

## DEAR DISTRICT 39 COMMUNITY,

The 2017-18 school year got off to a terrific after Labor Day start. More family time was much appreciated, and staff were happy to have additional days to prepare for the school year. We saw many smiles as students arrived for their first half day on September 5th.

We had some exciting late-breaking news as this newsletter was headed to the printer. Romona School was honored as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2017. This is Romona's second time receiving this award, which makes us all very proud. You can read more about this on page 2.

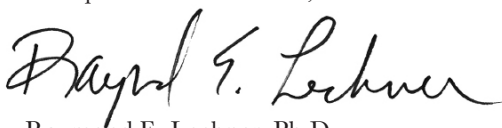
Summer was busy, as always, in our buildings. Both Romona and McKenzie had construction to complete new Learning Commons, and students are already enjoying these engaging spaces. Now, five of the District's six schools have these updated libraries, and a multi-year plan is under consideration for Highcrest to address school-wide space issues and create space for a Learning Commons.

Our Board of Education also took an important step at its August meeting and approved a Statement of Inclusion for District 39. Discussion of this statement began last spring, and its formal adoption is an important affirmation of the District's mission and core values. Here in District 39, we honor every single student and staff member. I am proud to be part of a district that prioritizes diversity and inclusion. I encourage you to read the full statement on our website under Mission Statement.

As our schools opened, there were many in Texas and Florida that were devastated by storms. Help was needed in so many places, but our District focused on Pasadena Independent School District in Texas, which was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. Pasadena is a large school district with 56,000 students, and 77% considered economically disadvantaged. All of our schools participated in a fundraising campaign, and the community joined in. I am pleased to report that to date we have raised more than \$13,500 together. You can still make a donation online at [www.pasadenaisd.org](http://www.pasadenaisd.org); include "District 39" in the special instructions so we can track our collective impact.

We are part of a wonderful community and we truly appreciate the support we receive. You can learn more about D39 on our website at [www.wilmette39.org](http://www.wilmette39.org). Or find us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Your partner in education,



Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Wilmette Public Schools District 39



*Superintendent Ray Lechner welcomes students on the first day at Harper.*



*These two check out one of the great spaces at in the new McKenzie Learning Commons.*



*Students can find the perfect spot to read in Romona's new Learning Commons.*

# WELCOME NEW ADMINISTRATORS

## MEET D39'S TWO NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



From left: Dana Nasiakos and Elena Ryan

### DANA NASIAKOS

Dana is the new Assistant Principal at Central School. Dana has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois, a master's in education from DePaul University, and a master's in educational leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. Before coming to D39, Dana was at Northbrook Junior High teaching 6th grade language arts.

### ELENA RYAN

Elena is the new Assistant Principal for Harper and Romona schools. Elena has a bachelor's in music education from DePaul University and a master's in educational leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. Previously, Elena was with Glenview District 34 teaching music and choir, fine arts, and physical education.

# SUMMER FUN!

The D39 Summer Enrichment Program completed another successful year.

More than 475 students participated this year and there were lots of opportunities for fun and learning. Classes for K-3 were at Central School while grades 4-7 went to Wilmette Junior High.

There were 106 classes in all. Several new options were introduced this year including *Rope Climbing Extravaganza*, *Sports Fan Publishing House*, and *Fine Motor Hands On*. And, kid favorites returned like *Rocketry* and *Volleyball*.



Superintendent Ray Lechner visits with Summer Enrichment students in *Fur, Feathers, and Scales*.

# ROMONA SCHOOL GETS NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

Excitement was in the air at Romona School on September 28th. The official announcement that Romona had been honored as a National Blue Ribbon School came from the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Besty DeVos. Principal Cindy Anderson called an all-school gathering for 2:00, but the students didn't know why. There was lots of buzzing as the children filed into the gym. Then the principal asked for quiet. "We've always known Romona ROCKS, but today we learned that Romona REALLY ROCKS," Mrs. Anderson began. Soon the news was out and the students were cheering. Dr. Lechner added congratulations noting, "This is an exciting day! Everyone should be proud." Then, the whole school sang the *Romona Rocks* song together.



This is the second time Romona has received this award, an extraordinary and well-deserved accomplishment. Traveling to Washington on November 6-7 to receive the award will be Mrs. Anderson, Romona first grade teacher Susan Imburgia, and Dr. Lechner; an all school celebration will be scheduled soon after.

# D39 FINANCIALS: 2017–2018 BUDGET

The 2017-18 Budget was adopted by the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the Mikaelian Education Center. A recap is below and the complete budget is posted on the District website.

