Technology** ★★★ **Supplies** ★★

Title 1, Part A



Part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

SEL Supports, it may be allowable to fund:

Attending a seminar or conference

Providing stipends for professional development outside of duty hours

Paying for counselor salary and benefits

Purchasing a tiered program model to prevent/address problem behavior or early intervention services, or software to track data to measure effectiveness programs

Staffing ★★ Technology ★ Supplies ★

Professional Development ★★★★



Title II, Part A

Designed to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher and principal quality and effectiveness.

SEL Supports, it may be allowable to fund:

Providing stipends for professional development outside duty hours.

Covering the registration/travel costs to attend seminars and conferences.

Providing incentives to attract or retain teachers who possess SEL skills to support students and school programs.

LEARN ABOUT SEL FUNDING RESOURCES

Second Step®

PANORAMA EDUCATION

**Restrictions Apply*





SELConsulting, 54 Keewaydin Road, Center Harbor, 03226 NH, USA

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Were you able to see your plaque preview of your press in OSWEGO LEDGER?
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 08:18

Hello Jennifer

Hope you were able to view the proof of the plaque below. I've made it easier for you to order by loading all your shipping info into the link below.

Let me know your color preference; mahogany & gold, black &silver or Lucinda option, Are you okay with the layout?

Jennifer, if you have any questions or need any assistance placing an order I'm happy to help.

Publication: OSWEGO LEDGER
Date: Jan 20, 2022
Subject: D-308 board to seat new member next month
Price: $199 (wood plaque add $38)

Click Here to view your plaque.

Shipping is an additional 10% on the above price but I can give you a FREE SHIPPING if you use code BC10.

Celebrating your great news,

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published
Jan 20, 2022

View my plaque

All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with credit card. All prices are in USD. For any additional questions please call 1-888-715-4900 and reference CustomerID(11584805). All Rights Reserved. We'll contact you when we see you featured in a press article. If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.
View email online.

CustomerID (11584805)

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: "IASB Communications" <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 09:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Pension Problem: What Does It Mean?

January 12, 2023 — noon

When we hear about Illinois' pension funding challenges, what does it mean? While school districts have no direct control over the "pension problem," this webinar will help you to understand how we got here at the state and local levels, how it impacts your district, and ideas for the future. Knowledge of this topic allows board members to be proactive participants in this important conversation as long-term solutions are considered. Join Tom Reedy and Tom Crabtree from Stifel and Jim Snyder from Ice Miller for this timely discussion.

Register Now

More Upcoming Events

IN-PERSON EVENT

South Cook Division Winter Breakfast

January 21, 2023 — 10 a.m.

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

IASB Winter Book Study 2023: High Conflict Part I

January 24, 2023 — noon

Register Now

IASB Events Calendar

View Calendar

DuPage Division Meeting
February 1, 2023

Starved Rock Division Meeting
February 2, 2023

IASB Winter Book Study 2023: High Conflict Part II
February 07, 2023

Beyond March 2020: High-Quality Virtual Learning
February 9, 2023



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688

SUBJECT: School Board Member Survey
FROM: David Houston <noreply@qemailserver.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 12:11

Dear School Board Member:

We are sending along a post-New Year reminder: If you have not yet had the chance to complete our survey examining the perspectives of our nation's current and former school board members, please consider doing so now.

Although over 1,000 of your colleagues from boards across the nation have graciously taken the few minutes needed to complete the survey, we highly value your response. By sharing your views, you will help ensure that the survey is representative of all types of school districts.

Again, to take the survey please go here.

If you do not recall having received our initial request and would like more information on the nature of the survey, please refer to the text pasted below our signature here which contains the original request.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston (George Mason University) Michael Hartney (Boston College)
dhousto@gmu.edu michael.hartney@bc.edu

****
(BEGIN ORIGINAL MESSAGE)

Dear School Board Member,

Greetings! We are assistant professors David Houston (George Mason University) and Michael Hartney (Boston College).

The last few years have been an extraordinary time in American education, and many people have strong opinions about what has gone well and what has gone poorly. However, we too rarely hear the views of an essential group of policymakers: school board members like yourself.

To better understand the local dynamics of education policymaking today, we have developed a brief survey to learn what school board members think about a range of education issues. We know that, as public servants, board members are incredibly busy. We've worked diligently to create a survey that can be completed in 10-15 minutes. Again, you can access the survey here.

Please know that this research was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University (study reference #1998126-1) and that all of your responses are required to be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. Under no circumstance will board member names or even school district names be used in this research. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may elect to skip any questions or even discontinue taking the survey at any point in time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston
dhousto@gmu.edu

Michael Hartney
michael.hartney@bc.edu

Follow this link to the Survey:
Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:
https://gmucehd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy?Q_DL=caTWb9fi3WaOYm2_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy_CGC_wDrTXZ3jfUiIIyR&Q_CHL=email

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:
Click here to unsubscribe

SUBJECT: Re: Tactical Urbanism
FROM: Ambria Spencer <ambria.spencer@granicus.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 17:09

Hi Jennifer,

Any thoughts?

Thanks,

Ambria Spencer

Business Development Representative

P: **202-963-4518**| E: Ambria.Spencer@granicus.com

On Dec 19, 2022 5:57 PM, "Ambria Spencer" <ambria.spencer@granicus.com> wrote:

> Hi Jennifer,
>
> Other Administrative Assistant to the Board's we're talking to are working to use tactical urbanism and build better communities. A great example of this that was discussed was Denver CO using community feedback to improve their downtown and bring locals back after Covid.
>
> We received some great feedback from the webinar on how our engagement platform is helping others to increase participation in projects and get feedback to influence decision-making.
>
> If this is a priority for Os, let's set up a call to share how Oswego Community Unit School District we are helping others and see if we would be a good fit for you as well. Do you have 20 min this upcoming Thursday or Friday?
>
> Best!
> Ambria
>
> **Ambria Spencer**
>
> **Business Development Representative**
>
> P: **202-963-4518**| E: Ambria.Spencer@granicus.com

SUBJECT: Re: Status on this?
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/03/2023 18:45
ATTACHMENTS (20230103-184529-0000340): "image0.png"

I'm so sorry. [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 3, 2023, at 6:41 PM, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Good Evening Jen,
>
> I hope you are doing well. Did you mean to forward something here? Please
> let me know so I can get back to you.
>
> Thank you,
> John
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 6:04 PM
> To: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
> Cc: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
> Subject: Status on this?
>
> Hi John,
>
> Please let me know how this is happening?
>
> [redacted], but
> how could I have missed this?
>
> Thank you,
>
> Jen
>
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Put your family first
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 05:30

Hello Jennifer,

I believe that when a leader puts their family first, the community benefits. When the leader puts the community first, both they and their family suffer.

Starting at home is always the key to affecting others in a positive way.

Being positive models at home is critical for your legacy. Remember, people (especially your children) don't do what people say, people do what people see.

I grew up in a broken home. My parents divorced before I was a year old. Both my mother and father were married multiple times. We didn't speak much about values or relationships (except the bad stuff!)

When I married my wife (twenty years this June!) I honestly never thought it would last. Divorce is all I experienced.

It's hard to grow and improve when the only model you have is your own.

It wasn't until I started to pay closer attention to other couples, couples who had lasted decades and their children, did I begin to learn what it truly meant to be a leader in your home.

Here are some of the modeled qualities I identified in these families. (Note: If you are not a person of faith feel free to skip other them).

Be sure that you are modeling and teaching and modeling strong values and principles in the home. This may include

- Daily Prayer
- Talking about the things of God
- Sharing faith and beliefs
- Practice giving over getting
- Visiting and helping those less fortunate
- Saying only positive things about others (especially in front of the kids)
- Eliminate judgmental behaviors
- Growing mentally and spiritually
- Showing a commitment to each other
- Having a relationship with God or your chosen Higher Power

If you have an immediate family, or a family you are close to, I want to encourage you to put them first in your leadership. There is no legacy like that of the positive influence a leader can exercise with his family.

If you want to impact your community, your country, or your world, the place to start

is at home.

As you create your goals for 2023 and your daily “to do” list I encourage you to reflect on this: Am I truly placing my family first today?

Keep making a difference,

Dr. Tom

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Complimentary consultations on student loan forgiveness programs
FROM: "Info SLHG" <info@contactslhg.com>
TO: Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 08:05

Good Morning Illinois public school employees,

A new year is upon us, with it, a new set of challenges and goals to achieve. One of the biggest financial burdens that most Americans carry is student loan debt. While payments are currently paused, this is a great opportunity to learn about the multiple forgiveness programs and discover which one could help you the most.

Most Popular Forgiveness Programs

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Available since 2007, PSLF forgives the entire remaining balance of your Federal student loans when you make 120 income-driven payments on direct loans while working full-time for a public service employer.

One-time account adjustment: " *A borrower who misses the Limited PSLF Waiver deadline of October 31, 2022, will have one more chance to have their payment count corrected.* "

"While the one-time account adjustment is largely similar to the Limited PSLF Waiver, there are some key differences... the one-time account adjustment provides credit for periods that were not added under the PSLF waiver. It credits certain periods in deferment and forbearance towards IDR and PSLF for months beyond those provided by the Limited PSLF Waiver.

Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF)

Under the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, you may be eligible for forgiveness from $5,000 up to $17,500 on your balance if you:

• Have five consecutive years teaching in a Title 1 school.
• The loan(s) for which you seek forgiveness existed before the end of your five academic years of qualifying teaching service.
• You must not have an outstanding balance on Direct Loans or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans as of Oct. 1, 1998.

Debt Relief Program

The U.S. Department of Education will provide up to $20,000 in debt relief to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by the Department of Education, and up to $10,000 in debt relief to non-Pell Grant recipients. However, courts have issued orders blocking this student debt relief program. As a result, at this time, applications are not being accepted while the litigation is ongoing.

During our over ten years of experience, TSLHG has partnered with teachers and organizations to help countless borrowers get on the right track to gain control of their student loans. **We offer you a complimentary consultation** where a counselor will explain the best option for your situation so you can get started. Schedule an appointment at a time of your convenience.

Schedule your appointment

Continue with phone

The Student Loan Help Group | FL DOACS License *#TC5038*
O. 844.599.5589 | F. 561.207.8007
tslhg.com

TSLHG
THE LOAN EXPERTS

*The Student Loan Help Group assists consumers with all federal student loan filing services. TSLHG is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Zenmax inc. dba The Student Loan Help Group, 11911 US-1 #201-39, North Palm Beach, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408, United States

You may unsubscribe or change your contact details at any time.

SUBJECT: STEAM Experience
FROM: Engineers Teaching Algebra <info@engineersteachingalgebra.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 09:08

Engineers Teaching Algebra brings an engineer into the classroom to lead a fun and engaging STEAM experience. *Engineers Teaching Algebra* is a hands-on 'field trip' in a traditional classroom setting: no gadgets or devices; each student seated with desk space, paper, and a pencil with a good eraser because engineers make mistakes! For students strong or struggling in math, *ETA* is conducted in the belief that a wrong answer is better than no answer, and that problems are solved through trial and error, with patience and imagination. Socratic, engaging, hands-on, relevant and fun; since 1994 conducted in 5000 classrooms, 1800 schools, 38 states.

Algebra is a tool of expression and discovery in all fields of endeavor.
Math is not a subject, it's a necessary *language.*
Engineers Teaching Algebra

Engineers Teaching Algebra | Project-Based Learning, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Unsubscribe jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by info@engineersteachingalgebra.com powered by

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!

SUBJECT: The Teen Mental Health Epidemic: Depression
FROM: Effective School Solutions <nlaqualia@effectiveschoolsolutions.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 10:31

To view this email as a web page, click here

Effective School Solutions

ABOUT US CONTACT CONTENT

MINDBEAT®

A PUBLICATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS

January 4th, 2023

The Teen Mental Health Epidemic: Depression



We are in the midst of a youth mental health crisis that can also be characterized as an epidemic. Growing numbers of children are experiencing anxiety and depression, and increased stressors can exacerbate these symptoms. Read our article to learn more about depression and what schools can do to help.

READ MORE



Episode 3:
The Importance of Universal Mental Health Screening

In this episode, John Crocker, Director of School Mental Health and Behavioral Services for Methuen Public Schools in Massachusetts, joins Duncan and Laine to discuss the most pressing issues relating to student mental health he sees on the ground in his district, the importance of universal mental health screening, and the playbook he uses as the

Founder of the Massachusetts School-Based Mental Health Consortium. Listen now!

LISTEN NOW

K-12 MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDUP

Keep up with developments in school mental health.



Ranch Offers Mental Health Help for Youth



Parents & Teen Mental Health



NJ's Youth Mental Health Services



The Landscape of School-Based Mental Health Services

© 2023 - Effective School Solutions
Privacy Policy
Unsubscribe
121 Chanlon Rd, New Providence, NJ 07974

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #43
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 14:06

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 04, 2023

Happy 2023, and welcome back to Hall Pass! We hope you had a restful holiday!

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over retesting
- In 2022, 114 school board members faced recall efforts
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over retesting

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education

possible in their district.

Should teachers allow students to retake tests? Today, we'll look at perspectives on both sides of that question.

Anthony Palm writes that policies allowing students to take tests one time and that penalize late work are best for student learning. He says these policies motivate students, prevent student procrastination, and give teachers more time to plan lessons.

Thomas R. Guskey writes that retesting should be a standard process of assessment, correction, and reassessment. Guskey says retesting motivates students to improve with a second chance at success and helps to prevent struggling students from falling behind.

The Case for Not Allowing Test Retakes | Anthony Palma, *Edutopia*

"Deadlines and consequences for late work provide scaffolding for students to learn self-control. These policies provide the extrinsic motivation students need to build study habits and time management skills. In my experience, reform policies rely too heavily on students already having strong self-control and intrinsic motivation. … Retake policies also allow students to dig themselves into "late holes" that cause preventable stress and anxiety. My math class builds sequentially: Mastery in early units helps students be successful in the following units. In my experience, traditional policies motivate students to maximize their learning in the first unit, which helps them on every later unit. … Reform policies can be effective if the teacher has time to implement them well. However, every minute writing and grading retakes or grading long-overdue work is a minute that I'm not planning effective and creative instruction, grading current work so students receive timely feedback, or communicating with parents."

Why Should We Allow Students to Retake Assessments? | Thomas R. Guskey, *EducationWeek*

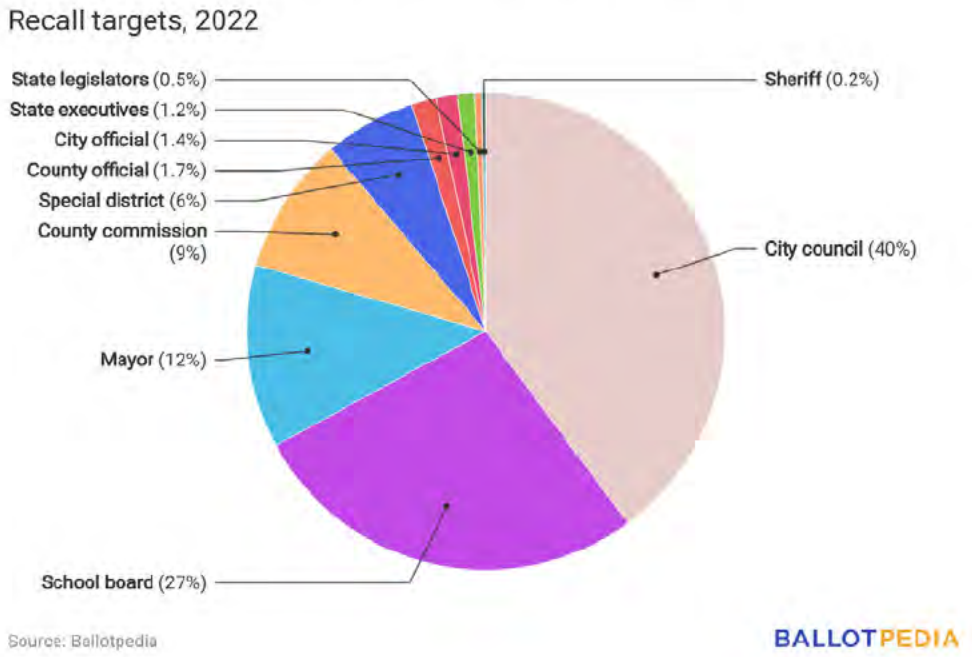
"But assessments alone do little to improve student learning or teaching quality. What counts is what happens after the assessments. Just as regularly checking your weight or blood pressure does little to improve your health if you do nothing with the information, what matters most with formative assessments is what students and teachers do with the results… To bring improvement, Bloom stressed formative assessments must be followed by high-quality, corrective instruction designed to remedy whatever learning errors the assessments identified. … When the correctives are completed after a class period or two, Bloom recommended students who engaged in correctives be given a second, parallel formative assessment for two reasons. First, the second assessment helps teachers determine if the correctives were effective in helping students remedy their learning difficulties. Second, and perhaps more important, it gives students a second chance at success and, hence, has great motivational value.

In 2022, 114 school board members faced recall efforts

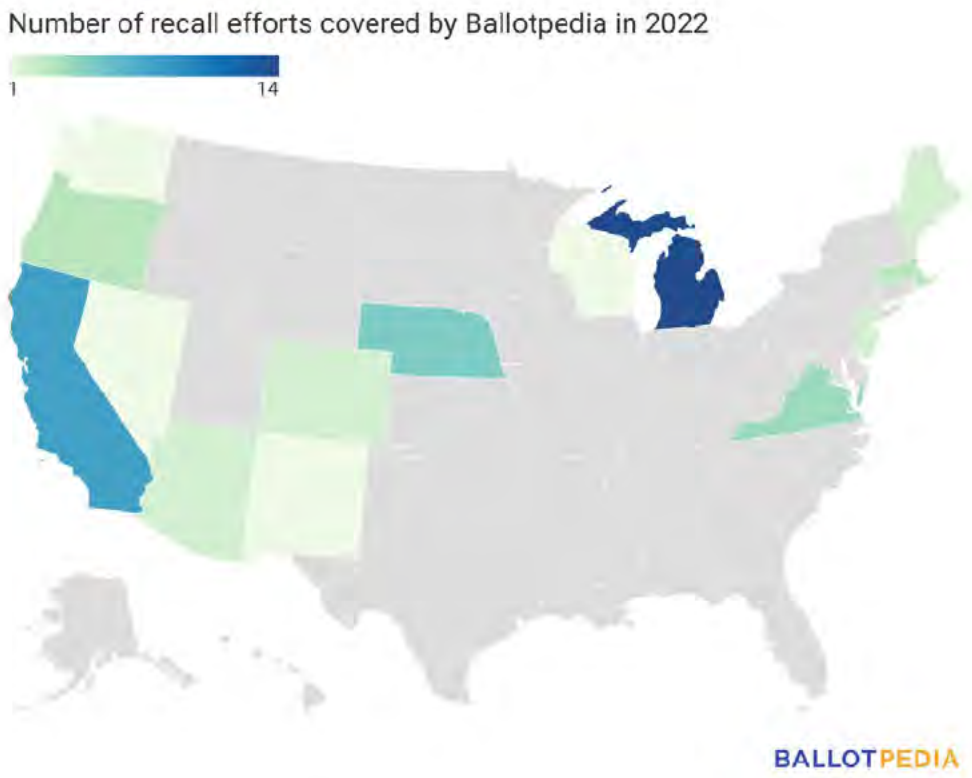
In June 2022, we walked you through our annual mid-year report on recall efforts. We found that in the first half of the year, school board members were the subject of more recall efforts than any other type of officeholder—continuing a trend we saw in 2021. Now that the year is over, let's look back at recall efforts throughout 2022.

We tracked 250 recall efforts against 419 officials throughout the year, with city council members leading the list. Although school board members were the objects of more recall efforts in the first half of the year, they finished the year second to city council members. **A total of 167 city council or town board members faced recall campaigns in 2022, while 114 school board members faced recall campaigns.**

Overall, 56 officials across all office types were recalled in 2022.



In 2021, school board members faced more recalls than other types of officeholders for the first time since 2012, when Ballotpedia began tracking recall efforts. Previously, city council members faced the most recalls.
We tracked 50 school board recall efforts against 114 board members last year. Recall elections against school board members were held on Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 24, Feb. 15, March 29, April 4, and Nov. 8, 2022. The school board recall success rate was 7.0%.



Here are a few notable school board recall efforts from 2022:

- Recall elections against Dave Brown and Brian Shannon, Zone 6 and 7 representatives on the Newberg School District school board in Oregon, respectively, were held in January 2022. Both members retained their offices with 52% of the vote opposing the recall. The recall effort against Shannon started after the board voted 4-3 on Aug. 10, 2021, to remove Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ pride flags in district schools. The ban also included political signs, clothing, and other items. The effort to recall Brown began after the board voted 4-3 to fire Superintendent Joe Morelock without cause. Morelock had been under contract through June 2024.
- In February 2022, voters recalled San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education members Gabriela López, Alison Collins, and Faauuga Moliga. Recall supporters had said they were frustrated district schools remained closed for nearly a year in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also noted the time the board spent voting to rename 44 buildings in the district instead of focusing on opening schools.
- An effort to recall three members of the Richland School District school board in Washington—M. Semi Bird, Audra Byrd, and Kari Williams —began in the spring of 2022. Recall supporters said the board members violated the Open Public Meetings Act; violated district policies, procedures, and code of ethics; and voted to make masks optional while a statewide mask requirement was in place. All three board members denied any wrongdoing and appealed the petition to the Washington Supreme Court. Requires “acts of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office or violation of oath of office” for a recall to move forward. If the state supreme court rules the petition drive can begin, supporters will have 180

days to collect signatures equal to 35% of the votes cast for the school board seats in the last election.
- An effort to recall three of the seven members of the Salem-Keizer Public Schools school board in Oregon did not qualify for the ballot after organizers did not turn in the required number of signatures by the November 2022 deadline. The effort began after the school board voted 4-3 to approve a resolution prohibiting concealed guns on school property.

You can read more about our year-end recall analysis here. Click here for more information about school board recalls specifically.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- Making Time for Academic Recovery in the School Day: Ideas From 3 Principals | *Education Week*
- Educational Improvement Is Not about Spending More Money | *National Review*
- Do protocols for school safety infringe on disability rights? | *The Hechinger Report*
- What will Vermont lawmakers do about religious schools? | *VTDigger*
- Why New York's neediest families aren't using free pre-K and 3K | *Politico*
- Big Ideas About America's Schools: Our 18 Most Discussed Essays of 2022 | *The 74 Million*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Madison Klovstad Miner, who won the general election for Orange Unified Board of Education Trustee Area 4 in California, and Staci Martin, who won in the general election for Virginia Beach City Public Schools District 4 in Virginia. election for Virginia Beach City Public Schools District.

Here's how Miner answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"I am concerned with the overreach from special interest groups in our childrens' schools. Our hard earned tax dollars should be spent in the classrooms and our teachers need better support. Our children are all different and deserve opportunities for more individualized curriculum."

