



WEST NORTHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 31

BOARD BRIEFS

AUG 8, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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Field Middle School

Michael Kahn
Principal
Winkelman School

Board Adopts 2013-2014 Strategic Plan

District Aims High With Continued Improvement

The School Board approved the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan including six areas of continued improvement: Communication, Community, Educational Programming, Finances, Operations, and Personnel. Multiple studies are planned for Educational Programming: foreign language in the elementary grade levels, full-day kindergarten, middle school model of scheduling and programming, ELL/bilingual programming, conversion to Common Core Math and Science, expanded implementation of supporting instruction with iPads, and the development of the Five-Year Technology Plan for 2014-15 through 2018-2019. The entire 2013-2014 Strategic Plan can be viewed on the District web site.

District is Committed to Small Class Sizes

District is Committed to Remain Within Adopted Class Size Guidelines

Superintendent Nicholson has approved five classes of kindergarten, first, and third grades for 2013-2014 and is working with Winkelman Principal Michael Kahn daily to remain current with student registrations for the remaining grades. Additional classes will be opened depending upon what happens with enrollment over the next two weeks. To make these decisions, class size guidelines and students' needs are carefully considered. Class size guidelines are: kindergarten – 19; grades one and two – 20; grade three – 22; grades four and five – 23. The need to employ additional classroom teachers and reassign students to classes has delayed notifying parents of their children's placements for 2013-2014.

If you know any residents of District 31 who have not yet registered their children for school, please tell them it is imperative that they do so immediately.

Board Adopts Tentative 2013-2014 Budget

District Achieves Balanced Budget

The School Board approved a tentative 2013-2014 budget totaling \$15.9 million, including \$14.4 million of operating expenditures. The tentative budget reflects a 9% increase over the 2012-2013 budget resulting from the employment of additional staff to remain within the class size guidelines and to address the needs of all students. Increases to technology, school improvement studies, special education, and the bilingual program are indicative of these efforts.

The District's anticipated revenues for fiscal year 2014 total approximately \$17 million. This reflects the tax payer approved increase of \$1.55 million from the successful referendum as well as an increase in property tax receipts from the Astellas development. The amount of tax receipts received from Astellas will be reduced next year when their 7b tax incentive takes effect.

The 2012-2013 tentative budget is available for viewing on the District 31 web site. A hearing for public comment is scheduled for 7:00 PM, September 19th. The adoption of the final 2012-2013 budget is scheduled during the September 19th Board of Education meeting following the hearing.