## OPERATING FUNDS

EDUCATION, TORT, OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE, TRANSPORTATION, ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND/SOCIAL SECURITY, AND WORKING CASH FUNDS

### Revenue

Local	\$54,928,955
State	3,505,504
State Teacher Pension Flow-through	14,003,700
Federal	1,160,196
Transfer from Ed Fund to O&M Fund	2,500,000

**Total Operating Funds Revenue \$76,098,355**

### Expenditures

Salary, Wages & Benefits	\$46,745,780
State Teacher Pension Flow-through	14,003,700
Purchased Services	5,056,710
Supplies & Materials	3,517,425
Capital Outlay	1,430,567
Planned Construction Projects	4,150,000
Tuition & Other	2,108,934
Transfer from Ed Fund to O&M Fund	2,500,000

**Total Operating Funds Expenditures \$79,513,116**

- Teacher Pension Flow-through is the payment the State makes toward D39's pension obligation and is a budget neutral item. The District must record the pension obligation, even though the District does not make these payments.
- The deficit in the Operating Funds occurs because of \$4.1 million for one time planned construction projects: Learning Commons renovation, large space air conditioning, and a 16 unit-vent replacement at Romona School; Learning Commons renovation, large space air conditioning, and partial roof replacement at McKenzie School; and boiler replacement at Wilmette Junior High.
- Projected Fiscal Year-End Operating Funds Reserve is \$35,455,488. The ratio of reserves to expenditures is 54.1%. By way of comparison, as of 6/30/16, the Fiscal Year-End Operating Funds Reserve was \$35,599,361. The ratio of reserves to expenditures was 61.2%.

## NON-OPERATING FUNDS

CAPITAL PROJECTS, BOND & INTEREST, AND LIFE SAFETY FUNDS

### Revenue

Local	\$1,230,892
State	0
Federal	0

**Total Non-Operating Funds \$1,230,892**

**Other Sources – Transfers \$5,108,454**

### Expenditures

Purchased Services	\$0
Capital Outlay	0
Other Services	1,405,629

**Total Non-Operating Funds \$1,405,629**

**Other Uses – Transfers \$5,108,454**

### TRANSFERS INCLUDE:

- \$4.1 million of construction costs moves out of O&M to the Capital Projects Fund.
- \$1 million of debt service payments moves out of the Education and O&M Funds to the Bond & Interest Fund.
- \$2.5 million Permanent Transfer from the Ed Fund to the O&M Fund.

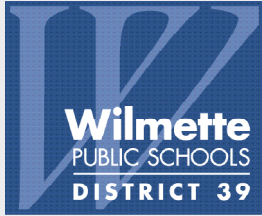
## ALL FUNDS

**Total All Expenditures: \$78,418,745**  
*transfers not included*

**Total All Revenues: \$74,829,247**  
*transfers not included*

For more financial data, including historical comparisons, we encourage you to visit the District 39 Dashboard on our web site at [wilmette39.org](http://wilmette39.org).





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## DISTRICT 39 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

The start of school is a busy time for the D39 Educational Foundation when we prepare for the upcoming school year. We are working on many events, programs, and activities in order to raise money for our Gripp Grants that provide innovative educational programs, experiences, and technologies to D39 schools. We invite teachers, staff, parents, and D39 students to apply for grants. This year's application deadlines are October 27 and March 10.

Our 4th annual "Attire to Inspire" fashion show held at The Michigan Shores Club was a blast! On Thursday, September 28 attendees enjoyed a buffet



lunch and runway fashion show. Many shopped at local merchant booths offering the latest fall fashions and trends. Fifteen percent of proceeds were donated to the Foundation. Thanks to everyone for making this such a successful and enjoyable afternoon! If you couldn't make it, there's still a chance to up your fashion sense by donating \$39 and receiving a Foundation reusable shopping bag at [www.d39foundation.org](http://www.d39foundation.org).

You'll find fun for all ages on Friday, October 20 at our Family Bingo Night from 6 - 8 pm at the Masonic Lodge in Wilmette. Pizza and salad from local restaurants will be available. There are lots of opportunities to win prizes and have a great time! Children under 11 must be supervised.

The Science Olympiad program is ramping up for another interesting and challenging season. Science-enrichment courses in a variety of STEM disciplines are offered to 5th-8th graders. Each course is taught by a community volunteer or a volunteers from D39 teacher. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to lead a course. Classes begin in early December. Registration will be in mid-October. Stay tuned to our website for course information.

Later this fall you will have an opportunity to join those who support the Foundation through our Annual Appeal. Please watch your mail for this important way to help us fund our grant giving. Many thanks to our tremendous donor community! You may also donate at [www.d39foundation.org](http://www.d39foundation.org).

### DISTRICT 39 BOARD OF EDUCATION

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#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are interested in your ideas, feedback, and suggestions, whether or not you have children in our schools. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Email us at [opinion@wilmette39.org](mailto:opinion@wilmette39.org) or contact Dr. Ray Lechner at 847-512-6030. Mail can be sent to the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, IL 60091.