Click here to read the rest of Miner's answers.

Here's how Martin answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"I am personally passionate and knowledgeable about how education impacts economic development and household wealth acquisition. We lose too much human potential to the lack of a few hundred dollars in resources. I understand the connections between creating growth opportunities that generate revenue for a locality and how investing some of that revenue into education continues a self-reinforcing growth pattern that keeps taxes low. I understand that our city has a debt cap and that the debt must be allocated with education as its highest priority and with economic development as its second highest priority. From there, our locality revenues will maintain a growth pattern against the backdrop of an educated workforce, entrepreneurship, and innovation."

Click here to read the rest of Martin's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Board of Education Meeting Agenda - 01.09.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/04/2023 15:24
ATTACHMENTS (20230104-152455-0000338): "01.09.23 Board Agenda.doc"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached is the agenda for the Board of Education meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023.

Happy New Year!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/04/2023 15:52

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education
Meeting
Date: January 9, 2023 (Monday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DkCFa_jrUqf5zwH7FzSx1F7hMR784Uk6tmIBLnzYQhft7PcGq5nFLaBbbjWrmzTObI-2BKMZVkHKAxRAiproIUtfnsiqegegGOCy373c28IfsQDXQcHMAnM-2Bx9zEKL8QLdMKqRBIbyZ2PQUlw8yby8yBSa0L7CWIJV3u03Ana4coh4a9ydTCvVQ9AZA9F7l5Ki1navrVSdCXFDgqgWbKO4CATTEWrOBwQHrULSdymt0wAPNEf00-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: Ledger Article Follow Up
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, mlemon@ottosenlaw.com, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/04/2023 16:51
ATTACHMENTS (20230104-165128-0000337): "image0.png"

Good Afternoon,

Last night I received an email from a BOE member that asked for more information regarding an article they had saw online. I have attached what was sent to me last night. Today at our weekly meeting with Mrs. Simelton and Mr. Gatewood, we talked about this and I shared I would be sending the Board an update.

The Ledger reporter reached out to Theresa on Tuesday asking for confirmation that a gravel parking lot plan was submitted to the Village. Theresa consulted with Bill Queen and Dr. Petzke and replied simply that Meritcorp had provided drawings to the district.

The reporter replied with a longer list of questions, which Theresa was in the process of researching and preparing answers for when the story went to print (less than 2 hours after the email of questions was sent). The news article did state that officials with the district had not yet replied.

The district sent our responses to the questions today and asked some additional questions of our own. Specifically, how the misinformation included in the article will be corrected? Will they print what we send or do we need to prepare a news release of our own? The story is misleading as it claims the project is planned and moving forward, which is not accurate.

Dr. Petzke did inform us that our civil engineer from Meritcorp, Todd Roberts, had provided Bill Queen with the drawings, and he shared them with the Village to make sure it met their requirements - so if the Board were to ever move forward with the additional gravel parking lot project we were set with the project bid as presented by Meritcorp.

At no time was it communicated to the Village or to the media that plans were in place to move forward with the project. It is unclear at this time how the reporter was informed of the Village's review of the plan, Theresa has inquired but not yet received a reply. I will keep you posted on any additional information we receive on this issue.

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308

SUBJECT: Listen Here - Possip's CEO on Ted Talks
FROM: Lauren McKee <lauren@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/05/2023 09:45



Dear Jennifer,

When I first started Possip, two big questions stood before me like boulders in a path.

1. *Will schools even want regular feedback?*
2. *Will parents ever share?*

In my mind, ***hearing from families would help schools be stronger****. But the question of whether schools wanted feedback – or whether parents would share – became potential obstacles.*
As we close out our 6th year of Possip, I can answer both questions definitively.

Yes.

Shani Dowell
CEO and Founder, Possip

Read the rest of Shani's reflections for the new year here!



Listen to Possip's CEO and Founder on the TED Business Podcast here!
Possip's story starts at minute 7:30

Join us for our upcoming events!



30 Minutes: Possip Live Demo, it's easy as 1-11-23!

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
11 AM CT / 12 PM ET

Ready to learn more about how Possip can serve you to engage families, improve staff morale, and identify problems.



Ideas for Improving Attendance and Increasing Enrollment

Tuesday, January 24th, 2023
12 PM CT / 1 PM ET

Join Possip's CEO Shani Dowell along with invited guests as we share ideas for improving attendance and increasing enrollment.

Register here for these impactful events!

About Possip

Possip is on a mission to help schools strengthen their communities through improved communication. Join over 1 million parents, students, and staff that are part of the work.



Possip, 615 Main St., Nashville, Tennessee 37206

Unsubscribe Manage preferences

SUBJECT: Free shipping on your press plaque ends tomorrow
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/05/2023 12:02

Hello Jennifer

Free shipping on your press plaque ends tomorrow

I just wanted to remind you that the offer of free shipping on a custom plaque for your article, D-308 board to seat new member next month ends tomorrow.

Check which plaque design you want and use code ENFS at the checkout for free shipping. That's it.

Celebrating your great news.

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News

PS. Please call me on 888-239-5731 for personal service quoting your article ID 11584805 or reply to this email if you're short on time and we'll help you.



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating





That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published

View my plaque

That's Great News, 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. All Rights Reserved.
Call Us: 888-239-5731 and reference Customer ID (11584805)

Free shipping T&Cs i) Shipping to Continental US/Canada ii) Payment with Credit Card.
All Prices are in USD

If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.

View email online.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

That'sGreatNews

CustomerID (11584805)

SUBJECT: Board Attorney Feedback
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/05/2023 14:46
ATTACHMENTS (20230105-144624-0000336): "School Board Attorney Feedback.xlsx"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

LaTonya asked me to send you the attached form, providing feedback to our board's legal council. In order to provide feedback that reflects the voice of our entire body, please review and be prepared to discuss responses.

This item will be discussed in our second closed session at the end of the meeting. You can fill out the form and send it back to me to have printed out for you at the meeting, or just make notes to be prepared for the discussion.

Eventually I will combine everyone's feedback into a google document.

Thank you very much for your time!
Ursula
--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: IASB Call to Action (Act Now to DEFEAT HB 5188)
FROM: "IASB Governmental Relations" <mbuch@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 11:15

Click here for a mobile/web version



Call to Action (Act NOW to Defeat HB 5188)

Lame Duck Legislature Seeks to Mandate Sex Education in Illinois

The IASB Governmental Relations team is diligently working a roll call in the Illinois Senate as I type this request to you for action. We need your help to stop the passage of HB 5188, as amended, which will MANDATE Illinois public schools to teach “age appropriate” sex education beginning in kindergarten.

PLEASE ACT NOW to contact your State Senator to encourage them to VOTE NO on House Bill 5188, as amended. The full language of the amendment can be found on the General Assembly Website.

Late last evening, State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) posted an amendment to HB 5188 that would require sex ed to be taught in kindergarten through grade 12 in Illinois schools. IASB has worked in good faith with stakeholders on sex ed standards and curriculum for several years. Previous sex ed bills focused on content of curriculum while still
preserving local control
around the decision to offer sex ed to all students. *HB 5188 removes that local option*
and MANDATES the national sex ed curriculum standards for all schools.

Please call your Senator’s office directly. Contact information can be found at www.ilga.gov or If you are not sure who your local legislator is, you can find that information on the Illinois State Board of Elections website by entering your address.

Advocacy Resources | Legislative Reports

Illinois Association of School Boards
Springfield: 2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 Phone: (217) 528-9688
Lombard: One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 20, Lombard, Illinois 60148 Phone: (630) 629-3776

The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.

Click here to unsubscribe.

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Jennifer, last chance to save your plaque, just reply to secure the deal
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 12:02

Hello Jennifer

Today is the last day of **free shipping** on your custom press plaque for the recent article, D-308 board to seat new member next month.

Jump on over to the online store to view your plaque, pick your options and use **free shipping code ENFS** at the checkout.

No time today? Just reply to this email saying 'yes' and I'll send you your acrylic Lucinda Premium plaque costing $199 with free shipping. Hit **reply now** and it will soon be on its way to you at: 195 East Bridge Street, Oswego, 13126

If you've any extra requirements or would like more than one plaque, just let us know by email or alternatively call us on 888-239-5731 quoting ID 11584805.

Celebrating your great news,

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News

PS. There really is **no risk**, if you don't *love your plaque*, we guarantee you can return it for a prompt **no quibble refund. Reply back by email today** or order online to get the deal.



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published
Jan 20, 2022

View my plaque

That's Great News, 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. All Rights Reserved.
Call Us: 888-239-5731 and reference Customer ID (11584805)

Free shipping T&Cs i) Shipping to Continental US/Canada ii) Payment with Credit Card.
All Prices are in USD

If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.

View email online.

CustomerID (11584805)

SUBJECT: Announcing Jenna Hager at NSBA 2023
FROM: Annual Conference <annualconference@nsba.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/06/2023 13:32

nsba APRIL 1-3 2023 ORLANDO

Keynote Speakers



Sheryl Lee Ralph
ABC TV's "Abbott Elementary" Star Actress, Singer, Advocate



Jenna Hager
Co-Host, NBC's TODAY; Bestselling Author



Coming Soon

Jenna Hager, NBC's TODAY co-host and bestselling author, is joining the star-studded keynote lineup for the **NSBA 2023 Annual Conference** in **Orlando!** On Sunday, April 2, Jenna will take center stage to share impactful stories of how small changes can make a big difference. Stay tuned for the final keynote announcement.

The registration price increases after Jan. 11—save $100 by registering today!

Individual Registration **Group Registration**

All school districts, including those in states that are not part of NSBA, can attend NSBA Signature Events!

Concurrent Sessions

With over 100 sessions across nine focus areas, it's easy to find content that benefits your district. **Check out some of the sessions offered at NSBA 2023:**

- Effective Advocacy for Improving School Infrastructure
- Disable the Label: Offering Therapeutic Services Without the Need for a Disability

- Parents' Rights in Education
- Magnify Your Board Message Using the "Power of Podcasting"
- Civility: How to Keep the Conversation Productive When Feelings Are Strong
- Accessing Funding for School Safety after Uvalde
- Maintaining Healthy Board-Superintendent Relationships During Difficult Times
- Everyone Has a Story: Personalizing Learning for Each and Every Student
- Leveraging E-Rate Budgets to Maximize Learning and Security in Schools



Share Tweet Share

National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Fl 2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493
Phone: (703) 838-6722
Click here to unsubscribe.

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 15:54
ATTACHMENTS (20230106-155428-0000334): "Superintendent's Update - 01.06.23.docx" , "OEHS Parking Lot Article.pdf" , "BOE Memo_ Production Organization.docx"

Good afternoon,

Here is today's update. I hope that you have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 16:07

Online Update: News from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Online Update

January 6, 2023

January/February Illinois School Board Journal



The first 2023 issue of the Illinois School Board Journal takes a look back at the 2022 Joint Annual Conference and provides the next installment in the long-running administrator salaries series. The administrator salary series includes statewide and regional comparisons for superintendents, principals, and other administrators. Also featured in the January/February issue is school district social media use, how district leadership teams work together, and information on collective bargaining and equitable access in rural schools.

Call To Action: HB 5188

The IASB Governmental Relations team issued a Call to Action on Friday, January 6 regarding House Bill 5188, which, as amended, would mandate sex education be

taught in kindergarten through grade 12 in all Illinois public schools. HB 5188 removes local control options and requires that national sex ed curriculum standards be used for Illinois districts. IASB is urging board members to contact their legislators and encourage a “no vote” on the amended bill.



Winter Book Study

IASB has announced the return of the Winter Book Study, this year featuring the title *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out* by Amanda Ripley. Join the conversations with fellow school leaders to discover how to identify and address “high conflict,” and discuss strategies that lead to healthy, “good conflict.” The Winter Book Study will be held over Zoom from noon-1 p.m. on January 24, and February 7 and 21. Registration is free and will close on January 18.



IASB Introduces Three Regional Events for Spring 2023

Districts Encouraged to Share Successful Programs and Outcomes via Panel Presentations at 2023 Conference

Registration, Schedule Available for COSSBA Inaugural Conference, March 31-April 2

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 102-46
FROM: "IASB Legislative Report" <zmessersmith@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/06/2023 16:16

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (102-46)



Legislature Convenes Lame Duck Session

Late on Thursday, January 5 the Illinois Senate posted an amendment to **House Bill 5188 (Villivalam, D-Chicago)** that would require sex education in kindergarten through

12th grades. The amendment was posted at about 9 p.m. and heard an hour after its posting in the Senate Executive Committee. The Illinois Association of School Boards has worked on sex ed standards and curriculum for several years. Previous sex ed bills focused on content of curriculum while still preserving local control around the decision to offer sex ed to all students. HB 5188 removes that local option and mandates the national sex ed standards for all schools. IASB encourages you to continue to make your voice heard on House Bill 5188. Please review the IASB Call to Action and make your voice heard in the process.

In the House, most of the focus was on firearms and abortion access. While those two issues garnered most of the week's attention, an important, clarifying language, **House Bill 4228 (Hoffman, D-Belleville)** passed the House and will now head to the Governor. HB 4228 is a clean-up of a measure, **Senate Bill 3789 (Morrison, D-Highwood)** that could have required school districts to conduct a decennial efficiency study. House Bill 4228 inserts into the law the definition of local government found in the Illinois Constitution, which does not include school districts.

Advocacy Resources **Legislative Reports**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: SD 308 Fine Arts December Newsletter!
FROM: Michael Jon Skura <mskura@sd308.org>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/09/2023 07:29

SD308 COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
World-Class Schools Serving Caring Communities

Fine Arts January Newsletter

SD 308 Fine Art Colleagues, Happy Monday & New Year, January 9th, 2023! Great celebrations in this month's newsletter; ***"Make it Happen"*** and bring out the best creativity & skill from our SD 308 Fine Arts Students!

Check Out All that is in this Newsletter!

ILMEA All-State OEHS & OHS Students!

Congratulations, OEHS Wolf Artist, 3rd Place OEHS!

ILMEA Conference

From the OEHS Band Department, congratulations to the following students!

ILMEA

ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ILMEA All-State Band

Diego Carrillo - Bb Clarinet
Sean Elliot - Alto Saxophone
Greg Lazatin - Tenor Saxophone
David Vasquez - Bb Clarinet
Andrew Walden - Contrabass Clarinet

ILMEA All-State Orchestra

Aidan Murray - Trombone

ILMEA All-State Chorus

Peyton Elliot - Alto I
Luke Exner - Bass II
Luke Ahlquist - Bass I (Honors)

Future Music Educator

Andrew Sniegowski





ILMEA

ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL

ILMEA ALL STATE BAND

Lily Blodgett - 12h Grade - Eb Clarinet

Miranda Dominguez - 12th Grade - French Horn

Owen Driscoll - 10th Grade - Bassoon

Harley Engdahl - 10th Grade - Bass Clarinet

Connor Franke - 12th Grade - Bass Trombone

ILMEA ALL STATE JAZZ BAND

Charlie Snyder - 11th Grade - String/Electric Bass

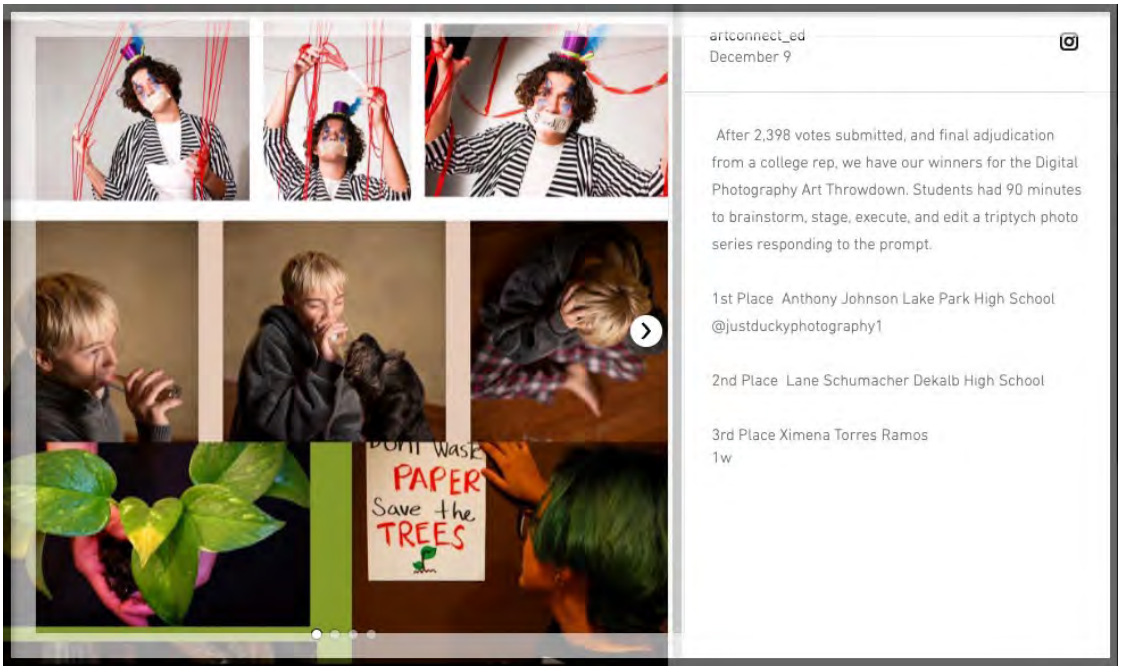
ILMEA ALL STATE VOCAL JAZZ

Aidan Schmidt - 12th Grade - Bass (Vocals)









Congratulations to Oswego East High School Wolf Artist Ximena Torres Ramos Places 3rdat Digital Photography Art Throwdown through ArtConnected



ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars -
we can't wait to see you **January 25-28, 2023, in Peoria for IMEC 2023!**

ATTENDEE PREREGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2023 ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE!

Click Here to Register and Find Out More

Fine Arts Mission Statement

The SD 308 Fine Arts provides balance to each student by nurturing an environment that fosters the development and understanding of artistic skills and sensibilities, producing lifelong learners with the ability to create, appreciate, and contribute to culture.

Illinois Art Education Association, our Annual Conference, is coming this November! Please consider attending! Not a member yet? Consider being part of the united front of Art Educators & Partners. Click on this LINK to register or renew your membership!

ILMEA

ILLINOIS MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Illinois Music Education Association! Click on the LINK for more information.

Educational Theatre Association™

Illinois Thespian Society**-Are you an Honor Troupe? Please consider applying for this prestigious honor by clicking HERE.**

Arts Alliance IL

Arts Alliance Illinois-Please check out their NEWSLETTER by signing up! Also, consider being a member!

Some Important Dates to Make A Note of:

Jan. 9th, First Day Back to School 2nd Semester.
Jan. 14th St. Francis University High School Art Exhibition Reception 12 pm
Jan. 18th Jazz Showcase with Jazz 1 4:00 – 9:30 pm
Jan. 20th - 21st Purdue Jazz Festival
Jan. 25th Orange Jazz 2 at Heroes West at 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Jan. 26th - 28th ILMEA Periora
Jan. 29th Scholastic Opening Reception Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm.
Feb. 7th Blue Jazz 3 at the Venue at 6:30 pm
Feb. 9th WS Concert at Wentz Hall with TR/TH
Feb. 11th Evanston JazzFest (Jazz 2/3)

Have a VERY CREATIVE 2nd Semester!

This email was sent to jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
SD 308 Fine Arts · 4175 Route 71 · Oswego, Il 60543 · USA

mailchimp

SUBJECT: SD308 January Staff Update
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
BCC: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/09/2023 08:00

Welcome back, SD308 Staff,

We hope you had a good break with time to relax and do things you enjoy with family or friends. Here is the January Staff Update.

Thanks for reading,
Faith
--

SUBJECT: Fwd: SD308 January Staff Update
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 01/09/2023 10:46

Good Morning and Happy New Year, BOE,

Here is the monthly staff update that ELT works together to send out. It was sent to staff this morning.

Thanks,
Faith

SUBJECT: Final Reminder for Professors' School Board Member Survey
FROM: Michael Hartney <noreply@qemailserver.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/09/2023 11:21

Dear School Board Member:

Dr. Houston and I are sending along one **final** reminder to ask that if you have not yet had the chance to complete our school boards survey, that you please consider doing so now. The study will conclude—and survey will no longer be accessible—on Wednesday, January 18.

Although over 3,000 of your colleagues from across the nation have graciously taken the few minutes needed to complete the survey, we still very much value your response. By sharing your views, you will help ensure that the survey is representative of all types of school districts.

Again, to take the survey please go here.

If you do not recall having received our initial request and would like more information on the nature of the survey, please refer to the text pasted below our signature here which contains the original request.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

Michael Hartney (Boston College) David Houston (George Mason University)
michael.hartney@bc.edu dhousto@gmu.edu

****
(BEGIN ORIGINAL MESSAGE)

Dear School Board Member,

Greetings! We are assistant professors David Houston (George Mason University) and Michael Hartney (Boston College).

The last few years have been an extraordinary time in American education, and many people have strong opinions about what has gone well and what has gone poorly. However, we too rarely hear the views of an essential group of policymakers: school board members like yourself.

To better understand the local dynamics of education policymaking today, we have developed a brief survey to learn what school board members think about a range of education issues. We know that, as public servants, board members are incredibly busy. We've worked diligently to create a survey that can be completed in 10-15 minutes. Again, you can access the survey here.

Please know that this research was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University (study reference #1998126-1) and that all of your responses are required to be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. Under no circumstance will board member names or even school district names be used in this research. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may elect to skip any questions or even discontinue taking the survey at any point in time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. And, most importantly, thank you for your board service.

Sincerely,

David Houston dhousto@gmu.edu
Michael Hartney michael.hartney@bc.edu

Follow this link to the Survey:
Take the Survey

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:
https://gmucehd.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy?Q_DL=caTWb9fi3WaOYm2_8uYhz1Y6C63XlIy_CGC_wDrTXZ3jfUiIIyR&Q_CHL=email

Follow the link to opt out of future emails:
Click here to unsubscribe

SUBJECT: NSBA 2023 Closing Keynote: Adam Cheyer
FROM: Annual Conference <annualconference@nsba.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/09/2023 17:06

nsba APRIL 1-3 2023 ORLANDO

Keynote Speakers



Sheryl Lee Ralph
ABC TV's "Abbott Elementary" Star Actress, Singer, Advocate



Jenna Hager
Co-Host, NBC's TODAY; Bestselling Author



Adam Cheyer
Inventor of Siri, Engineer, Entrepreneur

Two Days Left to Save

We are excited to announce **Adam Cheyer**, inventor of Siri, engineer, and entrepreneur, as our closing keynote for **NSBA's 2023 Annual Conference**! On Monday, April 3, Adam will share insight for virtual education. **The registration price increases after Wednesday, Jan. 11 —save $100 by registering today!**

Individual Registration **Group Registration**

All school districts, including those in states that are not part of NSBA, can attend NSBA Signature Events!

