

BOARD BRIEFS

Avoca School District 37

Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent
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Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Approved

On September 22nd, the Board held a public meeting to discuss the fiscal year 2017 budget during regular session. The projected budget shows a deficit of \$2,196,849, which includes \$1,193,000 for like safety projects that will be paid with proceeds from the 2015 sale of life safety bonds. The total projected deficit excluding the Fire Prevention and Safety Fund is \$1,003,849. \$450,000 of the deficit is attributed to facilities projects at both schools that were completed during the summer of 2016. The projected reserve level at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year will be approximately 64%.

Strategic Plan 2016-2021

The Board has been working to align district practices to the Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Goals for the District's new 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, which was approved in June. At this stage, the Board is engaging discussion regarding the 2016-2017 District Goals, which will allow the District to move forward by prioritizing certain aspects of the strategic plan. The District will focus on critical needs that are addressed within the five goals of the strategic plan for the 2016-2017 school year. The main areas of concentration are elementary math, professional learning communities, continuous improvement systems and communication and engagement with the community. To learn more about the Strategic Plan, visit avoca37.org and follow the [Strategic Plan](#) link.

Student Enrollment

Student enrollment at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year is consistent with the previous school year totaling 744 students. There are 462 students at Avoca West representing grades Kindergarten through 5th grade and 282 at Marie Murphy which includes Avoca Community Preschool and grades 6-8.

Avoca Center

The Board held a Community Open House on October 26, 2016 to inform the public of the options under consideration for Avoca Center. At this time, the Board is looking to either sell the property to a developer for the purpose of building single family homes or renovate the building to continue operating it as a rental facility. The Board is processing the feedback from the community and intends to have further discussion at the November Board of Education meetings. For more information and to stay up to date with the entire process visit www.avoca37.org/avocacenter/.

Extra-Curricular Stipend Adjustments to the 2015-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement

At the September Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the proposed adjustments to the extra-curricular stipends for fiscal year 2017, based on the work of the Stipend Committee formed as a result of the 2015-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The adjustments were changed due to the results of data collected over the 2015-2016 school year. The data was essential in determining which roles required more or less time and compensation. The approved schedule included an overall increase of \$14,436.

2015-2016 Performance Indicator Reports

The Board took time to review and acknowledge the many accomplishments, impact and awards attributed to students and the staff during the 2015-2016 school year. Notably, the Avoca students were recognized for their work in community service, fine arts, writing and science. Staff was recognized in particular in the areas of technology and fine arts.

The District also conducted research into student connectedness, which outlines the variety of extra-curricular activities and frequency which students are participating. The district offers a total of 43 extra-curricular activities. 80% of students at Avoca West and 89% of Marie Murphy students are participating in at least on activity beyond the classroom.

The Board also had an opportunity to review an early release of the 2015-2016 PARCC standardized testing results for Avoca students. The results are similar to those of the previous year, although the administration of the tests was different. State Report Card data is available at www.illinoisreportcard.com.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

Regular Board meetings are open to the public and are held at Marie Murphy School. To confirm time and location of the meetings, please contact the Superintendent's office at 847-251-3587 or visit the Board of Education [website](#) for a complete schedule.

- 12/1-5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole
- 12/15- 6:15 p.m. Hearing on 2016 Tax Levy
- 12/15-6:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
- 1/5- 5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole