

BOARD BRIEFS

Avoca School District 37

Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent
2921 Illinois Road, Willmette, IL 60091
847-251-3587 ♦ avoca37.org

Avoca Center

In light of the October 26, 2016 Community meeting regarding Avoca Center's future, the Board continued dialog with the community through November and December. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 3, 2016, the Board addressed the following four themes that were evident from community input: property tax implications; other options the Board has considered; the overall community impact; and the process for arriving at the options to either sell the property for development of single family homes or renovate the building. At the December Committee of the Whole meeting, Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, reported that during the November 17th Closed Session, the Board discussed terms and pricing of a sustainable renegotiated lease to incorporate renovation implications for the current lessees and the Board's desire to continue discussion with the Wilmette Park District of a potential mutually beneficial option for the Avoca Center land parcel.

At the December 15th, Board of Education Meeting, the Board decided that it was not a viable or responsible decision to renovate Avoca Center. The Board also decided by unanimous vote to serve the Notices of Termination with an effective termination date of December 31, 2017. The district is not necessarily stating that the tenants must vacate within 12 months, but rather that the current lease will expire in that time frame. For more information and to stay up to date with the entire process visit www.avoca37.org/avocacenter/.

Summer 2017 Life Safety and Facilities Projects

At the November 17, 2016 meeting, the Board approved the scope of services for the summer 2017 life safety and facilities projects. Both Avoca West and Marie Murphy School will be receiving necessary fire-sealing from the top of the interior walls to the roof deck and maintenance to interior masonry, electrical outlets and signage. At Avoca West, the 4th Grade will undergo asbestos abatement and upgrades to the flooring, cabinetry and windows. The projected budget for life safety projects will be approximately \$578,000 and an estimated \$250,000-\$308,000 for facilities projects. This total does not include the asbestos abatement and replacement of a section of the roof at Marie Murphy. The architect fees will be 10% of the total cost.

2016 Audit

At its November 17, 2016 meeting, the Board approved the 2016 Audit. The Annual Financial Report Estimated Financial Profile Summary gave the district a score of 3.65 out of a possible 4.00 total, earning the district a financial profile designation of "Recognition." The 2016 operating expense per pupil was \$20,148 based on the average daily attendance of 684 students. The per capita tuition charge for 2016 was \$18,919. The cash and cash equivalent balance remains strong at \$13,401,747. The district added \$2,222,487 in capital assets. The depreciation expense for the year was \$665,362. Long-term debt decreased by \$933,452. None of the district's fund balances showed a negative/deficit balance at year-end. Four of the fund expenditures were higher than their allotted budget.

2015-2016 Illinois State Report Card

The Board reviewed the 2015-2016 Illinois State Report Card (ISRC) and PARCC standardized testing results for Avoca students. The ISRC highlights the district's student and staff demographics, financial status and student performance compared to state standards. Avoca continues to have a diverse student population. The financial information presented in the ISRC is a breakdown of instructional and operational spending per pupil. Avoca showed improvement in their overall percentage on test scores, although the tests and structure were different. Dr. Jauch presented a comparison of 13 high performing area districts. Avoca stood out in ELA, particularly in grades 5-8. Avoca's elementary Math scores present an opportunity for improvement, while the upper grades performed very well in mathematics.

State Report Card data is available at www.illinoisreportcard.com.

2016 Tax Levy

The Board of Education held a hearing on the 2016 Tax Levy and took action to approve it on December 15, 2016. CSBO, Beth Dever, presented the proposed tax levy, which is capped at .7% plus any new growth in district. The requested 2016 Tax Levy is \$13,639,250. The funds received from taxes comprise approximately 85% of the total annual revenues for the district.

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2017 Summer School Tuition

The Board approved the 2017 Summer School Tuition fee schedule at the December 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting. Avoca will offer Basic and Extended School Year classes, Preschool and Science for grade 6-8. Basic (five days a week for five weeks) tuition will be \$170 per student with a bus fee of \$130. The preschool summer program (three days a week for five weeks) fees are \$300 per student. The science program (four days a week for four weeks) fee is \$150 per student.

2017-2018 School Year Calendar

The Board reviewed the 2017-2018 School Year Calendar at its December Board of Education meeting. This calendar sets the first day of student attendance for Wednesday, August 30, 2017 and the last day of student attendance for Wednesday, June 13, 2017. The last day of student attendance aligns with New Trier. This calendar also reflects a change in the schedule teacher contract and institute days, moving two of them to the week of the Thanksgiving holiday. To view the complete 2017-2018 Calendar, please visit the district website www.avoca37.org and click the 2017-2018 Calendar link.

2016-2017 District Goals

At the November Board of Education Meeting the Board approved the 2016-2017 District Goals. The goals were determined through the work of the Strategic Plan Committee.

Since that time, district Administration and staff have been working on developing and determining the critical goals that need to be achieved in the current school year. The five Strategic Plan goals are as follows: Goal 1: Provide a Rigorous, comprehensive, personalized education to ensure success for all students at Avoca District 37 and beyond; Goal 2: Support Professional Learning Communities to ensure coherence, collaboration, innovation and accountability; Goal 3: Establish data-driven systems to facilitate ownership, growth, and continuous improvement; Goal 4: Establish trust, respect, engagement and satisfaction among families and communities; and Goal 5: Responsibly manage district resources including people, time and money to achieve our mission, vision and goals. District Administration and staff have been working diligently to develop aligned strategies to achieve the district goals. To learn more about the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, please visit the website www.avoca37.org and click on the Strategic Plan link.

For more information on each of these topics, please refer to the **Approved Minutes** page on our website:

www.avoca37.org/blog/category/approved-minutes/

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.

- **February 16, 2017- Board of Education**
- **March 6, 2017- Committee of the Whole**
- **March 23, 2017- Board of Education**
- **April 4, 2017- School Board Elections**
- **April 6, 2017- Committee of the Whole**
- **April 25, 2017- Board Election Results Canvassed**
- **April 27, 2017- Board of Education Meeting (New Date!)**

If you are interested in subscribing to the Avoca Weekly, the Parent Teacher Council and District Newsletter or subscribing to any of our current website pages, please visit our website (www.avoca37.org) or email Suzie Harris at harriss@avoca37.org.