Preconference Workshops

Come early and attend a preconference workshop on Friday, March 31. You'll also get bonus networking time with your colleagues in a smaller group setting. All preconference

Experiential Learning Visit

Visit local Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) and join the superintendent, board members, staff, and students to learn about the development and implementation of their

workshops are ticketed events and must be purchased in advance.
View descriptions and register.

current strategic plan. Tickets must be purchased in advance.
Learn more and register.

Share Tweet Share

National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Fl 2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493
Phone: (703) 838-6722
Click here to unsubscribe.

SUBJECT: Become the Leader Your School and Community Needs
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/10/2023 04:11

View in Web Browser

Hi Jennifer,

Years ago, after successfully leading a school out of potential bankruptcy, a low academic performance status and a devastating leadership transition—I was thrilled. Thrilled with myself and the team's performance.

Until enrollment continued to drop and hardly any employees renewed their contracts for the next year.

I realized that despite our success on paper, I was out of influence.

To make this turnaround happen, I did everything I knew how to do.

I realized that for the growth to continue, I'd need new tools. The leader I was at that moment wasn't the leader I'd need to be to bring the organization to its next milestone. I wasn't the leader that was truly going to make a difference in the leadership development of others. To transform organizations through their mission, vision and goals.

I realized that this transformation that occurred, was all about ME.

It was not until I truly began to study the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, and spent intentional time asking questions about how I could grow into the leader the community needed from me to my mentors from the Maxwell Leadership Program, have I truly made a difference.

That was seven years ago…and which I've used any other since.

And, by far, it's been the highest Return on Investment (personally and professionally) I've ever made.

Maybe you're where I was?

You have big goals but aren't sure the levers you've pulled in the past will get you where you want to go.

Or you realize the value of an experienced coach or mentor to be your sounding board and to hold you accountable.

Or you know your school and team can benefit from our proven systems, leadership training, and school improvement tools.

As we launch into 2023, drawing closer to the end of school year, and you're working hard to close the school year on a high note, if you feel that a high quality, collaborative professional development program could help you —whatever your challenges and goals—I invite you to explore our upcoming "A Leader's Journey" leadership program for school leaders. It's a deep dive mastermind into the best selling leadership book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, accompanied with teaching videos from the author John Maxwell, and led by a certified Maxwell Leadership Program Executive Director (That's me!).

The link below will take you to the details. The skinny is we kick off January 23rd and meet for 60-90 minutes every two weeks as a leadership community. We discuss two chapters during each session. In between our live sessions you'll receive daily thoughts and weekly challenges to deepen your reflection and apply what you are learning. All for a limited time investment of $199.

<<Register Now>>

In all, the program is 20 weeks long ($10 a week), but the learning will last you a lifetime! I guarantee after this leadership study you will be more prepared to handle the daily challenges that come your way as a leader.

I am also giving away two special bonuses. The first is access to our Principles of Leadership mastermind archive. Every book study I have led over the last five years in one place. Also, a three day pass to Live2Lead 2022. This ondemand leadership library features keynotes of ten of the top thought leaders on our planet today. This is another $300 in professional development for you for free!

Here is that link again

If you are not sure, reply to this email and let's set up a no-pressure conversation that will help you clarify your vision for your leadership—the first step in identifying opportunities that wait for you in plain sight.

Keep making a difference,

Dr. Tom

Register Here

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Upcoming IASB Events
FROM: "IASB Communications" <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/10/2023 09:06

Click here for a mobile/web version

Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Pension Problem: What Does It Mean?

January 12, 2023 — noon

When we hear about Illinois' pension funding challenges, what does it mean? While school districts have no direct control over the "pension problem," this webinar will help you to understand how we got here at the state and local levels, how it impacts your district, and ideas for the future. Knowledge of this topic allows board members to be proactive participants in this important conversation as long-term solutions are considered. Join Tom Reedy and Tom Crabtree from Stifel and Jim Snyder from Ice Miller for this timely discussion.

Register Now

More Upcoming Events

ONLINE WEBINAR

IASB Winter Book Study 2023: High Conflict Part I

January 24, 2023 — noon

Register Now

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Future is Now - Why This is the Best Time to Go Green
January 26, 2023 — noon

Register Now

IASB Events Calendar

View Calendar

South Cook Division Winter Breakfast
January 21, 2023

DuPage Division Meeting
February 1, 2023

Focusing the Board on Renovation
February 2, 2023

Starved Rock Division Meeting
February 2, 2023



Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: You're invited to tomorrow's virtual demo!
FROM: Lauren McKee <lauren@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/10/2023 10:04



Hi Jennifer,

Our partners say that using Possip as a tool to hear from their diverse school communities helps **make listening easy, and quick, and enables a stronger community.**

Join Possip's live demo tomorrow, January 11th, at 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET to learn how we can help you and your school, district, and families.

See how Possip works, ask questions, and learn how you can tap into the power of feedback for your school or community!

Click here to register!

> *"It [Possip] has revolutionized the way I think about how we engage with our families. This has been the biggest response we've ever had."*



Tina Hike-Hubbard
Baltimore City Schools
Chief of Communications, Engagement and Enrollment
Read the full story here!

Possip is on a mission to help schools strengthen their communities through

improved communication. Join over 1 million parents, students, and staff that are part of the work.

Possip, 615 Main St., Nashville, Tennessee 37206

Unsubscribe Manage preferences

Having trouble seeing this email? View Online

You must be a World of Hyatt member, have received this offer from Hyatt, and register between January 9, 2023 and February 28, 2023 to participate. Only Elig ble Nights on stays completed after registration and between January 9, 2023 and March 19, 2023 (“Promotion Period”) will count towards this promotion. Beginning on your first eligible stay completed after registration and during the Promotion Period, you will receive 1,500 Bonus Points for every Eligible Night at Hyatt hotels and resorts worldwide, participating MGM Rewards destinations, Small Luxury Hotels of the World (“SLH”) properties, and Lindblad Expeditions. A maximum of 15,000 Bonus Points may be earned under this promotion. All points awarded under this promotion are Bonus Points. For the purpose of this promotion, an “Eligible Night” is defined as any night where a member is paying an Eligible Rate or redeems a free night award. Only the room occupied by the member will count toward this promotion. You must provide your World of Hyatt membership number before the time of checkout for each stay. Please allow two to three weeks after checkout for Bonus Points to be posted to your World of Hyatt account. Except as expressly stated, this promotion is not valid with other offers, promotions or discounts and is non-transferable. This promotion may be altered or withdrawn at any time and, where required, an alternate offer of similar value will be offered. Void where prohibited by law. This promotion is subject to the terms and conditions of the World of Hyatt program available at worldofhyatt.com/terms. Hyatt®, World of Hyatt®, and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates. ©2023 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

We sent you this email because we have your email address designated as eligible to receive promotions and special offers. We value your privacy and will only use your information in accordance with our Global Privacy Policy available at privacy.hyatt.com

To manage your e-mail subscriptions or to opt out of receiving e-mail marketing from us you may:

1. Manage your subscriptions online
   or

2. Write to (include World of Hyatt membership number):
   worldofhyatt@hyatt.com or
   World of Hyatt Customer Service
   9805 Q Street
   Omaha, NE 68127

Please allow at least seven (7) full business days from receipt of your message for us to remove your name from our subscriber list.

As used herein, the terms "we", "our", "Hyatt", and "Hyatt Hotels & Resorts®" encompass hotels managed, franchised or leased by affiliates of Hyatt Hotels Corporation. Hyatt®, World of Hyatt and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates.

© 2023 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

SUBJECT: Special Meeting for Search Firm Presentations
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/10/2023 17:29

Good Evening Board Members,

As discussed last night, please send me your top 3 search firms by Monday, January 16.
I have selected 4 dates between January 23 and February 2 to hold a special meeting for the Search Firm Presentations. Ideally the firm could then be approved at the February 6 Board meeting if you wish.

Please select the dates that would work for you by the end of the week at the following link:
https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e798qDwb

Thank you for all you do!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Everything You Need To Thrive As a Leader
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 04:14

View in Web Browser

Hi Jennifer,

People often ask me how I've been able to build such a flexible and lucrative business working as an interim principal, providing training, consulting and organizational support without burning myself out sacrificing massive amounts of family time.

In this email, I'm going to share the secret..

The game-changer for me was to begin listening to one voice. Finally choosing to leverage and master the one set of leadership principles that were guaranteed to raise my overall leadership skills and be a leader with massive, positive influence in every situation. This voice was world-renowned transformational leadership expert John Maxwell's and his book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership.

Through studying these leadership principles I realized that although I was born with some leadership skills, and was already a productive, accomplished professional, I was not a very strong leader of others.

The ability to lead is really a collection of skills, all of which can be learned and improved.

But that process does not happen overnight.

Leadership is complicated.

It has so many facets: respect, experience, emotional strength, people skills, discipline, vision,

momentum, timing - the list goes on and on!

This is why leaders require so much seasoning to be effective…

Seasoning and a blueprint for success.

The great news is, your leadership is not static. No matter where you're starting from, you can get better.

If you're interested in developing your leadership skills, creating a consistent stream of influence, developing a long term plan of personal and professional leadership growth, participating in our upcoming leadership program (A Leader's Journey) could be exactly what you need.

Whether you have been in a leadership position for ten years, ten days, or are still rising through your organization, this study is for you.

John Maxwell just revised his best selling book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, now in its 25th year. This book has sold over 30 million copies across the world. It's the most sold leadership book ever.

Over the last eight years my team and I have helped thousands of principals and school leaders improve their leadership and increase their influence utilizing the principles taught in this book.

In the study, you'll get expert step-by-step guidance on:

- Assessing your current leadership strengths and areas for growth.
- How to apply the leadership principles in your personal and professional life to create great impact and influence.
- Teach these principles to your team and community, empowering them, and multiplying your leadership to save you time and energy to focus on what is most important.

The program will never lose relevance and it's flexible enough that if you miss a live session you'll have lifetime access to the resources and application strategies to continue your growth.

Plus, you get 45 days free to experience Live2Lead. Live2Lead is an online leadership event that you can utilize as a supplement to your growth, or share with your team/staff for professional development ($99 value for free).

One more bonus…lifetime access to our Principles of Leadership Program. Over five years of mastermind book study archives that will continue to grow. With this program in hand, you'll have access to a lifetime of leadership content for yourself, your team, or community ($299 value for free).

So here's the catch: You have to register. You have to lean in. You have to fully participate in your personal growth if you want things to change.
The Leader's Journey is a focused, intensive program designed for people who are serious about building a lasting impact and positive relationship with people, school improvement and growing their overall influence.

If that's you, what are you waiting for?
Click Here Now to Join the Program

I hope to see you on the inside!

Dr. Tom

Register Here

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: concerns from Board meeting
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: Denise Hildebrand <dhildebrand@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/11/2023 08:00

Good Morning, Jen,

I am hoping we can find time to touch base on the concerns you mentioned regarding special education and IEP commitments. I would like to know more about the concerns being brought to you by parents so that Denise and/or I can address them.

When is a good time for us to talk or meet?

Thanks,
Faith
--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Fwd: upcoming Teaching And Learning Committee meeting
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Tina Moore <tmoore@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/11/2023 08:00

Good Morning, Dominick and Jen,

Happy International Thank You Day! Thanks for all you do for the district and the community. I appreciate how much time and passion you put into being a school board member.

We have a Teaching and Learning Committee meeting next week and we need to send out the agenda by Friday morning. Last week, I sent my suggestion for a topic for the meeting and asked for your feedback (see below). What were your thoughts?

Thanks,
Faith

SUBJECT: MINDBEAT: Anxiety on the Rise
FROM: Effective School Solutions <nlaqualia@effectiveschoolsolutions.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 09:04

To view this email as a web page, click here

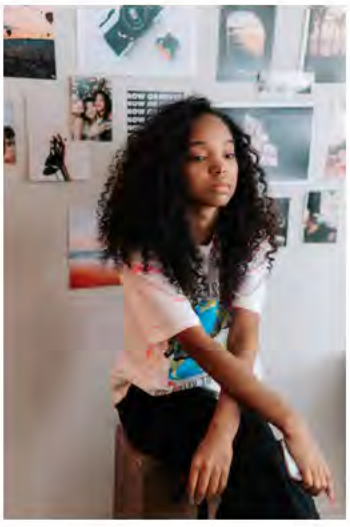
Effective School Solutions

ABOUT US CONTACT CONTENT

MINDBEAT®

A PUBLICATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS

January 11, 2023



FEATURE ARTICLE
Anxiety on the Rise

When we talk about the mental health crisis affecting our nation's youth, we're referring to a wide range of conditions. Anxiety, however, brings its own forms of suffering and can be profoundly disruptive and debilitating. Recognizing and treating anxiety disorders as early as possible is vitally important. Click here to learn more.

READ MORE

K-12 MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDUP

Keep up with developments in school mental health.

Teen Helps Break Stigma Associated with Mental Health

Understanding the Mental Health Crisis Afflicting Teens

Districts Work To Address Mental Health Needs

School District Sues Social Media Giants

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

HHS Awards Nearly $245 Million to Support Youth Mental Health
Rhode Island Receives $7.2 Million for Youth Mental Health
Phoenix-Talent Schools Awarded over $2.6 Million for Student Mental Health



Webinar Jan. 24th at 3:30 PM ET
Create a Student Mental Health Continuum of Care

The data is clear, never has there been a greater need to expand clinical capacity to serve K-12 students than now. As districts begin to prepare budgets for the upcoming school year, it's vital that they build programming capable of supporting every student's mental health. Join us on Jan. 24th at 3:30 PM ET, where we will discuss the alarming data surrounding the mental health crisis, how to create a continuum of care through a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework, and explore sustainable funding strategies for expanding your continuum.

Register Now



Webinar January 31st at 3:30 PM ET
Mental Health Vision and Planning: Developing an MTSS Playbook for your District

In order to make meaningful changes to a school district's mental health care programming, districts must first have a clear understanding of their current strengths and weaknesses, a focused vision for improvement, proper policies, procedures, protocols, and tools to deliver high quality clinical care. Join us for Mental Health Vision and Planning: Developing an MTSS Playbook for your District, where we will discuss: what is an MTSS playbook, the process for developing a playbook, and the 5 essentials of an effective playbook.

Register Now

© 2023 - Effective School Solutions
Privacy Policy
Unsubscribe
121 Chanlon Rd, New Providence, NJ 07974

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #44
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 14:03

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 11, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over four-day school weeks
- In your district: Budgets
- In *Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc.*, SCOTUS could decide if charter schools are state actors
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over four-day school weeks

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

On Dec. 13, 2022, the Independence School District in Missouri became the largest district in the state (with about 14,000 students) to adopt a four-day school week for all grade levels. Independence School District is the 557th largest district by enrollment in the country. Officials in the nearby St. Joseph School District (with more than 10,000 students) are reportedly considering the change as well.

Paul Hill writes that four-day school weeks do not save money because teachers, administrators, and most professional staff receive the same annual pay. Hill says teachers and students are more likely to lose focus in longer school days and that four-day school weeks worsen learning losses from sick days and other absences. He also says four-day weeks disproportionately harm lower-income and minority students with fewer resources at home and hurt the rural school districts that have tried the policy.

Lucy Rycroft-Smith writes about Colorado school districts that had statistically significant improvements in math scores after switching to a four-day school week. Rycroft-Smith says four-day weeks reduce stress for students and give them more time for play, extracurricular learning, and daytime appointments (like doctor's visits) that would normally cause absences from school. She also says the policy gives teachers more time to plan lessons, collaborate, and seek professional development.

Beware the Four-Day School-Week Trap | Paul Hill, *EducationWeek*

"All teachers and most professional staff get the same annual pay for the four longer days, with the savings coming only from that fifth day of busing costs, utility bills, and wages of some support staff, such as those in custodial or food services. … Supporters of the four-day week assert that the longer days make up for the missed fifth day. But teachers and students, especially the younger children, may not work as effectively at the end of such long days, thus reducing overall learning. Low-income and minority students, who generally have fewer learning resources at home, stand to lose disproportionately from the loss of a day in school. High school students assigned homework every school day will have one less evening of preparation per week. And days lost to illness or weather will have a greater impact on learning time. Nobody seriously argues that less time in school will increase student learning. And here's the rub: The hundreds of four-day-week districts in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, and Oregon are overwhelmingly rural districts, which, on average, fall below state means on student achievement, graduation rates, and college attendance. A policy that just holds student results to previous levels will not expand students' college options or help communities attract new businesses and jobs."

What a difference a day makes: the argument for a four-day school week | Lucy Rycroft-Smith, *The Guardian*

"The four-day school week for students in Colorado was introduced as a cost-saving measure, and the improvements in academic results were the opposite of what had been anticipated, Walker explains. … But the results show that, even for these young students, a four-day school week had a statistically significant positive impact on maths scores (around 7% extra on average), and a possible positive impact on reading scores (although this was not deemed statistically significant by the study's testing standards). … [A]s someone who taught for 10 years, I can certainly see the potential benefits. It would give young people some

much-needed breathing space and, in schools where the fifth day was used for extracurricular activities, students wouldn't have to choose between academic study and other pursuits. … The benefits for teachers should not be overlooked either. Those who took part in the study reported greater efficiency and better collaboration when they used the fifth day to plan together, with some schools even finding that staff turnover was reduced. … Perhaps most exciting is the potential to use the fifth day to provide good-quality continued professional development and support for teachers where it is (sometimes desperately) needed."

In your district: Budgets

School districts around the country face diverse issues and challenges. We want to hear what's happening in your school district. Complete the very brief survey below—anonymously, if you prefer—and we may share your response with fellow subscribers in an upcoming newsletter.

Today's question:

What are your thoughts on the current and proposed budget for your school district?

Click here to respond!

In *Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc.*, SCOTUS could decide if charter schools are state actors

A case before the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) could help answer whether charter schools are public schools or private organizations for the 45 states with laws authorizing charter schools. As of this writing, SCOTUS is considering whether to hear the case.

Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc. concerns whether charter schools are state actors subject to constitutional review under Title 42 of the United States Code Section 1983. Section 1983 allows individuals to sue the government for civil rights violations.

The case arose from a school uniform policy. Charter Day School, a charter school in North Carolina that receives 95% of its funding from federal, state, and local governments, requires female students to wear skirts, jumpers, or skorts (shorts designed to look like a skirt) and male students to wear pants or shorts. In 2016, Bonnie Peltier, her daughter (a student at the school), two other student families, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued Charter Day School in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. They alleged the skirt requirement violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal

Protection Clause and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex in public schools. Charter Day School responded that "as a private nonprofit corporation that contracts with the State to operate a charter school, it is not a state actor and therefore not subject to suit under Section 1983."

In 2019, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina Judge Malcolm Howard ruled the uniform policy was unconstitutional. Former President Ronald Reagan (R) appointed Howard in 1987.

Charter Day School appealed the decision to the U.S Court of Appeals for the Fourth District. The Religious Freedom Institute, along with other organizations, submitted an amicus brief in support of Charter Day School. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, along with other organizations, submitted an amicus brief in support of Bonnie Peltier and other plaintiffs.

On June 14, 2022, the court ruled 10-6 that North Carolina charter schools are state actors. The court held that Charter Day School's dress code policy violated female students' rights under the Equal Protection Clause.

Writing for the majority, Senior Judge Barbara Keenan said: "Ultimately, the state action inquiry in this case is not complicated: (1) North Carolina is required under its constitution to provide free, universal elementary and secondary schooling to the state's residents; (2) North Carolina has fulfilled this duty in part by creating and funding the public charter school system; and (3) North Carolina has exercised its sovereign prerogative to treat these state-created and state-funded schools as public institutions that perform the traditionally exclusive government function of operating the state's public schools."

Former President Barack Obama (D) nominated Keenan to the Fourth District.

In a partial dissent, Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum wrote: "My worry is that the majority's reasoning transforms all charter schools in North Carolina, and likely all charter schools in the other states that form our circuit, into state actors. As a result, the innovative alternatives to traditional public education envisioned by North Carolina when it passed the Charter Schools Act, and thus the choices available to parents, will be limited."

Former President Donald Trump (R) nominated Quattlebaum to the Fourth District.

Charter Day School presented the following question to the Supreme Court in its appeal: "Whether a private entity that contracts with the State to operate a charter school engages in state action when it formulates a policy without coercion or encouragement by the government."

Texas, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia joined together to file an amicus brief asking SCOTUS on behalf of Charter Day School to take up the case. The states

argued classifying charter schools as state actors undermines their own charter schools' independence.

On Jan. 6, SCOTUS reviewed the case. On Jan. 9, SCOTUS asked U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar to file a brief expressing the Biden administration's thoughts on the case. SCOTUS' request does not mean it will ultimately hear the case.

During its 2021-2022 term, SCOTUS issued rulings on at least two cases with broad implications for K-12 public education—*Carson v. Makin* and *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*. Click here to read our coverage of those cases.

We'll bring you more on *Peltier v. Charter Day School* as it develops.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- 5 superintendents to watch in 2023 | *K-12 Dive*
- Wishes and Worries for 2023: What Ed Tech Leaders Are Thinking About | *The Journal*
- Ann Arbor schools mandate masks for two weeks | *The Detroit News*
- Public Schools Lost More Than One Million Students During Pandemic | *The Wall Street Journal*
- Elected Broward School Board member sues over Governor's order that voided his election | *Florida Politics*
- Seattle schools sue tech giants over social media harm | *Associated Press*
- A Chaotic Start to a New Congress: What Educators Need to Know | *Education Week*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Robert Barr (R), who won the general election for one of four seats on Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools school board District 2 in North Carolina, and Tracy Miller, who won the general election Jordan Board of Education Precinct 3 in Utah.

Here's how Barr answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Making sure all of our kids have the support and resources to learn. I grew up in public housing, raised by a single parent, and economically disadvantaged. However, because of the support of a guidance counselor and a program called Upward Bound that helped my mother and I navigate the educational system I was able to achieve some success. I have a Masters Degree from Wake Forest and a Bachelors Degree from Winston-Salem State University. Through education and the proper support, all children can learn. I am a big advocate of parental involvement and engagement. Parents are a crucial and critical part of children learning."

Click here to read the rest of Barr's answers.

Here's how Miller answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"I am passionate about public education! I have spent the past decade helping our schools in various capacities. Prior to serving on the school board I spent a lot of time advocating at the state capitol for parent voice on School Community Councils. I was instrumental in getting a constitutional amendment passed that has resulted in increased funding for our schools through the School Land Trust program."

Click here to read the rest of Miller's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Search Firm Topics and Questions
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 14:08

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Please add your specifics that you wish to be addressed during the presentation as well as possible follow up questions.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GizwCQE2N4-lx25SrlkawY4do6dDcJXq/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107491171836506217645&rtpof=true&sd=true

When scheduling the firms, I will make them aware of the topics you wish to have included in the presentation.

Please complete this along with your 3 top firms and possible meeting dates by
Monday, January 16.

Thank you!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Savings Deadline Today!
FROM: Annual Conference <annualconference@nsba.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 14:24



Your chance to **save $100** on your registration to the **NSBA 2023 Annual Conference** **ends today!** Whether you are a new school board member or a seasoned education leader, NSBA 2023 offers over 100 sessions, master classes, preconference workshops, school board member training, and valuable networking opportunities.

Register Now

All school districts, including those in states that are not part of NSBA, can attend NSBA Signature Events!

Keynote Speakers

Saturday, April 1



Sunday, April 2



Monday, April 3



Share Tweet Share

National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Fl 2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493
Phone: (703) 838-6722
Click here to unsubscribe.

SUBJECT: Comprehensive school and district learning in a single platform
FROM: Study.com <foundation@foundation.study.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/11/2023 22:11

Study.com

Curriculum, Assessments, and Tutoring all in a single platform!

Challenges we address:

- **Student Engagement** with video-based microlearning and skills practice
- **Teacher Shortages** with 92% pass rates on test prep content
- **Individualized Learning** with virtual tutoring and student assigned content

How do we do this? With our 360 Learning Solution and microlearning process:

360 Learning Solution

Microlearning White Paper

Trusted by teachers in over 9,000 districts nationwide.
Whatever you teach, we've got you covered.

100 View Street #202, Mountain View, CA 94041
Prefer not to receive emails? Unsubscribe.

SUBJECT: COSSBA National Conference Early Registration Discount Ends January 28
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <communications@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/12/2023 11:12

Click here for a mobile/web version

COSSBA
CONSORTIUM OF STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATIONS

Early registration discounts for the COSSBA Inaugural National Conference, March 31-April 2, and Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) Day, March 30, will remain available until January 28. Both professional development opportunities will take place in Tampa, Florida. Early-bird registration fees for the National Conference are $549, with discounted rates for UBA Day at $199. Registration costs for both events will increase by $50 after January 28.

UBA Day will include two general sessions, panel discussions, complimentary breakfast and lunch, and an evening reception. Presenting the opening keynote will be **Donna Beegle, Ed. D.,** president of the consulting firm Communication Across Barriers that focuses on building poverty informed communities. The second general session will be headlined by **Steve Gallon III, Ed. D.,** who currently serves as a board member of the Miami Children's Initiative and was awarded the Florida School Board Association 2022 President's Award for Unparalleled Leadership and Courage.



The COSSBA Inaugural Conference beginning on March 31 will feature three general sessions, a trade show, and breakout learning sessions. Keynoting the first general session will be award-winning author, CEO of Fearless Positivity, and co-founder of the Digital Wellness Institute **Amy Blankson**. Headlining the second general session is **Chuck Underwood**, host of the PBS television series "America's Generations with Chuck Underwood." ABC News veteran, Emmy Award winner, and host of the popular television program, "What Would You Do?", **John Quiñones** will close out the Conference on Sunday, April 2. Detailed information about the keynote speakers for both professional development opportunities can be found online.

Registration instructions and housing information, as well as a complete schedule for the two events, are available on the COSSBA website. Questions about registration should be directed to anne.butcher@cossba.org.

IASB is a founding member of the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA), a national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations. Through its membership IASB is able to provide local districts access to COSSBA training opportunities, resources, and services.

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Lead to Succeed in 2023
FROM: SuperEval <info@SuperEval.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 08:00

View this email in your browser

SuperEval®

January 2023



"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



Does Your School District Have a Vision and Mission Statement?

Creating a vision and mission statement for your school district helps establish a central purpose within the school community. It also provides a clear picture to the public of your school district's reason for being, long-term goals, and plan for accomplishing those goals.

Discover Vision and Mission Statement Best Practices



Self-Reflection As You Begin A New Year

Although self-reflection focuses on past actions, it's a powerful tool to help leaders behave differently and improve performance in the future. The beginning of the calendar year, often the halfway point for the school year, offers an excellent opportunity for K-12 leaders to reflect on what has worked, what hasn't worked, and what can be improved upon moving forward.

Discover Self-Reflection Tips & Best Practices



Related Article from Our Partner, PLS Classes

How to Encourage Student Self-Reflection As We Enter a New Year

This article is a worthy read for your staff members! The beginning of a new year provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their performance to date as well as their goals for the future. Please pass along these tips and strategies on how to get students in a reflective mindset that promotes ongoing improvement and learning.

Read Student Self-Reflection Tips & Strategies

News & Updates

AASA Annual Conference



on Education 2023

SuperEval is pleased to share that we will be attending the AASA Annual Conference on Education from February 16-18, 2023. The conference will take place in San Antonio, TX.

Learn More About the Conference

SuperEval Welcomes Craig Goodsell

SuperEval is thrilled to announce the addition of Craig Goodsell to our team. As our new Senior Software Developer, Craig joins our team with over twelve years of experience in development.

Meet Craig

Custom Computer Specialists
Right People. Right Results®

Custom Computer Specialists and SuperEval Announce Channel Partnership Program

The SuperEval Team and Custom Computer Specialists proudly announce a new partnership to bring the SuperEval platform to school districts across Massachusetts.

Learn More About the Partnership



Need Help With SuperEval?

Our award winning help desk is here to provide you assistance.

Email us at support@SuperEval.com or call us toll-free at 1-844-312-EVAL.

Learn More About Our Help Desk

Our Mission

To strengthen teams through self-reflection, deeper conversations, and continuous growth.

Questions?

Send an email to Bob Hartz at BHartz@SuperEval.com.



Get in touch with SuperEval

About | Contact | Support

SuperEval

Copyright (C) 2023 SuperEval. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this message because you are a current user of SuperEval, subscribed to our mailing list, or attended a conference and registered to receive information from us.

Our mailing address is:

SuperEval
678 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Add us to your address book

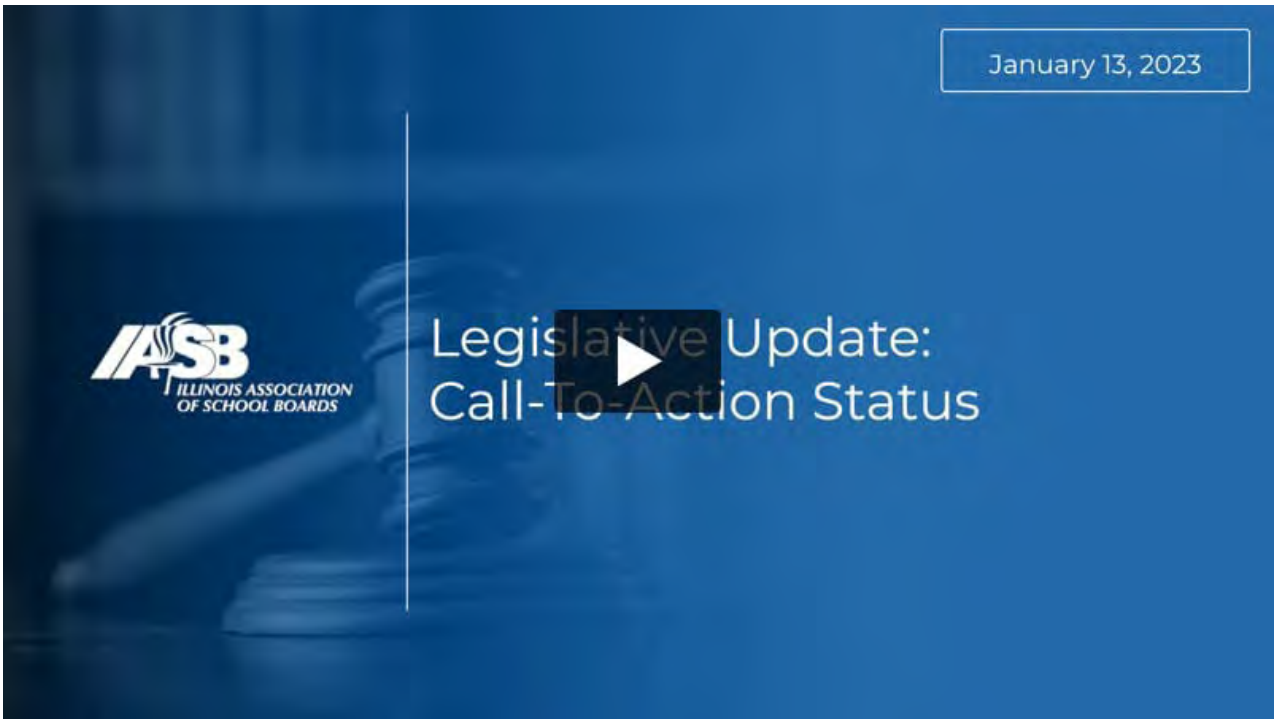
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe

SUBJECT: IASB Legislative Report 103-01
FROM: "IASB Legislative Report" <zmessersmith@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 10:38

Click here for a mobile/web version



IASB Legislative Report (103-1)



Lame Duck Session Adjourns
103rd General Assembly Sworn in

A busy lame duck session of the 102nd Illinois General Assembly ended with both chambers adjourning Sine Die late into the evening on January 10. While many

impactful pieces of legislation were passed during the session, **House Bill 5188 (Villivalam, D-Chicago)** was never called for a vote. House Bill 5188 would have mandated a statewide sex education curriculum. The Illinois Association of School Boards appreciates all of you who reached out to your state senator to oppose this mandate. Your voice was critical in stopping the passage of the bill. For more background on HB 5188, please see IASB Legislative Report 102-46.

The Illinois General Assembly passed several bills during the lame duck session including an assault weapons ban, HB 5471 (Welch, D-Westchester), and changes to abortion law HB 4664 (Cassidy, D-Chicago). Both chambers passed an additional funding bill, HB 969 (Harris, D-Chicago) will send $850 million to the Illinois Rainy Day Fund as well as $400 million to the governor's "Closing Fund" to attract more business to Illinois.

With the work of the 102nd General Assembly concluded, the 103rd General Assembly got off to a fast start with the Senate sworn in at the Old State Capitol and the Illinois House taking the oath of office on the campus of the University of Illinois-Springfield. While the inaugurations are mostly ceremonial, bill introductions have begun. On the first day of the 103rd Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois House introduced 1,124 bills. The 1,124 bills do not include Senate bills and are more bills than the Ohio House and Senate introduced during their recently completed two-year term. IASB staff will be analyzing those bills and all others introduced to see how they may impact public education in the State of Illinois.

Advocacy Resources **Legislative Reports**

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Ready for delivery – your press plaque for > D-308 board to seat new member next month
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 12:02

Hello Jennifer

See, touch, hold and feel your plaque without paying

My team here thinks I've finally **lost my marbles** but I'm deadly serious about the offer I'm about to make you.

I want to send you your press article mounted on a plaque for a 30 day free inspection. There is no obligation to buy, no risk for you.

I'm offering you this because I believe you can only appreciate the plaque's quality by holding and touching it.

Make up your own mind when you've the plaque in your hands. If you don't love it and don't want to keep it, just tell us, rip up the invoice and we'll arrange and pay for return shipping. So there's no hassle for you. If you decide to keep it the lucinda plaque costs $199.

View your plaque

Alternatively, call us on 888-239-5731 to get straight through to someone who can help.

I'm keeping this free inspection offer open for the next 7 days.

Celebrating your great news,

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News

PS. There is no catch, we've delivered over 200,000 plaques to happy customers. It only takes a minute to confirm having the plaque delivered to you before you decide if you wish to buy.



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating





That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published
Jan 20, 2022

View my plaque

That's Great News, 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. All Rights Reserved.
Call Us: 888-239-5731 and reference Customer ID (11584805)

Free Inspection T&Cs i) Available on plaque purchases under $400 ii) All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with Credit Card.
All Prices are in USD

If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.

View email online.





CustomerID (11584805)

{"iid":"34105220","cid":"11584805","oid":"6509390159"}

SUBJECT: T&L Meeting Agenda and Minutes - 01.17.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Tammie Harmon <tharmon@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 14:33
ATTACHMENTS (20230113-143321-0000333): "01.17.23 T_and_L Agenda.pdf" , "11.15.22 T_and_L Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf"

Good Afternoon Committee Members,

Attached please find the agenda and minutes for the T&L meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. in room 61 at the District Office.

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Advisory Committee Meetings for the Week of January 17, 2023
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/13/2023 14:34
ATTACHMENTS (20230113-143407-0000332): "01.17.23 T_and_L Agenda.pdf" , "11.15.22 T_and_L Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf" , "01.19.23 Community Advisory Committee Agenda.pdf" , "11.16.22 Draft CAC Minutes.pdf"

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the agendas and draft minutes for the following committee meetings this week:

- Teaching & Learning Committee - Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm in room 61 at the District Administration Center
- Community Advisory Committee - Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the community room at Oswego East High School

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 15:35

Online Update: News from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Online Update

January 13, 2023

IASB Legislative Report

The latest IASB Legislative Report looks back at the recent lame duck session and the swearing-in of the 103rd General Assembly. Meet the newest member of the IASB Governmental Relations team and hear about final action at the end of the 102nd General Assembly in this short video.

School Board Election Reminders

The last day to file a "withdraw of candidacy" form for the April 4 school board election is Thursday, January 26. Other important dates with regard to the upcoming election can be found in the Key Dates for School Board Candidates document. Additional information about school board elections and for school board candidates is available on the IASB website.

Annual School Calendar

IASB makes available the Annual School Calendar at the beginning of each school year to help school districts prepare their calendars and provide reminders of important dates and deadlines for school boards. The dates contained in this calendar comply with all statutory deadlines contained in the Election Code, School Code, and selected acts of the General Assembly.



IPA, IASB Team Up for Annual Cole Award

Deadline Nears for Placing Referenda on April 2023 Consolidated Election Ballot

January/February Journal Looks at the Numbers

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/13/2023 15:57
ATTACHMENTS (20230113-155759-0000331): "Superintendent's Update - 01.13.23.docx" , "Monthly Enrollment Report - 01.12.23.xlsx" , "BOE Grant Memo - December 2022.pdf" , "BOE OSS Report - December SY 2023 FINAL.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update. Have a great weekend!

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 1.13.23
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/13/2023 17:17

January 13

SD 308's Employee Newsletter
Contains information, announcements and links to help keep you informed!
To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission
#SD308BetterTogether

See Something, Say Something!

What's Happening In January:

Date	Day	Event
January 13 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry-Oswego Satellite Location @ 61 Franklin Street, Oswego **Spread the word: Open to ALL**
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day (No School/District Closed)
January 17 (6-7:00pm) Virtual	Tuesday	Parent University Presents Healthy Meal Ideas for Busy Families Presented by: SCRC Click Here to Register
January 17 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting / DAC
January 18 (6-8:00pm)	Wednesday	Presentation: "Parents and Children…Empowered" (in Spanish) @ Oswego East, Community Room
January 19 (5-6:30pm)	Thursday	NEED GROCERIES? Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry @ Lakewood Creek Elementary School
January 19 (6-7:30pm)	Thursday	Board Advisory: Community Advisory Committee Meeting / OE
January 23 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting Recognition Night: PRIDE Winners and Fall Student Athletes
January 24 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Adult ESL Classes at Old Post Elementary
January 25 (5:30-6:30pm)	Wednesday	Board Advisory: Equity Committee Meeting / DAC
January 25 (6-7:30pm) Virtual	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Parenting from Opposite Sides of the Field Click Here to Register

January 27	Friday	School Improvement Day - 3.5 Hour Student Attendance No Early Childhood
January 30 (5-7:30pm)	Monday	Board Advisory: Policy & Legislative Committee Meeting / DAC
January 31 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting / DAC
For a complete details of calendar events, please view the District Calendar		

Martin Luther King Jr., An Author

While his “I Have a Dream” speech is the most well-known piece of his writing, Martin Luther King Jr. was the author of multiple books, including “Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story,” “Why We Can’t Wait,” “Strength to Love,” “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” and the posthumously published “Trumpet of Conscience” with a foreword by Coretta Scott King.

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

As I shared in a message earlier this week, I will be retiring from the district at the conclusion of this school year. These past seven years as your Superintendent have been the greatest honor in my career. I enjoy nothing more than being out at the schools observing the creative and effective ways our teachers and staff engage and inspire students. As a staff, you go above and beyond each and every day to ensure that all of our kids are cared for, educated, and feel loved. While the end of my career here is on the horizon, I want to assure you that I remain committed to our goals and strategies. I will continue visiting our buildings and keeping up with all the great things going on. I want us all to keep up our positive stride to help our students finish the year strong. Hope to see you soon!

- *John*

Staff Info

WELCOME Heather Niessner (hniessner@sd308.org) to your new role as the SD 308 Assessment, Data, and Accountability Coordinator. Heather has previously been employed with the technology department with the district.

GCN Modules: All assigned GCN Training must be **completed by 5:00 P.M. on January 17, 2023**. To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter [redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Volunteers Needed For Black History Month Professionals Fair

At Oswego East on February 11, students are invited to join in engineering activities, a panel discussion and booths to explore many exciting careers. Open to all students, the event features a variety of professionals including scientists, business owners, pilots, doctors, lawyers and business entrepreneurs. Contact Valerie Talton with Accelerate Career through Education, LLC if you're interested in helping to make this event a success (a_c_e@comcast.net)!

Transportation Improvements Underway! A number of changes were made to bus routes over the winter break in order to make routes more efficient and reduce delays. We appreciate your understanding as everyone adjusts to the changes. Thank you!

From the Schools

OHS Panther Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Induction Ceremony will be held this Saturday between the Sophomore and Varsity basketball games at approximately 7:15. Inductees include:Amy Annala (Class of 2014), Bryce Holm (Class of 2014), and the 1999 Varsity Football Team. Also being inducted with Ken Pickerill Lifetime Achievement Awards: Ron Haynes (Friends of Athletics), Sarah Miller (Friends of Athletics), Chris Neitzel (Coach), and Glen Young (Friends of Athletics).

HUMAN RESOURCES

This year, say yes to you. Ditch New Year's resolutions and make a lasting change with Wondr – a digital weight loss program tailored to you. Space is limited. Learn more at wondrhealth.com/CUSD308. Apply between January 9 – January 22. The program begins February 2, 2023.

Livongo means healthier at no cost to you! Livongo helps you manage diabetes, prediabetes, hypertension, and other health goals like managing weight, stress, and more. You get top technology, convenient tracking, personalized action plan, expert coaching and the program is offered at no cost to employees and covered dependents enrolled in either of the district's BCBS PPO plans. To learn more or join, visit be.livongo.com/CUSD308/now

OMNI – 2023 Universal Availability Notice - Please take a moment to review the Universal Availability Notice. The Universal Notice provides employees information on what a 403(b) plan is, how they can contribute, what providers to which they can contribute, and the amounts they can contribute annually. To enroll in a plan or for additional questions regarding this information please visit the district's voluntary retirement plans webpage at https://www.sd308.org/Page/1872

BENEFIT DEDUCTIONS! Please be sure to check your January 13 paycheck to confirm your benefits deductions are correct. If your benefits confirmation statement shows a different amount than the amount deducted on your check, please contact Glenn Campos at gcampos@sd308.org for assistance. Employees can now also view their 2023 Benefits Open Enrollment information at http://sd308.link/ea under 'Mybenefits'.

FSA Medical 2022 Rollover: If you were enrolled in the FSA Medical plan in 2022, and had a remaining balance at the end of the year of $570 or less, those funds will be carried over to your 2023 FSA account on 01/25/2022. Participants who are not enrolled in a new plan year benefit will have their carryover balance posted to the same type of benefit they were enrolled in for the old plan year.

GATEWAY FOUNDATION ADDICTION RECOVERY offers many treatment programs designed to aid clients as they work toward recovery. Residential treatment centers can be an effective way to fight back against drug and

alcohol addiction, and clients can enjoy total support and care every step of the way. Get familiar with the benefits of residential rehab and learn what to expect when you begin this critical step on the road to addiction recovery. Click here for details regarding the Gateway Foundation.

PRIDE
(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Aramark Food Service Job Fair - Aramark is hosting a Job Fair on Wednesday, January 25 and Thursday, January 26. Multiple positions available. 1 on 1 interviews can be scheduled by texting "OSWEGOHIRING" to 63000.

COVID INFORMATION

Report positive COVID-19 cases in students and staff at www.sd308.org/covidreporting

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**
- **Calling All SD 308 Alumni!** Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.
- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 23, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live

---

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

--

Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

SUBJECT: Here's some news for you.
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/14/2023 04:06

View in Web Browser

Hi Jennifer,

If you ever thought you had to “wait” for the future, when you get the leadership position, to attend leadership training?

Here's some news for you.

When it comes to achieving your dreams, **Your Future is NOW!**

Legendary college basketball coach John Wooden said, “When the opportunity comes it’s too late to prepare.

Leadership evolves daily, not in a day. The top leaders in the world read, review, reflect and revise their leadership practices daily.

The one thing that remains the same is their leadership principles.

That’s why I am inviting you to learn from John Maxwell, the world’s foremost expert on leadership, and hundreds of other leaders to our upcoming leadership study on the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership starting January 23rd.

In this study you will learn 21 key leadership principles to unleashing your full potential in 2023 and beyond.

A Leader’s Journey!
A Live Mastermind Training of John C. Maxwell’s 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership
Facilitated by Dr. Tom Miller
Starts Monday, January 23rd & Runs Through June 5th
4:00 PM Eastern (Every other Monday)
Register Here

A Leader's Journey: A Study of the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership

In this powerful, collaborative, leadership study, John Maxwell will provide short teaching videos on each Law for you to maximize your growth.

Led by Maxwell Leadership certified Executive Director, Dr. Tom Miller, we will reveal and unpack the 21 powerful leadership principles that will serve as the foundation (and acceleration) to crossing the finish line of your most important objectives this year … the keys to getting the life and school leadership results you really desire!

#1 Discover the power of understanding and living these leadership principles…Leadership is not a title or a position, it is influence. Nothing more and nothing less.

#2 Know how to respond to obstacles to achieving your dreams and goals … Obstacles ARE inevitable. But they need not stop you in your tracks. Let Dr. Miller and John take you through the Law of Navigation!

#3 Understand how to stay focused and motivated on your journey … You'd be right in guessing that becoming a more effective leader and achieving your dreams requires some longevity and staying power. Learn how by Living the Law of Process you will achieve more over time from John and Tom in this powerful principle.

>> SAVE MY SEAT—I'M READY TO GO TO THE NEXT LEVEL <<

#4 Learn the connection between people and dreams … You'll learn firsthand how building relationships and connecting with people needs to intersect with to make success possible; and why people are a necessary ingredient to achieving any dream through the Law of the Inner Circle

#5 Discover why you need a dream team to support your vision … You've heard that "Teamwork makes the dream work"—but why? What can you achieve with others that you can't achieve on your own. You'll learn why this may be the most important success principle of all.

And finally …

#6 Understand the price of living and achieving your dreams … What are you willing to give up to go the next level? John and Tom will explore how to calculate the cost of success in the Law of Sacrifice.

>> YES! I'M READY TO LEARN FROM JOHN AND TOM HOW TO RAISE MY LEADERSHIP LID & UNLEASH MY FULL POTENTIAL IN 2023! <<

Register Here

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Re: concerns from Board meeting
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
CC: Denise Hildebrand <dhildebrand@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/14/2023 19:45

Faith,

Concerns are coming from staff, former staff, and SPED parents. I have shared this with the Board many times. Why did this time encourage you to reach out?
We can certainly discuss - maybe after T&L meeting.

Jen

On Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 8:01 AM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:

> Good Morning, Jen,
>
> I am hoping we can find time to touch base on the concerns you mentioned regarding special education and IEP commitments. I would like to know more about the concerns being brought to you by parents so that Denise and/or I can address them.
>
> When is a good time for us to talk or meet?
>
> Thanks,
> Faith
> --
> Faith Dahlquist
> Associate Superintendent of Educational Services
>
> Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Re: 22-7786-BU Past Due invoice
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, William Queen <wqueen@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/14/2023 19:49

Good Evening Jen,

Yes, it has been handled.

Thanks,
John

On Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 7:46 PM Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:

> Has this been handled? Please advise.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: <harry@cwafr.com>
> Date: Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 4:38 PM
> Subject: RE: 22-7786-BU Past Due invoice
> To: <wqueen@sd308.org>
> Cc: <BOE@sd308.org>
>
> Greetings,
>
> I am following up on my notes below. We were asked to send the invoice you the email listed above but have yet to hear back for a while now I have attached the documents again for quick reference. Any updates would be greatly appreciated. We are attempting to not have to forward this further in our collections process.
>
> Kind Regards,
>
> **Harry Gaston**
>
> Accounts Receivable Manager
>
> 24 Hour Office Line: 1-800-597-6911
>
> IICRC: WRT, ASD, FSRT Certified | AIMC: Matterport Certified



Chicago | 720 N. Larch Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dallas | 8105 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75063

Houston | 10646 W. Little York Road, Suite 320, Houston, TX 77041

To make an online payment, please click here

From: Harry Gaston <harry@cwafr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:15 PM
To: wqueen@sd308.org
Subject: Re: 22-7786-BU Past Due invoice

Greetings,

I am following up on my note below as we have yet to receive a response or payment. This is soon to fall into collections which is what we are hoping to help to avoid. Please advise.

Kind regards,

Harry Gaston

Accounts Receivable Manager

24 Hour Office Line: 1-800-597-6911

IICRC: WRT, ASD, FSRT Certified | AIMC: Matterport Certified



Chicago | 720 N. Larch Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dallas | 8105 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75063

Houston | 10646 W. Little York Road, Suite 320, Houston, TX 77041

To make an online payment, please click here

On Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 9:27 AM <harry@cwafr.com> wrote:

> Greetings,
>
> I am following up on my teams notes and trying to see if you have an update on the attached invoice. Please let us know if you need anything further to assist in resolving this matter.
>
> Kind Regards,
>
>
> **Harry Gaston**
>
> Accounts Receivable Manager
>
> 24 Hour Office Line: 1-800-597-6911
>
> IICRC: WRT, ASD, FSRT Certified | AIMC: Matterport Certified
>
> CWF RESTORATION
> 24 Hour Response
> Water • Fire • Biohazard • Reconstruction
>
> Chicago | 720 N. Larch Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126
>
> Dallas | 8105 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 130, Irving, TX 75063
>
> Houston | 10646 W. Little York Road, Suite 320, Houston, TX 77041
>
>
> **To make an online payment, please click here**

SUBJECT: Re: concerns from Board meeting
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: Denise Hildebrand <dhildebrand@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/15/2023 09:21

Good Morning, Jen,

It would be great if we could talk after Teaching and Learning. I have in the past attempted to build a relationship with you or with you and Denise so that we could hear and understand the things you are hearing. An example of this is when I placed you with Denise at the last Board Forum so hopefully you would feel comfortable sharing specifics so we could address them.

At the last board meeting, you shared some specifics. You mentioned a high school student that wasn't getting services listed in the IEP. I wanted to make sure that Denise or myself knew that concern. It seems like sometimes concerns are coming to you that aren't being shared with building admin, special ed admin, or myself and we need to be aware of an issue in order to help solve it and/or build relationships with the students, staff, and parents.

I reached out to you in a continued effort to create lines of communication. It seems like I may have angered you in the process. That was not my intent. I look forward to talking to you on Tuesday.

Thanks,
Faith

On Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 7:45 PM Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:

> Faith,
>
> Concerns are coming from staff, former staff, and SPED parents. I have shared this with the Board many times. Why did this time encourage you to reach out?
> We can certainly discuss - maybe after T&L meeting.
>
> Jen
>
> On Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 8:01 AM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
>
>> Good Morning, Jen,
>>
>> I am hoping we can find time to touch base on the concerns you mentioned regarding special education and IEP commitments. I would like to know more about the concerns being brought to you by parents so that Denise and/or I can address them.
>>
>> When is a good time for us to talk or meet?
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Faith
>> --
>> Faith Dahlquist
>> Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

> Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Life Insurance for Illinois School District Employees
FROM: RODNEY TROTTMAN <rodney_trottman@us.aflac.com>
TO:
DATE: 01/15/2023 11:32
ATTACHMENTS (20230115-113257-0000329): "What You Need to Know About Life Insurance.pdf" , "AFLAC Life Insurance Info.docx" , "Brochure - Whole Life Insurance.PDF"

My name is Rodney and I am a licensed ***AFLAC*** agent specializing in Illinois school districts.

This email is your *invitation* to enroll in a life insurance policy from ***Aflac,*** a *Fortune 500* company and leader in supplemental insurance, on a ***direct-to-consumer*** basis.

Please take a few minutes to review the attached files to see *all* of the important life insurance benefits available to you.

This individual policy is portable and is in addition to the life insurance provided by your local school district which is a group policy that goes away when you are no longer employed by the district.

*You can visit **www.aflac.com** to learn more.*

I am available to assist you in completing your ***AFLAC*** life insurance enrollment. Please **REPLY** to this email with your name, phone number, and best time to call to receive a free, no-obligation quote.

Rodney W. Trottman
AFLAC Certified Benefits Counselor
773-480-9581
rodney_trottman@us.aflac.com
Click here to view my digital business card
Click to see my favorite AFLAC commercial.
*Ask me for a **LIFE INSURANCE QUOTE***

SUBJECT: Five Leaders Strategies I Learned From Studying Dr. King
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/15/2023 17:00

Afternoon Jennifer,

Tomorrow we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and I wanted to share my reflections with you five strategies I learned to create a positive change in your organization, community, home and life...the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. way.

Listen to the archived podcast and grab my notes by clicking below.

Click Here to Grab the Lesson

Oh, by the way, speaking of learning how to lead at a higher level, our Leadership Development Program and Book Study kicks off in just over a week.

Click here to learn more & register: **Register Now**

Keep dreaming big!

Dr. Tom

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Fwd: concerns from Board meeting
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/15/2023 20:18

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
Date: January 15, 2023 at 9:18:59 AM CST
To: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
Cc: Denise Hildebrand <dhildebrand@sd308.org>
Subject: Re: concerns from Board meeting

Good Morning, Jen,

It would be great if we could talk after Teaching and Learning. I have in the past attempted to build a relationship with you or with you and Denise so that we could hear and understand the things you are hearing. An example of this is when I placed you with Denise at the last Board Forum so hopefully you would feel comfortable sharing specifics so we could address them.

At the last board meeting, you shared some specifics. You mentioned a high school student that wasn't getting services listed in the IEP. I wanted to make sure that Denise or myself knew that concern. It seems like sometimes concerns are coming to you that aren't being shared with building admin, special ed admin, or myself and we need to be aware of an issue in order to help solve it and/or build relationships with the students, staff, and parents.

I reached out to you in a continued effort to create lines of communication. It seems like I may have angered you in the process. That was not my intent. I look forward to talking to you on Tuesday.

Thanks,
Faith

On Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 7:45 PM Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:

> Faith,
>
> Concerns are coming from staff, former staff, and SPED parents. I have shared this with the Board many times. Why did this time encourage you to reach out?
> We can certainly discuss - maybe after T&L meeting.
>
> Jen
>
> On Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 8:01 AM Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> > Good Morning, Jen,

I am hoping we can find time to touch base on the concerns you mentioned regarding special education and IEP commitments. I would like to know more about the concerns being brought to you by parents so that Denise and/or I can address them.

When is a good time for us to talk or meet?

Thanks,
Faith
--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Invitation: HIKE Hunt Club @ Fri Feb 3, 2023 9am - 11:20am (CST) (jennifer-johnson@sd308.org)
FROM: Colleen Predl <cpredl@sd308.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, wmonn@sd308.org, Rachel Zeifert <rzeifert@sd308.org>, mearley@sd308.org
DATE: 01/16/2023 05:18
ATTACHMENTS (20230116-051855-0000328): "invite.ics"

When
Friday Feb 3, 2023 · 9am – 11:20am (Central Time - Chicago)

Guests
cpredl@sd308.org - organizer
wmonn@sd308.org
Rachel Zeifert
mearley@sd308.org
jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
View all guest info

Reply for jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

Yes | No | Maybe | More options

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to calendar notifications. To stop receiving these emails, go to Calendar settings, select this calendar, and change "Other notifications".

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer, be added to the guest list, invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or modify your RSVP. Learn more

SUBJECT: What if your people are not following the plan?
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/17/2023 04:12

View in Web Browser

Hello Jennifer,

Just last week a principal asked me, “Have you ever experienced when people just refuse to get along and follow the plan?”

They went on to share that a few of their grade levels just are not getting along. One that just complains about anything and everything. The other one is separated by buildings, and they are just fighting between buildings. They don’t plan together. They let new teachers flail about until they fail, and I have to intervene. They can’t work together to solve problems. Recently, I have a couple of negative voices that are starting to spread to my team leads. Just seems to be unraveling.

I let them know that I learned a very hard leadership principle early in my career.

That every message that people receive is filtered through the messenger who delivers it. If your people consider the messenger to be credible, then you believe the message has value.

In my early days as a principal I struggled with being a good person of character. The culture of the organization was to talk bad about others. To use threats, memos and policies to create the change I desired. All were in the betterment of children…is what I believed. I fell right into the positional leadership trap. Do it because I say…

Like, many leaders… I believed that if the cause is good enough (like working together to teach children), people will automatically buy into it and follow. But that’s not how leadership works.

People follow respected leaders who promote their success in achieving the cause they believe in.

In other words, if you help people get what they want, they will help you get what you want.

This idea applies to all aspects of your personal and professional life.

If people trust you, they will follow you no matter where you lead. If they don’t buy into you as a leader, though, they will be reluctant to buy into your vision **even if it’s aligned with their ideals.**

This can be hard to swallow as a leader, but it's true.

It wasn't until I studied the Principles of Leadership in best selling authors John Maxwell's The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, did I begin to understand **that as a leader, your success is measured by your ability to actually take the people where they need to go. You can only do that if they first buy into you as their leader.**

Three ways I learned and applied these leadership principles to now do this daily:

1. Develop good relationships with people. People will not GO ALONG with you until they GET ALONG.
2. Be authentic and honest, developing trust. Trust is the foundation of leadership.
3. Hold yourself accountable and to high standards. Set a good example. People do what people see, not what people say.

Consider your current team or staff of employees. How much do they trust you? Do you think they'd be willing to follow you, even if they don't love your vision? If your employees don't fully believe in you, they don't follow the plan, it's time to think about why.

It could be that you need to develop your leadership skills before you can successfully lead others. Take a hard look at your own credibility, both as a leader and on an individual level with your employees.

They should always trust that you have their best interest at heart.

You can build this credibility by investing in their development, keeping your word, maintaining transparency, and setting a good example for your team leads and employees to follow.

If you are designated a leader by your company, you must be a good one. The long-term success of your business depends on it. And guess what—your people are watching!

Register for the study here!

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Book
FROM: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
TO: J Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 09:34

Is it true that we got rid of To Kill A Mockingbird?

If so. who made the decision and why.

Also curious if grade schools are still using Ghost Boys as a class book discussion as well.

May be a teaching and learning question. I asked a while ago when it was all over Facebook but I don't remember getting the answer.

Thanks
Swany

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: Book
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
CC: J Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 09:58

I was wondering this as well. I'll ask at T&L tonight.

Thanks for reminding me.

Jen

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 17, 2023, at 9:34 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Is it true that we got rid of To Kill A Mockingbird?
>
> If so. who made the decision and why.
>
> Also curious if grade schools are still using Ghost Boys as a class book discussion as well.
>
>
> May be a teaching and learning question. I asked a while ago when it was all over Facebook but I don't remember getting the answer.
>
> Thanks
> Swany
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Search Firms and Special Meeting Date
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/17/2023 10:04

Good Morning Board Members,

If you have not done so already, please email me your top 3 search firms and pick a date for the Special Meeting. Thank you very much and enjoy your day!

https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e798qDwb

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Do you want to launch an app for Community Unit School Dist 308 this year?
FROM: Jarred Lanier <jarred@edlio.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 10:42

Hello Jennifer,

Is your school focused on communicating with all families in their desired language? Have you considered a mobile app uniquely branded for your school?

Your new Community Unit School Dist 308 mobile app can give you:

- Unlimited push notifications to families
- Messages & content translated in the family's chosen language
- Daily school event alerts
- Your school logo and colors in the app store
- Integration with your school's website—only update one platform!

Current SchoolInfo clients whose schools are using the branded mobile app include: Denham Springs JHS, Hilo High School, Waverly School District, and SLW Centennial High School.

Is the timing right to discuss family messaging priorities for Community Unit School Dist 308? **My calendar link is here to schedule a quick call!**

Sincerely,

Jarred Lanier
Sales Development Representative
p: 209-265-2205
e: jarred@edlio.com
w: edlio.com



If you'd like me to stop sending you emails, please click here

SUBJECT: T&L Tonight - Remote
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Tina Moore <tmoore@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 15:46

Hello,

[redacted] and [redacted], so I have to be home [redacted].

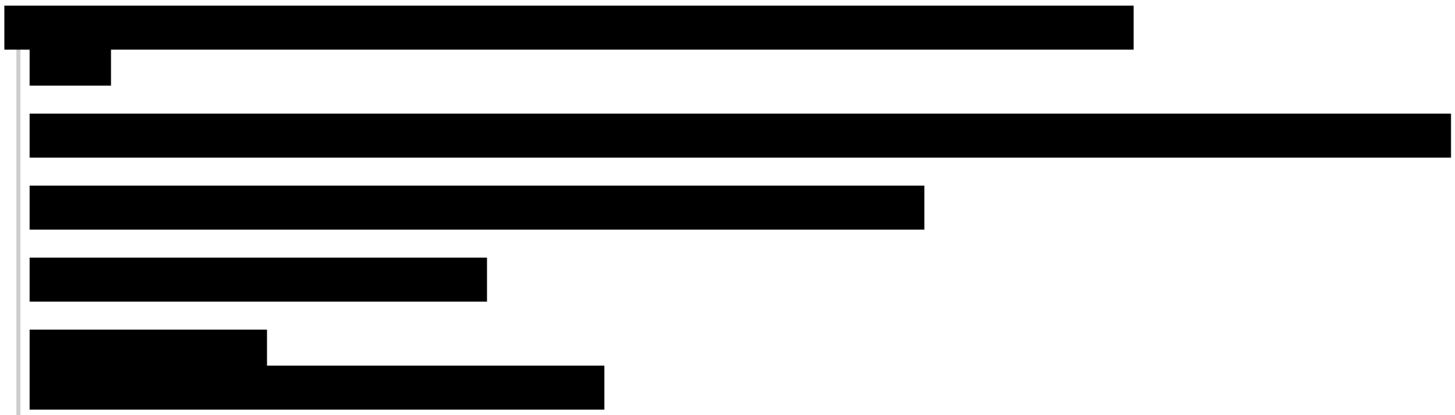
Would you please send me a Google meet link so I can join virtually?

Thank you for your undertstanding.

Jennifer Johnson
Board Member, Oswego School District 308

SUBJECT: Re: T&L Tonight - Remote
FROM: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 15:51

I was looking forward to seeing you but completely understand. Talk to you soon.



SUBJECT: Re: T&L Tonight - Remote
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Tina Moore <tmoore@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 16:00

Hi Jen,

I talked to Ursula. She has to be the one to add the link since she is the owner of the calendar invite. She will send it oon.

Thanks,
Faith

[redacted]

SUBJECT: T&L Meeting
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 16:01

Hi Jen,

I have added the meeting link to the calendar invitation.

Have a good evening!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Re: T&L Tonight - Remote
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 16:11

Thank you for understanding. Now that I work from home it's nice to get out and get some fresh air so I am disappointed too, [redacted]

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 3:52 PM Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org> wrote:

> I was looking forward to seeing you but completely understand. Talk to you soon.
>
> [redacted]

SUBJECT: Re: T&L Meeting
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 16:12

Thank you!

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 4:02 PM Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org> wrote:

> Hi Jen,
>
> I have added the meeting link to the calendar invitation.
>
> Have a good evening!
> Ursula
>
> --
> Ursula Studer
> Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
> Board of Education Secretary
> Oswego Community Unit School District 308
> 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
> Direct: 630-636-3084
> Fax: 630-636-3665
>
> *"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"*

SUBJECT: RE: Book
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 16:47

Good Evening Jen and Ali,

I shared with Faith that you may want to talk about this at your meeting tonight.

Thanks,
John

-----Original Message-----
From: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
Cc: J Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
Subject: Re: Book

I was wondering this as well. I'll ask at T&L tonight.

Thanks for reminding me.

Jen

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 17, 2023, at 9:34 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Is it true that we got rid of To Kill A Mockingbird?
>
> If so. who made the decision and why.
>
> Also curious if grade schools are still using Ghost Boys as a class book
> discussion as well.
>
>
> May be a teaching and learning question. I asked a while ago when it was
> all over Facebook but I don't remember getting the answer.
>
> Thanks
> Swany
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Document shared with you: "FASTbridge data analysis for BOE committee Jan 2023"
FROM: "Faith Dahlquist (via Google Docs)" <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/17/2023 17:15

Faith Dahlquist shared a document

Faith Dahlquist (fdahlquist@sd308.org) has invited you to **view** the following document:

Jen-
This is a handout for the Teaching and Learning meeting tonight.

FASTbridge data analysis for BOE committee Jan 2023

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because fdahlquist@sd308.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace

SUBJECT: Fwd: handout for tonight
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 17:17

Good Afternoon, Jen,

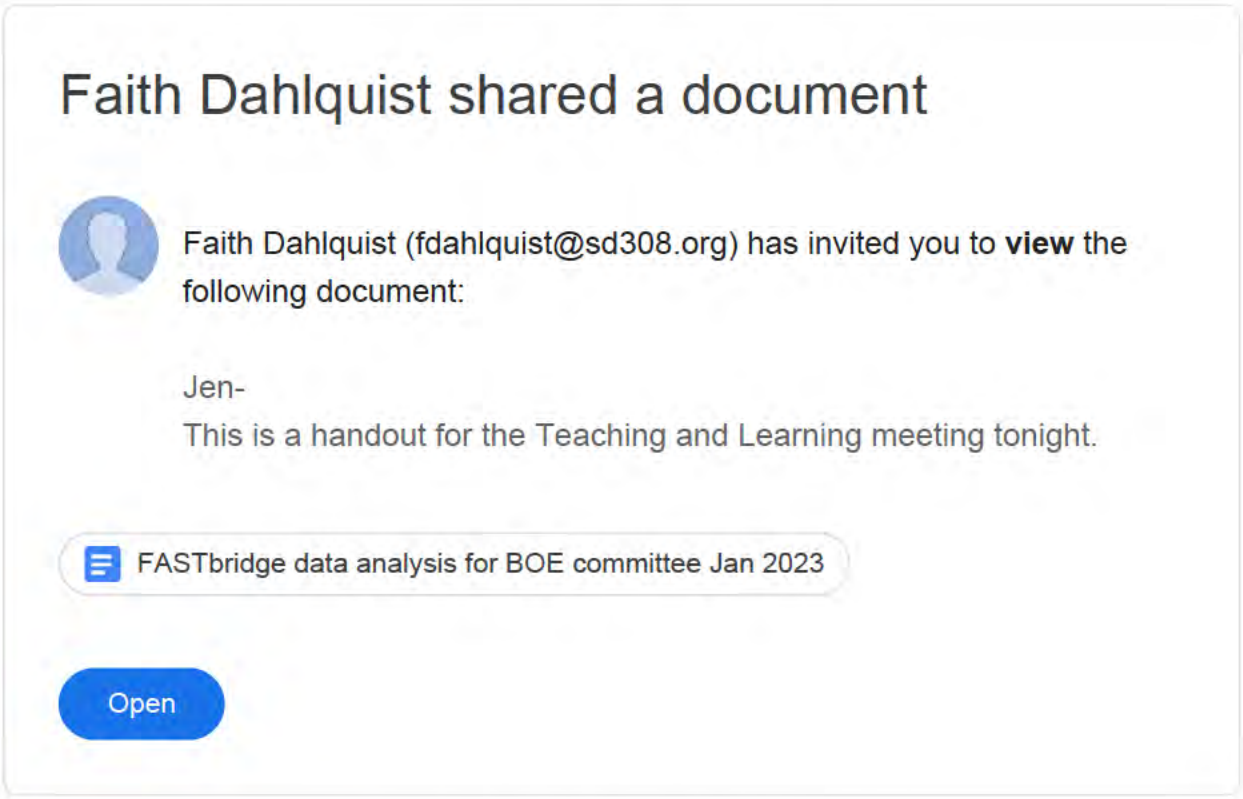
This is another handout for this evening. Fastbridge Data - Google Sheets
--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

SUBJECT: Re: Document shared with you: "FASTbridge data analysis for BOE committee Jan 2023"
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/17/2023 17:43

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 17, 2023, at 5:15 PM, Faith Dahlquist (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:



Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because fdahlquist@sd308.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.
Google Workspace

SUBJECT: How to address the challenges school leaders are facing
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 04:14

View in Web Browser

Hello Jennifer,

In preparation for our upcoming Leadership Study on best-selling book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, starting January 23rd, I was lining up some key challenges that school leaders and schools in general are facing and how this study will support the participants in growing INTO the leader they need to be to overcome any challenge they face. Here are just a few…

Developing an effective leadership team:

1. Do I surround myself with a group that proactively engages in dialogue and debate about the highest leverage topics affecting my organization?
2. Do we reflect regularly and, as a result, improve the school and become more cohesive?

Leadership Law(s) that will address it: The Law of the Inner Circle: A leader's potential is determined by those closest to him and The Law of Attraction: Who you are is who you attract!

Coaching our employees to their full potential:

- Have I hired instructional leaders who are masters at the craft, who are able to implement the instructional vision for the school to its highest level of execution, and who work well with adults?
- Have I set up a system where teachers are consistently being coached / mentored in order to become better at implementing the school's vision for the classroom and increase student achievement?

Leadership Law(s) that will address it: The Law of Empowerment: Secure leaders give power to others and The Law of Explosive Growth: Effective leaders look beyond themselves by developing leadership qualities in others.

Fostering a culture conducive for high performance and student learning:

- Do I have a detailed vision for every moment of the school day?
- Have I shared the vision in a way that enables my staff to understand both the conceptual understandings that inform decision-making and the procedural steps needed for implementation?

- Is my leadership obsessive about student culture in that they hold students and staff to the exact vision for every moment of the school day?
- Have I invested staff and students into the “we are special” understanding of the student culture vision?
- How do we battle a student’s homelife? When their home life greatly impacts their success at school, how can we provide consistent consequences and expectations for learning and proper instruction?

Leadership Law(s) that will address it: The Law of the Picture: When leaders show the way with the right actions, their followers copy them and succeed and the Law of Solid Ground: Trust is the foundation to leadership.

Buy-in and commitment to the school’s curriculum and planning:

1. What does rigor look like?
2. What does alignment to the end-in-mind (standardized tests / final exams / performance tasks)
3. Does my curriculum align vertically so that it is building and producing the students that we promised families we would help to grow?
4. How do you support a project or curriculum push when you do not educationally believe it is the best for teachers? In other words, when the admin team is implementing a “systematic” change or initiative but in reality it is not necessarily what teachers are asking for to help them drive instruction.
5. How do you properly plan intervention time to be in accordance with MTSS when building a master schedule is already spread too thin?

Leadership Law(s) that will address it: The Law of Navigation: Having a vision for your school and charting a clear course to get there and The Law of Influence: Leadership is not a title or position, it is influence.

This is just a small overview of the depth of discussion points that will be covered throughout the Leadership Study. It’s not too late to grab your seat at the table. <click here> to register for this life changing Leadership Course!

It’s exactly what every leader needs right now. <register here>

Register Today!

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Re: Book
FROM: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/18/2023 05:50

I wasn’t at the meeting.

But would love the answer.

:)

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 17, 2023, at 4:47 PM, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Good Evening Jen and Ali,
>
> I shared with Faith that you may want to talk about this at your meeting
> tonight.
>
> Thanks,
> John
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:59 AM
> To: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
> Cc: J Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
> Subject: Re: Book
>
> I was wondering this as well. I’ll ask at T&L tonight.
>
> Thanks for reminding me.
>
> Jen
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Jan 17, 2023, at 9:34 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>
>> Is it true that we got rid of To Kill A Mockingbird?
>>
>> If so. who made the decision and why.
>>
>> Also curious if grade schools are still using Ghost Boys as a class book
>> discussion as well.
>>
>>
>> May be a teaching and learning question. I asked a while ago when it was

>> all over Facebook but I don’t remember getting the answer.
>>
>> Thanks
>> Swany
>>
>>
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: SEL Strategies to Support ALL Students
FROM: "SEL School Consulting" <molly@selschoolconsulting.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 06:47

Register Early and Save Big!

SECOND ANNUAL

SEL SUMMER INSTITUTE



Registration Now Open!

August 2 - 4, 2023

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Let's talk about the best ways to make sure that ALL our students KNOW they matter.

Join us to implement SEL integration in your school communities!

- **Building Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Practices Through the Lens of SEL - with Strategies to Support Relationships First and the Whole Child Approach**
- **Student Voice & Teacher Voice using the TIP Model: Thoughtful, Intentional, and Purposeful SEL Implementation**
- **SEL as a Process, Not (just) a Program**
- **Apply an Equity Lens to SEL Implementation in School-Wide Practices and Policies**
- **Develop an Individualized School Community Plan for SEL Integration**

LEARN ABOUT REGISTRATION



Faculty Spotlight

SAMEER HINDUJA, PH.D.

Dr. Sameer Hinduja is a Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University, Co-Director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, and Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University. He is recognized internationally for his groundbreaking work on the subjects of cyberbullying and safe social media use, concerns that have paralleled the exponential growth in online communication by young people. He has written seven books, and his interdisciplinary research is widely published and cited in a number of peer-reviewed academic journals. As a noted speaker and expert on teens and social media use, Dr. Hinduja also trains students, educators, parents, mental health professionals, and other youth workers how to promote the positive use of technology. In addition, he is frequently asked to provide expert commentary by news organizations, and his work has been featured in venues that include CNN's Anderson Cooper 360, NPR's All Things Considered, the BBC, and The New York Times. He has received Auburn University's Global Anti-Bullying Hero Award, won Florida Atlantic University's Researcher of the Year award, presented on cyberbullying at a Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill, testified in front of the Attorney General and the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, and served as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar at Dublin City University. Dr. Hinduja is also the Co-Founder and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Bullying Prevention, a peer-reviewed journal from Springer. You can follow him on Twitter at @hinduja.



Annual, supported, spiraled learning that focuses on building an SEL culture with your Team and your unique SEL roadmap.

REGISTER TODAY & SAVE

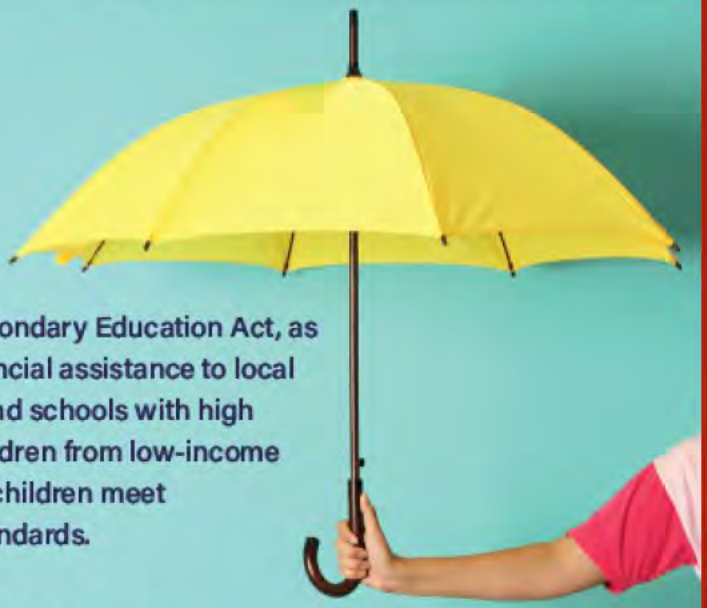
REGISTER NOW

There are resources that offer financial assistance to attend conferences like the 2023 SEL Summer Institute!

Professional Development ★★★

Staffing ★★★★ Technology ★★★ Supplies ★★

Title 1, Part A



Part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

SEL Supports, it may be allowable to fund:

Attending a seminar or conference

Providing stipends for professional development outside of duty hours

Paying for counselor salary and benefits

Purchasing a tiered program model to prevent/address problem behavior or early intervention services, or software to track data to measure effectiveness programs

Staffing ★★ Technology ★ Supplies ★

Professional Development ★★★★



Title II, Part A

Designed to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher and principal quality and effectiveness.

SEL Supports, it may be allowable to fund:

Providing stipends for professional development outside duty hours.

Covering the registration/travel costs to attend seminars and conferences.

Providing incentives to attract or retain teachers who possess SEL skills to support students and school programs.

LEARN ABOUT SEL FUNDING RESOURCES

Second Step®

PANORAMA EDUCATION

**Restrictions Apply*







SELConsulting, 54 Keewaydin Road, Center Harbor, 03226 NH, USA

Unsubscribe

SUBJECT: STEAM Experience
FROM: Engineers Teaching Algebra <info@engineersteachingalgebra.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 07:26

Engineers Teaching Algebra brings an engineer into the classroom to lead a fun and engaging STEAM experience. *Engineers Teaching Algebra* is a hands-on 'field trip' in a traditional classroom setting: no gadgets or devices; each student seated with desk space, paper, and a pencil with a good eraser because engineers make mistakes! For students strong or struggling in math, *ETA* is conducted in the belief that a wrong answer is better than no answer, and that problems are solved through trial and error, with patience and imagination. Socratic, engaging, hands-on, relevant and fun; since 1994 conducted in 5000 classrooms, 1800 schools, 38 states.

Algebra is a tool of expression and discovery in all fields of endeavor.
Math is not a subject, it's a necessary *language.*
Engineers Teaching Algebra

Engineers Teaching Algebra | Project-Based Learning, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Unsubscribe jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by info@engineersteachingalgebra.com powered by

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!

SUBJECT: Reminder - Board Attorney Feedback
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
BCC: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 08:58
ATTACHMENTS (20230118-085851-0000326): "School Board Attorney Feedback (1).xlsx"

Good Morning!

Just wanted to send out a quick reminder if you would like to add your opinion since this will likely be discussed in closed session on Monday.

Thank you and enjoy your day!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Draft BOE Meeting Agenda - 01.23.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/18/2023 12:50
ATTACHMENTS (20230118-125044-0000325): "01.23.23 Draft Board Agenda.doc"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached please find the Board of Education meeting agenda for January 23, 2023.

Thank you!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: MINDBEAT: The Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth
FROM: Effective School Solutions <nlaqualia@effectiveschoolsolutions.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 13:02

To view this email as a web page, click here

Effective School Solutions

ABOUT US CONTACT CONTENT

MINDBEAT®

A PUBLICATION OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS

January 18th, 2023



FEATURE ARTICLE
The Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth

Although representation of the LGBTQ+ community has increased on broadcast television, the numbers show that a lack of acceptance is still prevalent among our LGBTQ+ youth. As a result, the percentages of LGBTQ+ children and teens struggling with mental health issues continue to surge in school and are, in fact, far higher than their straight peers. CLICK HERE to read more.

READ MORE

MINDBEAT PODCAST
Episode 4: The State of School-Based Mental Health in California

In this episode , Natasha King, SELPA Manager for the San Mateo County Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA), joins Duncan and Laine and special guest host



Dawn Ortiz to discuss what's missing in mental health support, how to reset and recalibrate with students, California's mental health funding landscape, and building programming in school districts to serve all students. Listen Now!

LISTEN NOW

K-12 MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDUP

Keep up with developments in school mental health.

Focusing on Student Mental Health Needs

Worsening Mental Health Issues for Teens

How Self-Compassion Can Improve Teen Mental Health

How This School Uses Design to Improve Mental Health

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

States Struggle to Provide Mental Health Care for K-12 Students

Eagle County School District receives funding for school-based mental health services

Governor Hochul Announces Comprehensive Plan to Fix New York State's Continuum of Mental Health Care



Webinar January 24th at 3:30 PM ET
Create a Student Mental Health Continuum of Care

The data is clear- never has there been a greater need to expand clinical capacity to serve K-12 students. As districts begin to prepare budgets for the upcoming school year, it's vital that they build programming capable of supporting every student's mental health. Join us on January 24th at 3:30 PM ET, when we will discuss the alarming data surrounding the mental health crisis, how to create a continuum of care through a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework, and explore sustainable funding strategies for expanding your continuum.

REGISTER NOW



Webinar January 31st at 3:30 PM ET
Mental Health Vision and Planning: Developing an MTSS Playbook for your District

In order to make meaningful changes to a school district's mental health care programming, districts must first have a clear understanding of their current strengths and weaknesses, a focused vision for improvement, as well as proper policies, procedures, protocols, and tools to deliver high quality clinical care. Join us for Mental Health Vision and Planning: Developing an MTSS Playbook for your District, where we will discuss why it is important to create a MTSS playbook, the process for developing a playbook, and the 5 essentials of an effective playbook.

REGISTER NOW



© 2023 - Effective School Solutions
Privacy Policy

Unsubscribe
121 Chanlon Rd, New Providence, NJ 07974

SUBJECT: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #45
FROM: Ballotpedia <updates@info.ballotpedia.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:04

View in Browser

BALLOTPEDIA'S
HALL PASS

Welcome to Hall Pass

January 18, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter that keeps you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over using school suspensions to discipline students
- In your district: Budgets
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Eight state executive candidates endorsed 106 school board candidates in Ballotpedia's coverage scope in 2022
- Orange County districts fire superintendents
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Reply to this email to share reactions or story ideas!

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE **THIS NEWSLETTER**

On the issues: The debate over using school suspensions to discipline students

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

Should schools suspend students for misbehavior?

Max Eden writes that suspensions protect other students and ensure a focused learning environment. He says trying to reduce racial disparities through non-suspension policies can result in exposing students to more violence. Eden also says that while suspensions can harm students, disruptive peers who are not removed from classrooms can harm other students and their ability to focus and learn.

Linda Stamato and Sandy Jaffee write that suspensions harm students and disproportionately affect children of color and children from lower-income families. Stamato and Jaffee say suspensions do not reduce bad behavior and that most behavioral problems are best dealt with at school. Stamato and Jaffee say that most disputes are resolvable and that faculty should try to help students better process their feelings. They call the in-school mediation process restorative justice and say it can reduce suspensions and promote racial equity.

In Defense of Suspensions | Max Eden, *EducationWeek*
"[I]f we pursue wholesale policy changes on the assumption racial bias is solely responsible for the disparity (the assumption behind the Department of Education's "Dear Colleague" guidance on discipline) then we run a strong risk of overcorrecting. Rapid overhauls of the entire system might well breed rampant disorder in schools—and in places where that approach has been taken, the results aren't looking pretty. … [W]hile claims of the benefits of not suspending disruptive students are likely oversold, the harm done to students by disruptive peers is certainly underappreciated. … It's fair to question whether suspensions are truly the best tool to maintain classroom order. But it's important to recognize that any major policy change is likely to have tradeoffs, harming some students even as it helps others. … We simply don't have enough data to evaluate the effects of discipline changes in most American school districts. That means that the policymakers pushing suspension-reduction reforms are doing so quite literally ignorant of the consequences of their actions for poor and minority students who are just trying to behave, learn, and have a fair opportunity at life."

Suspending students isn't the answer. Restorative justice programs in schools are a better solution. | Opinion | Linda Stamato and Sandy Jaffee, *NJ.com*

"Suspensions raise a number of issues, not least how to deal with disruptive

behavior, equitably and effectively, to understand its causes, and to identify and address conditions that may be contributing factors. The critical question is this: Does removing students from school reduce the incidence of aberrant behavior? The short answer is no. Suspended students are more likely to be suspended more than once, to drop out of school, moreover, and to end up in court accused of crimes. And yet, schools have relied on suspension as the primary means of dealing with discipline problems. … Restorative justice attempts to reach beyond punitive measures to solve problems before they escalate and threaten the fabric of the school community. … Critical in these efforts is the recognition that students with behavioral problems are unlikely to be helped by removing them from school and providing no support services or establishing any conditions to be met before they return to classes. Conflict, after all, involves bullying, disrespect, harassment and fights often mask prejudice, attitudes, hurts and fears that contribute to tensions that clearly require attention. While conflict may be natural, schools need to provide constructive avenues for students' expression and management."

In your district: Budgets

School districts around the country face diverse issues and challenges. We want to hear what's happening in your school district. Complete the very brief survey below—anonymously, if you prefer—and we may share your response with fellow subscribers in an upcoming newsletter.

Today's question:

What are your thoughts on the current and proposed budget for your school district?

Click here to respond!

School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Upcoming school board elections

Ballotpedia is covering all school board elections in Oklahoma on Feb. 14. On that day, Oklahoma districts will hold primary elections. General elections will be held April 4. Some of the districts holding elections include:

- Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Edmond Public Schools
- Moore Public Schools
- Putnam City Schools
- Broken Arrow Public Schools
- Union Public Schools

Click here to learn more about 2023 school board elections.

Eight state executive candidates endorsed 106 school board candidates in Ballotpedia's coverage scope in 2022

Governors and other state executive officials rarely make endorsements in school board elections, as those elections are local and typically nonpartisan. But in 2022, state executive officials and candidates made at least 106 school board candidate endorsements. Endorsements included official statements, appearances at campaign rallies, and direct participation in campaign ads and materials. The state executives and candidates to make endorsements were:

- **Arizona:** Gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake (R) and Superintendent of Public Instruction candidate Shiry Sapir (R)
- **California:** Attorney general candidate Eric Early (R)
- **Florida:** Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist (D), and Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez (R)
- **Maryland:** Gubernatorial candidate Dan Cox (R)

DeSantis was the only executive whose full slate of candidates won. Across all 106 endorsements, candidates had a 56.6% success rate.

To view a full list of endorsements for each candidate, click here.

Orange County districts fire superintendents

On Jan. 6, the Orange Unified School District school board in Orange County, Calif., voted 4-3 to fire Superintendent Gunn Marie Hansen. The board

deliberated behind closed doors, and did not explain its decision. Hansen became superintendent of Orange Unified School District in 2017, having previously served as the district's superintendent of educational services.

Hansen is the second Orange County public school superintendent fired in the last three weeks.

On Dec. 21, 2022, the Capistrano Unified School District school board voted 4-3 to fire Superintendent Kirsten Vital Brulte. Board President Krista Castellanos said in an email: "It is important to mention that the action taken was not for cause. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her the best in her future endeavors." Brulte became superintendent in 2014.

In November, the ideological balance of the Orange Unified Board of Education school board shifted when Madison Miner defeated Kathryn Moffat, a 22-year incumbent, in the general election for Orange Unified Board of Education Trustee Area 4. Miner completed Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey. In the survey, Miner said she planned to, "Cut wasteful spending and return tax dollars to the classrooms where they belong. Protect our parents' rights with medical and school choice decisions. Adopt better options to replace the current ethnic studies and sex ed curriculum."

Orange Unified and Capistrano are on our list of districts where candidates in the 2022 elections took positions on race in education/critical race theory, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, or sex and gender in schools. Click here to read more about our project tracking conflicts in school board elections.

In addition to tracking conflicts in school board elections, we also track instances in which school boards have fired superintendents. Recently, some superintendent dismissals have been related to race in education/critical race theory, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, or sex and gender in schools.

Here is a list of recent noteworthy K-12 public schools superintendent dismissals:

- **Brevard Public Schools, Florida:** On Nov. 22, 2022, the Brevard Public Schools school board voted 3-2 to move forward with terminating Superintendent Mark Mullins' contract with the district. Mullins agreed to resign. Brevard was on our list of 2022 school board battlegrounds. Candidates Gene Trent and Megan Wright were elected, giving Republicans a 4-1 majority. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), endorsed Wright.
- **Sarasota County Schools, Florida:** On Dec. 13, the Sarasota County Schools school board voted 4-1 to remove Superintendent Brennan Asplen. Sarasota was on our list of districts where candidates took on a stance on race in education/critical race theory, responses to the coronavirus pandemic, or sex and gender in schools. The November elections changed the partisan composition of the board, with

Republicans gaining a 4-1 majority (Democrats had a 3-2 majority before the election). Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez (R) endorsed two Sarasota candidates who won their elections—Bridget Ziegler and Timothy Enos.

- **Broward County Public Schools, Florida:** On Nov. 14, 2022, the Broward County Public Schools school board voted 5-4 to remove Superintendent Vickie Cartwright. Gov. DeSantis (R) appointed all five members in August 2022. However, on Dec. 13, the board voted 5-3 to rescind the dismissal. Board member Allen Zeman said he voted to undo the firing because the board had promised Cartwright 90 days to address the board's concerns but had voted to dismiss her before that time had elapsed. Cartwright will face another vote on Jan 24.
- **Berkeley County School District, South Carolina:** On Nov. 15, the Berkeley County School District school board voted 6-3 to remove Superintendent Deon Jackson. In the Nov. 8, 2022, elections, the local county Republican Party endorsed all six board members who voted to remove Jackson. The board also voted 6-2 on the same evening to ban the teaching of Critical Race Theory.

We'll have more about this project of tracking superintendent firings in a future edition.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- The School Board Queen: How a Florida Mom Is Shaking Up US Education | *Bloomberg*
- What Brown Center scholars will be watching in education policy and politics in 2023 | *Brookings*
- 4 Strategies for Building Momentum in the Spring | *Edutopia*
- Youngkin administration posts new version of K-12 history standards | *Richmond Times-Dispatch*
- Former special education student joins school board in Shasta | *EdSource*
- Most U.S. Schools Don't Feel Fully Prepared for Shootings Despite Adding Security | *The Wall Street Journal*

Are book bans discrimination? Biden administration to test new legal theory. | *The Washington Post*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

We're featuring survey responses from school board candidates who won their races on Nov. 8.

Today, we're looking at responses from Linfeng Chen (R), who won in the general election for Howard County Public Schools Board of Education At-large in Maryland, and Diana Hawley, who won election for Cecil County Board of Education District 5 in Maryland.

Here's how Chen answered the question, "Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"



- "My vision: A Successful public school system nurtures students' well-being, creates a sense of belonging and safety, provides every student with necessary resources to succeed.
- Platform: Commit to quality of public education; Invest in school infrastructure; Prioritize students' physical and mental health; Promote strength of diversity; Utilize taxpayer money responsibly
- Better Education for All, Vote for Chen!"

Click here to read the rest of Chen's answers.

Here's how Hawley answered the question, "Please list below 3 key messages of your campaign. What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"



- "I will continue to advocate for a responsible budget that allows for safe and functional facilities, student and staff resources (including addressing mental health needs), and smaller class sizes
- I am a CCPS parent who continues to promote positive parent involvement, curriculum transparency, and productive communication
- I will continue to work to provide equitable opportunities for ALL students, including the needs of marginalized populations. It is important to continue to work to provide academic rigor, increased early intervention opportunities, and a quality college and career readiness program."

Click here to read the rest of Hawley's answers.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED

GET OUR APP

MY VOTE BALLOTPEDIA

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

Adjust your preferences | Unsubscribe

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUBJECT: Special BOE Meeting for Search Firm Presentations
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 15:05

Good Afternoon Board Members,

I have heard back from five Board members and all can meet on Wednesday, February 1st.

We could meet as early as 5:00 pm depending how that works with everyone's schedule.
I would like to reach out and schedule with the firms tomorrow morning. I would appreciate you letting me know your availability so I can pass on a specific time to them.

Thanks so much!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Last Chance for 2022 Pricing | Price Increase
FROM: Signature Fitness Club <contact@signaturefitnessclub.com>
TO: Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/18/2023 19:09

Dear valued clients,

We hope this email finds you in good health and fitness. We are writing to inform you that we will be increasing the prices for our personal training sessions, effective next week.

We will be removing last year's rates and moving to a standard pricing model that begins at $85 per session and as low as $65 per session.

As a token of our appreciation for your continued support, we are offering you a special one-week window to sign up for additional sessions at the current rate. This is your last chance to take advantage of the pricing from last year.

Please note that packages purchased prior to January 25th will not be adjusted. Any new packages purchased after that date will be subject to the new package rates.

We understand that this change may cause inconvenience, but we assure you that the increase is necessary to maintain the high-quality service that we provide. We are confident that you will find the value of our personal training sessions to be well worth the investment.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to helping you achieve your fitness goals.

Best regards,

Signature Fitness Club

825 Erica Lane, Yorkville IL

Club# 331.207.0143

If you'd like to unsubscribe and stop receiving these emails please click here.

SUBJECT: I don't have any time
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/19/2023 04:07

View in Web Browser

Hello Jennifer,

In our busy world, it's easy to get bogged down in all of the stuff that is required of a school leader.

No matter how hard you try to stick to your planned day you find yourself struggling with finding the time to get everything done that is asked of you while simultaneously being a decent parent, spouse and friend.

You may feel like you are letting personal relationships fall by the wayside just to try to stay afloat.

You say you are seeking more balance but to be honest, you're not even sure how that is possible…

I used to think the same. I worked like they were giving out badges for the longest work day!

It wasn't until I heard transformational leadership experts John Maxwell say, "*Nothing differentiates the most successful people from the others is how they prioritize and utilize their time.*" He went on to say that a leader should be able to identify the five things only they can and should do as a leader to advance their people and the organization they serve.

He said, "Being active as a leader does not mean that you are productive."

I said, "I am successful. I have a great job. I am considered to be an effective leader. But I do WAY MORE THAN FIVE THINGS A DAY!" I do five things in 10 minutes. What does this mean?

John went on to teach the Law of Priorities and the Pareto Principle which simply states that *Priorities are essential in your life.* Until you identify them, your success will be limited.

As a fellow school leader I wanted to give you an exclusive inside look to the type of lessons the participants in our upcoming leadership study on the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership will receive.

This six minute video featuring best selling author and leadership expert John Maxwell, will demonstrate how you make priorities a priority in your life so you can focus your time and energy on the right things and with the right people.



<Click here> and watch John. Then consider signing up for our deeper study on leadership and become the best leader you can be.

Register Today!

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: Re: Book
FROM: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/19/2023 05:50

I asked specifically who was on committee.

Since I'm hearing otherwise. Then I'll ask them. :)

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 19, 2023, at 3:15 AM, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org wrote:
>
> I posed this question to Mrs. Dahlquist. She said there is a "committee" (I don't remember who this was and don't have my notes handy) that evaluates texts. Over time this committee fielded concerns from many students (of different backgrounds) that were uncomfortable with language in the text. They vetted newer texts that that met the needs of the course.
>
> I further inquired about the excerpt that was read in a board meeting recently. She said that book is not found in any library in our district. It was last checked out 4 years ago, never returned or repurchased.
>
> Jen
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Jan 18, 2023, at 5:50 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>
>> I wasn't at the meeting.
>>
>> But would love the answer.
>>
>> :)
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>>> On Jan 17, 2023, at 4:47 PM, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org> wrote:
>>>
>>> Good Evening Jen and Ali,
>>>
>>> I shared with Faith that you may want to talk about this at your meeting
>>> tonight.
>>>
>>> Thanks,
>>> John
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
>>> Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:59 AM
>>> To: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
>>> Cc: J Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
>>> Subject: Re: Book

>>>
>>> I was wondering this as well. I'll ask at T&L tonight.
>>>
>>> Thanks for reminding me.
>>>
>>> Jen
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>>> On Jan 17, 2023, at 9:34 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Is it true that we got rid of To Kill A Mockingbird?
>>>>
>>>> If so. who made the decision and why.
>>>>
>>>> Also curious if grade schools are still using Ghost Boys as a class book
>>>> discussion as well.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> May be a teaching and learning question. I asked a while ago when it was
>>>> all over Facebook but I don't remember getting the answer.
>>>>
>>>> Thanks
>>>> Swany
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Join our Attendance and Enrollment event!
FROM: Lauren McKee <lauren@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/19/2023 11:17



POSSIP

A Message From Our CEO & Founder, Shani Dowell.

Dear Jennifer,

When things are hard, it is harder to keep people in school.

Please join us on January 24th for a live virtual event to more fully understand and address **barriers to attendance**.

Also, get top **motivating mindsets to help families, kids, and teachers** be excited to show up for school.

You can find the registration details below - I hope you or a member of your team is able to join us!

Sincerely,

Shani Dowell
Founder and CEO, Possip

Meet our panelists!



James Crumlin
Partner at Spencer Fane, LLP law firm



Austin Rhodes
President and Co-Founder of Rhodes Branding



Dr. Kavon Seay
Dean of Students for K-2nd at Napier Elementary



Shani Dowell
CEO & Founder of Possip



Marc Anthony Peek
Community Achieves Site Manager at Napier Elementary

Register here for our Attendance Event on Tuesday, January 24th at 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET.



Meet Team Possip at these Conferences:

January 29 - 31: Austin, Texas - TASA Midwinter Conference
February 1 - 4: Indianapolis, Indiana - ESEA National Conference
February 16 - 18: San Antonio, Texas - AASA National Conference
February 20 - 23: Fort Worth, Texas - TSPRA Annual Conference

Let us know if your school or district is attending so that we can make a plan to meet up!

Possip is on a mission to help schools strengthen their communities through improved communication. Join over 1 million parents, students, and staff that are part of the work. Learn more at an upcoming demo here!

Possip, 615 Main St., Nashville, Tennessee 37206
Unsubscribe Manage preferences

SUBJECT: Ends tomorrow, 30 day free press plaque inspection
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/19/2023 12:03

Hello Jennifer

I'd like to send you your press plaque for a **free 30 day inspection** so you can hold it before you make your mind up whether to pay for it. There is no obligation.

If you'd like to take advantage of this free inspection offer then check and confirm these details. This offer is guaranteed available until the **end of tomorrow**.

Prefer to talk to someone? Then call us on 888-239-5731

Celebrating your great news,

Kind regards,

Kelly Nolan

Account Manager
That's Great News

PS. Short on time today? Just reply to this email and confirm you'd like us to send you the plaque, for a 30 day free inspection.



UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.



4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating





That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Article
D-308 board to seat new member next month
Featured
Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District
Published
Jan 20, 2022

View my plaque

That's Great News, 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. All Rights Reserved.
Call Us: 888-239-5731 and reference Customer ID (11584805)

Free Inspection T&Cs i) Available on plaque purchases under $400 ii) All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with Credit Card.
All Prices are in USD

If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.

View email online.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

That'sGreatNews

CustomerID (11584805)

{"id":"341095220","cid":"11584805","oid":"65093390169"}

SUBJECT: [BoardDocs] New Featured Meeting
FROM: BoardDocs Notification <noreply@boarddocs.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/19/2023 12:17

Dear Executive,

A meeting has been made current.

Meeting: Oswego Community Unit School District 308 Board of Education
Meeting
Date: January 23, 2023 (Monday)

See the meeting by visiting this URL:
http://url7723.boarddocs.com/ls/click?upn=Sy0NO28Y7h-2BgQhDaBAOnnHJs6ttdDzdAMFRqoKb9dQ4W416XkRvWYw-2FNSMgbBH-2Bo59gEE0Hg5BEnGLL-2FuO0tT8Y4e9C9MnJDmZDvIGfhqeU-3DZkQh_jrUqf5zwH7FzSx1F7hMR784Uk6tmIBLnzYQhft7PcGpfY0dl-2BkYKiydavJ4gorkBPjjR6d-2BMzrn8czNxQUULnC0FbrW6r933NrV2yjMG2yvx8bD3ZJwyTHtS-2Fg-2BfZIPEgnZcKIRnrYAWiQ1jtWJr3meuhFQe-2BRcGX9DxBqSDyqqfrnrvi56iJvKwIURYCBRoixDn0RUxiEvs5l2lWmGhwLrIMTaQ-2BmC5iYYilQHB2kc-3D

Thank you,
BoardDocs Notification

SUBJECT: School Board Finance Workshop from Georgetown University
FROM: Jordan Tollefson <jt1267@georgetown.edu>
TO: Jennifer-Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/19/2023 18:33

Good afternoon!

I wanted to quickly reach out to let you know that Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University will be running another 4-part virtual workshop next month that is **focused on district finance**, and designed **specifically for school board members**.

For most districts, financial pressures will only intensify in the next two years as federal relief funds wind down, enrollments shift, and labor costs continue to rise, all against the backdrop of an economic downturn. School boards play an important role in district finance, ensuring that the district's limited funds are able to deliver the most for its students.

The 8-hour workshop is designed to equip school board members with the practical skills needed in strategic fiscal management, finance policy analysis and financial leadership. Sessions will take place 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET on February 23, February 24, March 2 and March 3.

Here's the website with more info & the link to register.

The cost is $850 per person. Scholarship funds are available - best to apply early for those!

We hope you can join us!

Jordan

Jordan Tollefson
Education Director
Edunomics Lab
425.503.9936
jordan.tollefson@georgetown.edu



SUBJECT: Be the First
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/20/2023 04:12

View in Web Browser

Hi Jennifer,

This is your last reminder to be one of the first to access our leadership book study and online course A Leader's Journey, starting January 23rd.

What do I get, you ask?

- 10 Live Deep Dive Thinking Tank Mastermind Session on the 21 Laws
- 21 Teaching lessons and application video lessons from John Maxwell
- Downloadable Workbook and Study Guide
- Lifetime access to program resources and archives sessions

How will I benefit, you ask?

- Improved leadership skills and deeper understanding of what leadership truly is.
- Proven strategies and frameworks for navigating people through any challenge.
- Make decisions with courage and confidence.

Just a small sample of what you will learn in the leadership course.

- The Law of the Lid: Leadership ability determines a person's level of effectiveness.
- The Law of Influence: The true measure of leadership is influence- nothing more, nothing less.
- The Law of Process: Leadership develops daily, not in a day.
- The Law of Navigation: Anyone can steer the ship, but it takes a leader to chart the course.
- The Law of Solid Ground: Trust is the foundation of Leadership
- The Law of Empowerment: Only secure leaders give power to others
- The Law of the Inner Circle: A Leaders's potential is determined by those closest to him
- The Law of Buy-In: People buy into the leader, then the vision
- The Law of Priorities: Leaders understand that activity is not necessarily accomplishment

<<register here>> and get over $400 in bonuses!

Register Today!

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: follow up from Teaching and Learning
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Tammie Harmon <tharmon@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>, Daniel Arntzen <darntzen@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 06:15

Good morning, Dominic,

Happy Friday! You had asked for some follow up on fourth grade testing irregularities.
We had three schools impacted.
Grande Parke reported that two fourth students with connectivity issues and had to log in more than once. These students had to be retested.
Southbury had all of their fourth grade classrooms impacted.
Wolf's Crossing had a few students from several classrooms impacted.

The principals report that this may have had a negative impact on performance.

Please know I haven't forgotten about the request for difference in Junior High math grades compared to last year. We are compiling that and we will send that at a later date.

Thanks,
Faith
--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: special education concerns
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 06:44

Good morning, Jen and Happy Friday,

I am following up on my earlier request to know more about your special education concerns and IEP minutes for a high school student that you brought up at a previous meeting.

Thanks,
Faith
--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Re: Book
FROM: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/20/2023 10:49

Grande Park

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 20, 2023, at 9:11 AM, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org wrote:
>
> Is it elementary or jr high?
> I just downloaded it for my kindle.
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 8:53 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>
>> You should read it. You COULD have some valuable conversations - that are not age appropriate in grade school. AND you should give both sides!
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 7:35 AM, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org wrote:
>>>
>>> Thank you for reminding me of the other book's name. I'm going to skim it. I'll follow-up with her once I have read some content.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 5:53 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>>>

SUBJECT: Student Safety/Parental Concerns
FROM: [redacted]
TO: "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 11:05
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-110551-0000324): [redacted]

Good Morning Ms. Johnson,
Attached, please find a letter and timeline narrating our recent experience with SD 308 and [redacted] as we tried to arrange for alternative supports for [redacted] who was attacked and physically assaulted at school. I hope you will take the time to read about this extremely upsetting experience we have endured as well as the unacceptable lack of response from the school and the district.
Thank you,
[redacted]

SUBJECT: Last chance to get your plaque for article: D-308 board to seat new member next month
FROM: Kelly Nolan <kelly@thatsgreatnews.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 12:03

No images shown? View online



Call Us 888-239-5731
That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

Free inspection ends today

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Dear Jennifer

Its already been a few weeks since you had the satisfaction of being featured in the OSWEGO LEDGER and a plaque is a great way to keep the feeling of success alive, which is why last week I offered you a free 30 day inspection period for your plaque.

I'm sure if you had the actual plaque in your hands you'll want to keep it, so I'd like to send it to you now , with **no purchase obligation.** If I'm wrong and you don't love it, the risk is all mine, you won't pay a cent and we pay for return of the plaque.

However, to ensure you don't miss this offer you need to **act today**.

Enlarge Plaque Image

Select Plaque

If you're short on time today, just reply to this email and confirm you would like us to send out the plaque for a free no obligation 30 day free inspection and we'll get it dispatched to:

195 East Bridge Street, Oswego, 13126

Article

D-308 board to seat new member next month

Featured

Jennifer Johnson, Oswego City School District

Publication
OSWEGO LEDGER

Published
Jan 20, 2022

UNCONDITIONAL 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON ALL PLAQUES

A full refund if you don't like the plaque.

4.8 Overall Satisfaction Rating

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

SHOPPER APPROVED

Shopper Approved Reviews

"It's been wonderful working with the company. They have helped us create a beautiful "Wall of Fame" in our office that gets lots of compliments."

Michael E

"I had one of my three plaques damaged during shipping and the customer service that I received to replace the damage plaque was exceptional. The quality of the product was excellent as well. Five stars

across the board is not an exaggeration."

Paula W

"I have been working with Candace for years on many plaques. She is wonderful."

Lester M

"They were just what I was looking for."

Daddy O'Brien's Irish Ice Cream

"I've bought over 20 plaques. Excellent pricing and service."

Ron

[See your news on a Plaque]

That's Great News is not affiliated with OSWEGO LEDGER

That's Great News, 900 Northrop Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. All Rights Reserved.
Call Us: 888-239-5731 and reference Customer ID (11584805)

Free Inspection T&Cs i) Available on plaque purchases under $400 ii) All orders shipped to Canada must be paid with Credit Card.
All Prices are in USD

If you don't want an alert when you're featured in the press or our offers please unsubscribe to avoid us contacting you again.

View email online.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Re: Book
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 12:46

Wow.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 20, 2023, at 10:49 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Grande Park
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 9:11 AM, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org wrote:
>>
>> Is it elementary or jr high?
>> I just downloaded it for my kindle.
>>
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 8:53 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>>
>>> You should read it. You COULD have some valuable conversations - that are not age appropriate in grade school. AND you should give both sides!
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 7:35 AM, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Thank you for reminding me of the other book’s name. I’m going to skim it. I’ll follow-up with her once I have read some content.
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>
>>>>>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 5:53 AM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:
>>>>>

SUBJECT: News from Illinois Association of School Boards
FROM: Illinois Association of School Boards <onlineupdate@iasb.com>
TO: <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 15:35

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Online Update

January 20, 2023

Multi-Division Regional Events Scheduled



Three multi-division regional events will be held for IASB member districts from March through June. The events taking place in Peoria, Champaign, and Collinsville will offer board members an opportunity to gain insight on the important issues impacting school boards in Illinois. The professional development opportunities will allow attendees to interact with keynote speakers, network with fellow school board members and administrators, and learn about various topics related to school board governance during breakout sessions. An optional Friday night Legislative Networking Session will take place at each location. Dates, registration, and agenda information for all three events are available on the IASB website.

New Archived Webinar Available

A new video has been added to IASB's online listing of archived webinars. "The Pension Problem: What Does It Mean?" explores Illinois' pension funding challenges and how those challenges may impact school districts. The webinar looks back at pension history in Illinois at the state and local levels and discusses ideas for the future to address the challenges.

IASB Winter Book Study Starts January 24

COSSBA National Conference Speakers Announced, Upcoming Deadline for Early Registration Discount

IPA, IASB Team Up for Annual Cole Award

View All News ›

Follow us:

@illinoisassociationofschoolboards

@ilschoolboards

Illinois Association of School Boards
2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929 | Phone: (217) 528-9688
One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310, Lombard, Illinois, 60148-6159 | Phone: (630) 629-3776

Unsubscribe

2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703-5929

SUBJECT: Friday Update Employee Newsletter 1.20.23
FROM: Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>
TO: allstaff@sd308.org
DATE: 01/20/2023 15:56

January 20, 2023

SD 308's Employee Newsletter

To Submit Content to Friday Update: www.sd308.org/FridayUpdateSubmission

See Something, Say Something!
#SD308BetterTogether

W2s for Tax Year 2022 are READY!

Click Here to be taken to the Intranet
Log into the Employee Access portal
Click on "My Pay"
Where it indicates "Tax Documents" switch years to "2022"
Download: "W2 for tax year: 2022"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Date	Day	Event
January 23 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting Recognition Night: PRIDE Winners and Fall Student Athletes
January 24 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Adult ESL Classes at Old Post Elementary
January 25 (5:30-6:30pm)	Wednesday	Board Advisory: Equity Committee Meeting / DAC
January 25 (6-7:30pm) Virtual	Wednesday	Community CHAT: Parenting from Opposite Sides of the Field Click Here to Register
January 25 & 26 OPEN	Wed & Thurs	Aramark Job Fair Applicants are to text "OSWEHIRING" to 63000 to schedule a 1 on 1 interview Click Here for more information
January 27	Friday	School Improvement Day - 3.5 Hour Student Attendance No Early Childhood
January 30 (5-7:30pm)	Monday	Board Advisory: Policy & Legislative Committee Meeting / DAC

January 31 (6-7:30pm)	Tuesday	Board Advisory: Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting / DAC
February 3 (6-7:30pm)	Friday	Kendall County Community Food Pantry - Oswego Satellite 61 Franklin Street, Oswego
February 3 (6-8pm)	Friday	OE Mosaic Presents: 14th Annual International Fest Around the World in One Night Location: Oswego East, PAC and Commons
February 6 (7:15pm)	Monday	Board of Education Meeting @ OE Community Room
February 6 (9:30-11:30am)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Churchill, Lakewood Creek, Southbury)*
February 6 (3:30-6:00pm)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Churchill, Lakewood Creek, Southbury)*
February 9 (9:30-11:30am)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Boulder Hill, Homestead, The Wheatlands)*
February 9 (3:30-6:00pm)	Monday	Kindergarten Registration 4175 Route 71, Door 1, Oswego (Boulder Hill, Homestead, The Wheatlands)*
*Please note, we welcome any family to attend any session (they do not need to attend their Home School assigned date). ***Students currently attending Brokaw or a Satellite Early Childhood location do not need to attend one of these sessions.***		
For a complete details of calendar events, please view the District Calendar		

A Quick Message from Superintendent Dr. Sparlin

Hello SD 308 Family,

There is an important annual feedback opportunity beginning soon. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey for students and teachers will be conducted January 24 through March 31. Our district also participates in the Parent Survey Supplement, which will be conducted during that same timeframe. This annual survey is an important tool for us, providing a glimpse into the current perception of students, teachers and parents. Prior research has shown that schools strong on three or more of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains than schools weak on three or more of the Essentials.

Wondering what the Essentials are?

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Please help encourage parents to take the time to complete the survey, without a minimum participation, the results for each school are not shared. Teachers, you will receive your invitation email next week, please take time to

provide thoughtful responses. Principals and superintendents will receive their 5Essentials Reports in May 2023. Survey results will also be reported publicly on the 5Essentials reporting site in Spring 2023 and on the State School Report Card website in Fall 2023. If you have any questions about 5Essentials, or want to learn more about the survey platform, you can find out more online here. Additional information will be shared with parents beginning today, and continuing throughout the duration of the survey administration.
I hope you have a wonderful weekend, and as always, I appreciate all you do for our students, each other, and our SD 308 family!

- *John*

Staff Info

Kendall County Health Department - Environmental Health Advisory Board - The Kendall County Health Department (KCHD) is looking for a school district employee to volunteer as a member on the Environmental Health Advisory Board. The volunteer KCHD Environmental Health Advisory Board is made up of citizens who live or work in Kendall County with an interest in Environmental Health (food/well/septic inspection and permitting, West Nile Virus, radon gas education, solid waste, etc). Citizens on this board attend 4 meetings a year and learn about the Environmental Health Unit of KCHD and provide advice on operation, educational outreach, rules and regulations, and more. Additionally, members act as liaisons between the unit and the general public and have opportunities to serve on other boards and ad hoc committees. One hour meetings are held at 5pm on the 2nd Tuesday of Jan., Mar., May and Sept.at the Health Department in Yorkville. Please call Aaron Rybski, Director of Environmental Health at 630-553-8057 to learn more.

GCN Modules- Required!

Extensions for new hires.

- New employees hired between 11/28 - 3/1 must have GCN modules completed by 4/11
- New employees hired after 3/1 must have GCN modules completed by 5/26
- Employees on a *full* year leave of absence do not need to complete the modules this year

To access GCN Training, please follow the steps below:

- Go to www.gcntraining.com
- Click "Login to view training"
- Enter [redacted] as the Organization ID
- Enter your five digit Employee ID as the User ID
- If you do not know your five digit Employee ID, please click the orange button that states "I was not given a User ID or I forgot my User ID" and follow the prompts.

Volunteers Needed For Black History Month Professionals Fair

At Oswego East on February 11, students are invited to join in engineering activities, a panel discussion and booths to explore many exciting careers. Open to all students, the event features a variety of professionals including scientists, business owners, pilots, doctors, lawyers and business entrepreneurs. Contact Valerie Talton with Accelerate Career through Education, LLC if you're interested in helping to make this event a success (a_c_e@comcast.net)!

Concordia University Chicago - Master's, Doctoral & Endorsement Programs: Please click here to view a full list of programs offered by Concordia. They are currently enrolling for March and May.

From the Schools

Mosaic Presents: International Fest! Friday, February 3rd (6-8pm) Celebrate different cultures with lively performances, delicious food, and interactive fun! Oswego East High School, PAC and Commons.Click Here for Flyer

HUMAN RESOURCES

W2s for Tax Year 2022 are Ready! Click Here to be taken to the Intranet

- Log into the Employee Access portal
- Click on “My Pay”
- Where it indicates “Tax Documents” switch years to “2022”
- Download: “W2 for tax year: 2022”

This year, say yes to you. Ditch New Year’s resolutions and make a lasting change with Wondr – a digital weight loss program tailored to you. Space is limited. Learn more at wondrhealth.com/CUSD308. Apply between January 9 – January 22. The program begins February 2, 2023.

Livongo means healthier at no cost to you! Livongo helps you manage diabetes, prediabetes, hypertension, and other health goals like managing weight, stress, and more. You get top technology, convenient tracking, personalized action plan, expert coaching and the program is offered at no cost to employees and covered dependents enrolled in either of the district's BCBS PPO plans. To learn more or join, visit be.livongo.com/CUSD308/now

OMNI – 2023 Universal Availability Notice - Please take a moment to review the Universal Availability Notice. The Universal Notice provides employees information on what a 403(b) plan is, how they can contribute, what providers to which they can contribute, and the amounts they can contribute annually. To enroll in a plan or for additional questions regarding this information please visit the district’s voluntary retirement plans webpage at https://www.sd308.org/Page/1872

BENEFIT DEDUCTIONS! Please be sure to check your last paycheck dated January 13 to confirm your benefit deductions are correct. If your benefits confirmation statement shows a different amount than the amount deducted on your check, please contact Glenn Campos at gcampos@sd308.org for assistance. Employees can now also view their 2023 Benefits Open Enrollment information at http://sd308.link/ea under ‘Mybenefits’.

FSA Medical 2022 Rollover: If you were enrolled in the FSA Medical plan in 2022, and had a remaining balance at the end of the year of $570 or less, those funds will be carried over to your 2023 FSA account on 01/25/2022. Participants who are not enrolled in a new plan year benefit will have their carryover balance posted to the same type of benefit they were enrolled in for the old plan year.

PRIDE

(Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence)

Congratulations to the January 2023 PRIDE winners! PRIDE stands for Proudly Recognizing Individuals Demonstrating Excellence and was established in 2015 to celebrate the many contributions made by teachers and employees around the district.

> **TEACHERS: Katie Blue,** Grade 4, Boulder Hill Elementary; **Mike Linden,** Science Teacher, Bednarcik Junior High; **Megan Mann,** Grade 2, The Wheatlands Elementary; and **Dana Miles,** Grade 1, Old Post Elementary.

EMPLOYEES: Rob Manna, Building Engineer, Southbury Elementary and **Tricia Tunney,** Teacher Assistant - LRC/Computer, Grande Park Elementary.

These individuals will receive recognition at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 5. Thank you to Allied First Bank, Chick-fil-A, Huntington Learning Center, and Culver's for sponsoring this program.

NOMINATE a teacher or employee for the District's PRIDE program by completing the online nomination form at: www.sd308.org/PRIDENomination.

HELP WANTED

SD308 will again be offering Extended School Year - ESY(EC - Transition), Summer Connections (K-8), and the Kindergarten Step Up programs this summer.

- ESY and Summer Connections programs will be offered during the month of June.
- The Kindergarten Step Up Program will be offered at the beginning of August.
    - The District is looking for general education and special education teachers, EL teachers, related services staff, secretaries, teaching assistants, nurses, and BCBAs to work in these programs. Please check the job postings beginning next week and apply if you are interested.
- Summer School for high school students currently enrolled in SD308 will also be offered.
    - These initial credit and credit recovery courses will be offered at Oswego East High School from 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Monday through Thursday).
    - Tentative dates for Summer School are as follows:

        Session 1: June 5 - 22

        Session 2: June 26 - July 13

Be on the lookout for posted Summer School positions in the very near future.
Applicants should be qualified to teach in the designated content areas for which they apply and have a firm understanding of Edgenuity. Special Education and English Learner instructors will also be needed for Summer School.

SD 308 is HIRING! We still have a number of openings, we appreciate your help in sharing this link: www.sd308.org/jobs.

Aramark Food Service Job Fair - Aramark is hosting a Job Fair on Wednesday, January 25 and Thursday, January 26. Multiple positions available. 1 on 1 interviews can be scheduled by texting "OSWEGOHIRING" to 63000.

Service Dog Foundation Seeking Volunteer Foster Trainers. VIP is a 501c(3) non-profit charity organization who facilitates service dogs and companion dogs to Veterans, developmentally disabled, and/or physically disabled individuals. Local homes are needed to foster and train puppies. Volunteers receive puppies at 10 weeks old and meet as a group for training once a week in Naperville, then work with the dog daily at home. The foster is with the dog 9-12 months until they are given to a Veteran, a person with a disability or as an emotional support dog. Learn more here.

Reference Information

- **2022-23 Office Staff List/School Directory…** click here. Full staff directory, click here.
- **Do you have Great News?** Exciting Wins? Interesting Stories? Fun Photos?.....simply email stories@sd308.org
- **Pass It On!…** click here to send a shout out or positive message to any SD 308 staff member!
- **Facebook/Instagram...** follow us at Community Unit School District 308**/@cusd308**

Calling All SD 308 Alumni! Click here to be taken to the SD 308 Alumni page.

- **Do you need help creating digital media or websites?** Book a meeting with the District Webmaster.
- **BOE Meeting:** Mon, January 23, 2023, at 7:15pm, Oswego East High School. Live stream: https://www.sd308.org/308live

---

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

Submit Info to the Friday Update: Friday Update 2022-23 Submission Form

-Theresa Komitas, MBA
Director of Communications and Public Relations

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Mason Square Executive Center
1008 Douglas Rd.
Oswego, IL 60543

630-608-5031
630-383-9287
tkomitas@sd308.org
www.SD308.org

Empowering Students: Engaging, Supporting, Succeeding!

SUBJECT: Equity Committee Meeting Agenda - 01.25.23
FROM: Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
TO: boardmembers@sd308.org
CC: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>
DATE: 01/20/2023 16:08
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-160824-0000323): "01.25.23 Equity Agenda.pdf" , "12.01.22 Equity Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf"

Good Afternoon Board Members,

Attached please find the Equity Committee meeting agenda w/draft minutes for Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

Enjoy your weekend!
Ursula

--
Ursula Studer
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Secretary
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543
Direct: 630-636-3084
Fax: 630-636-3665

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits"

SUBJECT: Incident at Plank
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 16:50

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share that today at Plank there was a fight between two siblings and another student. [redacted] tried to intervene and in the process [redacted] was taken to the hospital by way of ambulance due to the injury. Mr. Haymond held an optional after school meeting for staff. Dr. Paul was at the school when this happened and Dr. Hildebrand went over [redacted] Shannon Lueders also went over to the school as well. When I spoke with Shannon a few minutes ago she was at the school debriefing with administration.

I wanted to share this incident due to a staff member being injured in the process and having police and ambulance at the school.

Thank you,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT: Weekly Update
FROM: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
CC: Heather Kincaid <hkincaid@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Theresa Komitas <tkomitas@sd308.org>, Ursula Studer <UStuder@sd308.org>, John Petzke <jpetzke@sd308.org>, Maureen Lemon <mlemon@ottosenlaw.com>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 17:06
ATTACHMENTS (20230120-170634-0000322): "Superintendent's Update - January 20, 2023.docx" , "20230120 Brokaw Fire Costs BOE Update.pdf" , "20230120 Oswego Water Source BOE Update.pdf"

Good afternoon,

Here is this weeks update. I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,
John

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71
Oswego, IL. 60543

SUBJECT:
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jenjohnson4610@icloud.com>
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/20/2023 23:38

https://www.forbes.com/sites/danabrownlee/2022/10/21/black-women-leaders-are-more-ambitious-but-less-supported-at-work-mckinsey-and-lean-in-study-finds/?sh=4a75ee806e48

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Your future is now!
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/21/2023 04:06

View in Web Browser

Hello Jennifer,

If you ever thought you had to "wait" for the future, when you get the leadership position, to attend leadership training?

Here's some news for you.

When it comes to achieving your dreams, **Your Future is NOW!**

Legendary college basketball coach John Wooden said, "*When the opportunity comes it's too late to prepare."*

Leadership evolves daily, not in a day. The top leaders in the world read, review, reflect and revise their leadership practices daily.

The one thing that remains the same is their leadership principles.

That's why I am inviting you to learn from John Maxwell, the world's foremost expert on leadership, and hundreds of other leaders to our upcoming leadership study on the *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* starting **January 23rd.**

In this study you will learn 21 key leadership principles to unleash your full potential in 2023 and beyond.

A Leader's Journey!

A Live Masternind Training of ***John C Maxwell's 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership***

Facilitated by Dr. Tom Miller

Starts Monday, January 23rd & Runs Through June 5th

4:00pm Eastern (Every other MOnday)

Register Here

A Leader's Journey: A Study of the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership

In this powerful, collaborative, leadership study, John Maxwell will provide short teaching videos on each Law for you to maximize your growth.

Led by Maxwell Leadership certified Executive Director, Dr. Tom Miller, we will reveal and unpack the 21

powerful leadership principles that will serve as the foundation (and acceleration) to crossing the finish line of your most important objectives this year.....**the keys to getting the life and school leadership results you really desire!**

#1 Discover the power of understanding and living these leadership principles... Leadership is not a title or a position, it is influence. Nothing more and nothing less.

#2 Know how to respond to obstacles to achieving your dreams and goals.... Obstacles ARE inevitable. But they need not stop you in your tracks. Let Dr. Miller and John take you through the Law of Naviigation!

#3 Understand how to stay focused and motivated on your journey.... You'd be right in guessing that becoming a more effective leader and achieving your dreams requires some longevity and staying power. Lean how to by Living the Law of Process, you will achieve more over time from John and Tom in this powerful principle.

>>SAVE MY SEAT - I'M READY TO GO TO THE NEXT LEVEL<<

#4 Learn the connection between people and dreams...You'll learn first hand how building relationships and connecting with people needs to intersect with to make success possible; and why people are a necessary ingredient to achieving any dream through the Law of the Inner Circle.

#5 Discover why you need a dream team to support your vision.... You've heard that "*Teamwork makes the dream work"* but why? What can you achieve with others that you can't achieve on your own? You'll learn why this may be the most important success principle of all.

And finally.....

#6 Understand the price of living and achieving your dreams... What are you willing to give up to go to the next level? John and Tom will explore how to calculate the cost of success in the Law of Sacrifice.

YES! I'M READY TO LEARN FROM JOHN AND TOM HOW TO RAISE MY LEADERSHIP LID & UNLEASH MY FULL POTENTIAL IN 2023!

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: ASBJ Brief January 2023
FROM: ASBJ Brief <asbjbrief@nsba.org>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/21/2023 10:33



Lead Story

School Board Leadership

The first *ASBJ* of 2023 offers a package of articles on the different facets of school board leadership and governance relevant to both new and experienced school board members. Longtime school boards association trainer Phil Gore kicks things off with "Achievement, Culture, and What Comes Next," revisiting three moments in his career that defined what school boards should focus on to be successful.

Read More

In Focus



Doing Better By Our Children

Philadelphia School Board Chair Joyce Wilkerson, a veteran civic leader, received the CUBE Lifetime



Asking the Right Questions Can Improve Governance

Now is the time to consider new questions and district vital signs to inform governance, writes former



Q&A: Jake Oliveira On Relationship-Building

The Mass. State Senator and former school board member discusses the importance of making

Achievement Award at CUBE's recent conference.

San Francisco School Board member Jill Wynns.

connections to advance support for public education.

Read More

Read More

Read More





The Purest Form of Representative Democracy
John Heim is the Executive Director and CEO of NSBA.

While governance based upon democracy may be messy, it can be made less so with good processes and policies. Your state associations are good sources of information and training on how to incorporate the thoughts and voices of the community into a well-structured, fair, and balanced framework. Parent committees, student governance, teacher and staff councils, and business advisory groups and listening processes should be in place to provide opportunities for all to be engaged in the education of a community's children.

Read More



Three-Legged Stool Of Board Leadership

School boards must balance responsibility, authority, and

Your Trusted Facilities Management Partner

Schools nationwide trust HES to provide exceptional



Continue Your Journey to A Smarter School!

Learn how federal ESSER funds can accelerate your

accountability to successfully govern, writes board trainer and long-time school board leader Rick Maloney.

facilities services. How does your current provider or program compare? Take our quiz.

school's transformation into the best learning environment for students.

This article is brought to you by HES Facilities Management.

This article is brought to you by Siemens Smart Infrastructure.

Read More

Read More

Read More

Do Not Miss











Join NatCon

Stay up-to-date on dynamic issues affecting schools, students, staff, parents, and community partners across the nation. Program benefits include complimentary webinars, daily industry



Newly Released! CPE Research Brief

A new research brief from NSBA's Center for Public Education (CPE) examines the characteristics of community schools and describes how they engage parents and all stakeholders to improve student

news, *American School Board Journal* magazine, and more.

Learn More

achievement and well-being.

Learn More

Share Tweet Share

National School Boards Association
1680 Duke St., Fl 2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493
For questions or to advertise with us, please contact advertising@nsba.org.
Click here to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.

SUBJECT: My National School Choice Week Gift To You (Free Book)
FROM: Leaders Building Leaders <Tom@leaders-building-leaders.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/22/2023 10:00

Hello Jennifer,

Sometimes as a school leader (who am I kidding--nearly all of the time as a school leader) you don't have the time to read an entire book in order to solve a problem.

As a former school leader and current coach of numerous charter school leaders, I knew this to be true, so I wrote a book focused on best practices called The Ten Indicators of High-Performing Charter Schools, and I wrote it so that you could easily find solutions to issues you may be facing as you lead your school through this year.

In the book I cover the Ten Indicators of High Performance I have identified in over a dozen years of best practices research. The book comes with an ***assessment tool and research based best practices to move your school from here to there!***

No matter where you are in your school leadership journey, I know this book can serve you on your way to leading the best school around.

Check it out and let me know what you think.

Download the Ten Indicators of High Performing Charter Schools.

This book was written based on 20 years of experience, observation, research and practical application.

I am honored that you want a copy and read it.

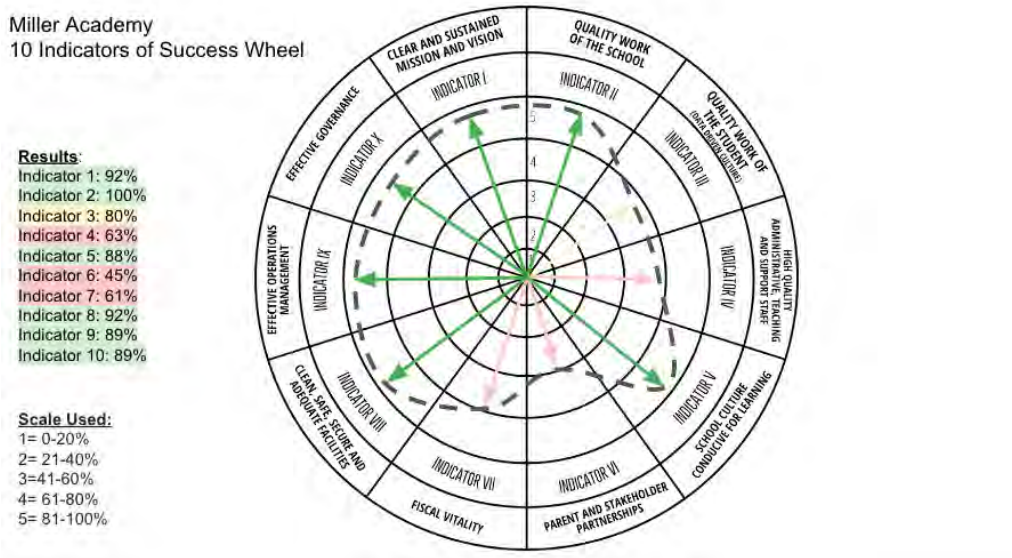
Be on the look out as I will be leading virtual training and Q and A sessions on the book over the next 90 days to celebrate the book and celebrate your accelerated success!

To supplement the book there are multiple resources available to you as well.

The first is your Ten Indicators Assessment. This Assessment takes less that 10 minutes to complete and will provide you the current reality of your school's performance. (Take the online assessment) The results will be emailed directly to you.

Another benefit to you is our Ten Indicator Wheel of Success. When you download the book there is a checklist and wheel for you to mark your scores from the assessment.

It's a great visual to go over with your team.



This Wheel is a perfect day one team leadership discussion. Give everyone the link to take the Ten Indicators Assessment and a copy of the blank Wheel, sit around the table and discuss your results. Then read the book together and week by week, month by month, quarter by quarter, improve the results of your school and improve your life in significant ways!

When you get your copy and start reading, be sure to share your feedback.

Keep making a difference,

Dr. Tom

Unsubscribe | Sent by Leaders Building Leaders
5116 Busted Rock Trail • Raleigh, NC • 27610

SUBJECT: You're invited to tomorrow's attendance and enrollment event!
FROM: Lauren McKee <lauren@possip.com>
TO: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 01/23/2023 11:14



Hi Jennifer,

Please join us tomorrow, January 24th, for a live virtual event to more **fully understand and address barriers to attendance.**

Also, **get top motivating mindsets to help families, kids, and teachers** be excited to show up for school.

P.S. Can't make it to the event? Register anyways and we will send you the recording after the event ends. ;-)

Click here to register for our Attendance and Enrollment event - tomorrow, January 24th, 2023 at 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET.

Meet our panelists!



James Crumlin
Partner at Spencer Fane, LLP law firm



Austin Rhodes
President and Co-Founder of Rhodes Branding



Dr. Kavon Seay
Dean of Students for K-2nd at Napier Elementary



Shani Dowell
CEO & Founder of Possip



Marc Anthony Peek
Community Achieves Site Manager at Napier Elementary

Possip is on a mission to help schools strengthen their communities through

improved communication. Join over 1 million parents, students, and staff that are part of the work.

Possip, 615 Main St., Nashville, Tennessee 37206

Unsubscribe Manage preferences

SUBJECT: follow up
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
CC: Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/23/2023 13:43

Good Afternoon, Dominick,

You had asked about whether or not the percentage of students getting a D or F in math has increased this year with the new math curriculum materials. Here is the breakdown for both Math and ELA. Grade 6 and 8 saw some increase in the percentage from last year. It is important to note that some schools saw no change or even a decline while other schools saw much larger increase than what the district aggregate depicts. To me, this shows it is about teaching practices, not the new math materials.

Thanks,
Faith

Percent of students with a D or F in math or ELA classes for the last three years					
Math D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.32	6.97	8.83		
6th Grade	9.5	4.74	7.95		
7th Grade	13.6	7.61	7.6		
8th Grade	13.69	8.41	10.72		
ELA D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.1	6.78	6.62		
6th Grade	11.47	6.19	4.48		
7th Grade	12.29	7.18	7.2		
8th Grade	12.51	6.94	9.08		

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Re: follow up
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
CC: Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>, Latonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Shannon Lueders <slueders@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/23/2023 13:44

Faith,
Do we have any links to include in the update to the board tonight or is that data not public facing yet?
Jen

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 23, 2023, at 1:43 PM, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Good Afternoon, Dominick,
>
> You had asked about whether or not the percentage of students getting a D or F in math has increased this year with the new math curriculum materials. Here is the breakdown for both Math and ELA. Grade 6 and 8 saw some increase in the percentage from last year. It is important to note that some schools saw no change or even a decline while other schools saw much larger increase than what the district aggregate depicts. To me, this shows it is about teaching practices, not the new math materials.
>
> Thanks,
> Faith

Percent of students with a D or F in math or ELA classes for the last three years					
Math D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.32	6.97	8.83		
6th Grade	9.5	4.74	7.95		
7th Grade	13.6	7.61	7.6		
8th Grade	13.69	8.41	10.72		
ELA D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.1	6.78	6.62		
6th Grade	11.47	6.19	4.48		

7th Grade	12.29	7.18	7.2		
8th Grade	12.51	6.94	9.08		

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Re: follow up
FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/23/2023 13:52

I have them. Should I share them in the board update this evening?

Ursula is asking for an update via a document she shared.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 23, 2023, at 1:48 PM, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
>
> Good Afternoon, Jen,
>
> Are you referring to the links of the information that we discussed at the BOE T and L meeting? If so, Dominick had reached out last week and I had digitally shared with him the handouts that were used at the meeting. (I had already shared them with you due to you attending remotely).
>
> Would you like me to resend them to you?
>
> Thanks,
> Faith
>
> On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 1:44 PM Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:
>> Faith,
>> Do we have any links to include in the update to the board tonight or is that data not public facing yet?
>> Jen
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> > On Jan 23, 2023, at 1:43 PM, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
>> >
>> > Good Afternoon, Dominick,
>> >
>> > You had asked about whether or not the percentage of students getting a D or F in math has increased this year with the new math curriculum materials. Here is the breakdown for both Math and ELA. Grade 6 and 8 saw some increase in the percentage from last year. It is important to note that some schools saw no change or even a decline while other schools saw much larger increase than what the district aggregate depicts. To me, this shows it is about teaching practices, not the new math materials.
>> >
>> > Thanks,
>> > Faith

Percent of students with a D or F in math or ELA classes for the last three years					
Math D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.32	6.97	8.83		
6th Grade	9.5	4.74	7.95		
7th Grade	13.6	7.61	7.6		
8th Grade	13.69	8.41	10.72		
ELA D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.1	6.78	6.62		
6th Grade	11.47	6.19	4.48		
7th Grade	12.29	7.18	7.2		
8th Grade	12.51	6.94	9.08		

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

SUBJECT: Re: follow up
FROM: Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
TO: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, Dominick Cirone <dominick-cirone@sd308.org>
DATE: 01/23/2023 13:55

Hi Jen,
I think Dominick was working on a written summary. I'd hate for you both to be writing something. It is fine for the data to be shared. I've included Dominick on this email so maybe we can coordinate?

Thanks,
Faith

On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 1:52 PM Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:

> I have them. Should I share them in the board update this evening?
>
> Ursula is asking for an update via a document she shared.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jan 23, 2023, at 1:48 PM, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
> >
> > Good Afternoon, Jen,
> >
> > Are you referring to the links of the information that we discussed at the BOE T and L meeting? If so, Dominick had reached out last week and I had digitally shared with him the handouts that were used at the meeting. (I had already shared them with you due to you attending remotely).
> >
> > Would you like me to resend them to you?
> >
> > Thanks,
> > Faith
> >
> > On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 1:44 PM Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:
> >
> > > Faith,
> > > Do we have any links to include in the update to the board tonight or is that data not public facing yet?
> > > Jen
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > > On Jan 23, 2023, at 1:43 PM, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > Good Afternoon, Dominick,

You had asked about whether or not the percentage of students getting a D or F in math has increased this year with the new math curriculum materials. Here is the breakdown for both Math and ELA. Grade 6 and 8 saw some increase in the percentage from last year. It is important to note that some schools saw no change or even a decline while other schools saw much larger increase than what the district aggregate depicts. To me, this shows it is about teaching practices, not the new math materials.

Thanks,
Faith

Percent of students with a D or F in math or ELA classes for the last three years					
Math D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.32	6.97	8.83		
6th Grade	9.5	4.74	7.95		
7th Grade	13.6	7.61	7.6		
8th Grade	13.69	8.41	10.72		
ELA D/F					
	2021%	**2022%**	**2023%**		
All Grades	12.1	6.78	6.62		
6th Grade	11.47	6.19	4.48		
7th Grade	12.29	7.18	7.2		
8th Grade	12.51	6.94	9.08		

--
Faith Dahlquist
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein