



The Rocket Report Spring 2010

Central Community Unit School District 301

Quality, equity and care for all students.

State Education Funding Cuts Affect Central 301

The State of Illinois is expected to end its fiscal year \$13 billion dollars in debt and has once again missed the two most recent quarterly payments due to our school district. These quarterly payments in addition to delayed payments in other grant funds total approximately \$1.7 million. This money is earmarked to aid the funding of special education, transportation, reading resource services, and bilingual education. School districts have a legal obligation to provide many of these “unfunded mandates.” In addition to delayed payments in the current fiscal year, the state is proposing cuts to next year’s education funding levels. As a result, Central 301, like other Illinois school districts in our area, are planning to cut budgets and utilize reserves.

The State Constitution mandates that “The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.” In 1985 the state contributed about 40% to school districts’ budgets, but this percentage has steadily dropped over the years to approximately 26% of districts’ budgets. Illinois now ranks 49th out of the 50 states in funding public schools. Being ranked second lowest in the nation for state support has resulted in Illinois having the second highest local property tax burden in the nation as reported by the U.S. Department of Education.

The governor has proposed a 17% reduction in school funding because the state is in a financial crisis. This reduction would result in a \$1.3 billion cut to the state’s education budget and could result in our district having to reduce its 2010 — 2011 fiscal budget by more than one million dollars. These cuts in state funding will be through reductions in general state aid, special education and transportation categorical payments, and other grants.

Based on the proposed reductions at the state level, Central 301 is anticipating reductions in general state aid in the amount of approximately \$600,000. Reductions to categorical aid could result in a decrease of \$520,000 to the district. Additional cuts to grant funded programs could reach \$140,000. Compounding the state reductions are the economic factors directly affecting the value of property within our district. Over the past few years, the district’s growth rate in local taxes has declined as new housing starts have flattened.

This smaller increase in property taxes coupled with the significant reductions in state funding has resulted in the Board of Education’s preparation for a \$1 million deficit in fiscal year 2011. The Board acted on a reduction plan which will affect every school and department in the district. An outline of these reductions is shown in the corresponding table. In the event that revenue estimates are lower than anticipated once the state budget is determined, further reductions may be recommended.

Please feel free to share your opinion with our local state legislators on whether and how much further the state should cut its share of public school funding which continues to shift the burden of education even more to the local property taxpayers.

Reduction Area

Reductions in Building Operating Budgets (supplies & materials)

Reductions in Staff Development

Reductions in Textbook Replaceables

Instructional Personnel

- 4-6 Elementary Teaching positions·
- 1-2 Middle School Teaching positions·
- 5-6 High School Teaching Positions·
- Instructional Technology Position·
- District Literacy Coordinator·
- Security/TCR Paraprofessional·
- Reduction of part-time Business Manager·
- Reduction in Middle School Dean positions

Reduction of Extra-Duty Contracts

Reduction of Extra-Day Contracts

Reductions in Athletic Supply Budgets

Reductions in Capital Outlay Expenses

Reductions in part-time Maintenance Staff

Reduction in Transportation Office Staff

Who are Homeless

Children and Youth?

Before schools can be certain they are complying with legislation related to educating students experiencing homelessness, they must understand who can be considered homeless. The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines "homeless children and youth" (school age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:
 - » Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
 - » Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
 - » Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - » Abandoned in hospitals
 - » Awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
- The term unaccompanied youth includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to "throwaway children and youth"); and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

In determining whether or not a child or youth is homeless, consider the relative permanence of the living arrangements. Determinations of homelessness should be made on a case by case basis.

May 4th Spring Focus Group

Location: HBT Time: 6:30 — 8:30

RSVP: By April, 30th to Mrs. Pam Israelson
pisraelson@burlington.k12.il.us 847.464.6005

#301 Community Members,

You are invited to attend a focus group, on May 4th 2010, at Howard B. Thomas Grade School. The meeting will begin in the cafeteria with a large group session to review:

- The purpose of focus groups
- How information from previous focus groups has been utilized to improve the district
- The district's budget and fiscal accountability
- Curriculum initiatives

Following the large group session, participants will break into small groups. The small group questions will provide the district with a community member perspective on how effectively Central is meeting students' curricular needs at the elementary, middle school, and high school level. The goal is to provide feedback to the Board of Education and district staff regarding community member perspectives on curricular strengths, as well as areas for growth and improvement.

Your participation and input will be vital in helping the Board and staff members gain an external perspective on the relative strengths and concerns related to our district's current curriculum at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. The information gathered will be beneficial in planning refinements and improvements at all levels of instruction.

We are planning for up to twelve teams with eight community participants on a team.

Elementary level - 4 teams Middle School - 4 teams High School 4 teams

Please remember to RSVP to Pam Israelson, and we look forward to meeting with you.

Registration for the 2010-2011 School Year

All district elementary and middle schools have sent out registration materials to currently enrolled families. If you have not received your student's registration materials, copies of registration materials are available at each district school building. Students enrolling in kindergarten must be five (5) years of age prior to September 1, 2010 in order to enroll. Please contact your district building if you have a child to enroll in kindergarten in the fall.

Numerous documents and health records must be filed, so please register as soon as possible. Any early registration also assists the district in determining class sections and staffing.

Items Parents/Guardians need to bring to register new students to District 301:

1. Official Birth Certificate as issued by the County in which the child was born. The birth certificate should indicate that your child will be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2010. The hospital copy with footprints is not acceptable.

2. Proof of Residency

A. (One document required) Most recent property tax bill, mortgage papers (homeowners), signed and dated lease with proof of last months payment

B. (Two documents showing proper address are required) Driver's license, vehicle registration, voter registration, most recent utility bill and or credit card bill, mail addressed to you received at residence

Please visit our website www.burlington.k12.il.us or contact the district office at 847-464-6005 if you have any questions



CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 301 Burlington, IL 60109

July

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

December

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

2010-2011 School Calendar

AUGUST

Teachers' Institute Days August 23, 24
First Day of Classes (Grades 1-12)..... August 25

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Holiday September 6
School Improvement Day (Half Day)..... September 24

OCTOBER

School Improvement Day (Full Day) October 8
Columbus Day Holiday October 11
End of 1st Quarter..... October 29

NOVEMBER

Teacher Institute Day November 5
Parent/Teacher Conferences November 22, 23
Non Attendance Day..... November 24
Thanksgiving Break November 25-26

DECEMBER

Winter Break December 20-31

JANUARY

School Resumes January 3
School Improvement Day (Full Day) January 14
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday January 17
End of 2nd Quarter January 21

FEBRUARY

Presidents' Day Holiday..... February 21
Teacher Institute Day..... February 25

MARCH

End of 3rd Quarter March 25
School Improvement Day (Half Day)..... March 25
Spring Break March 28 – April 1

APRIL

School Resumes April 4
Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)..... April 20
Half Day Students (for previous evening P/T conf.) April 21
Non Attendance Day..... April 22

MAY

School Improvement Day (Half Day)..... May 11
Memorial Day Holiday..... May 30

JUNE

Last Day for Students June 6
Last Day for Students
if 5 "Emergency Days" are used..... June 13

■ Shaded dates indicate days when school is not in session for students.

1st Quarter – 45 Days
2nd Quarter – 42 Days
3rd Quarter – 43 Days
4th Quarter – 44 Days

January

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
30	31			

February

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

March

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

May

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

June

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	





**Central Community Unit
School District 301**

Dr. Todd Stirn
Superintendent

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Please note: Because District 301 mails its publication by postal route; some individuals who do not live in District 301 may receive this mailing.

Parent Portal & Email Blasts

The Parent Portal is currently offered at the middle school and high school level and provides an opportunity to view your child's attendance, grades, assignments, schedule and transcript. Parents also have access to review their child's current contact information, which may be used to help the school maintain accurate contact data. Some of the portal features includes:

- Ability to check student information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Ability to view a variety of student information such as attendance and discipline.
- Increased sense of ownership and responsibility for personal progress through viewing of homework assignments and due dates, grades, test scores and personal course schedules.
- Improved communications with the school and with students' teachers with online messages.
- Ability to ensure basic demographic data is up-to-date ~ view information such as address and telephone, emergency contacts and more.

Our *SchoolReach* instant messaging system will also be utilized next year to send out email blasts to school families. There may be occasions where a phone blast is not needed, but an email would prove beneficial in sharing information and reminders. Email addresses are being collected through the registration process and we will be offering additional ways to sign-up for blasts on our website.

E-Link Busing Information

Central's Transportation Department is using "E-Link" for the second year to provide routing information to families. E-Link is a web based program that provides the most current busing information including bus stop location, times and bus numbers. Busing information will be available for viewing on our district website no later than Wednesday, August 11th. Busing information postcards will not be mailed this summer. If you have questions regarding your child walking or riding the bus, please refer to E-Link or contact Mr. Rusty Lemcke, Director of Transportation at 847-464-6052.

Central High School Graduation - June 4th

The Central High School graduation ceremony on Friday, June 4 will again be held at the Spartan Events Center of Elgin Community College starting at 7:00 p.m. The doors will be opened to the public at 5:30 p.m. Please contact the high school at 847-464-6030 if you have any questions related to graduation.

**Burlington-Plato-Central
Alumni Association Banquet**

Mark your calendars! The Burlington-Plato-Central Alumni Association Banquet will be Saturday, July 31, 2010 at the Burlington Fire Department/Hall. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the annual meeting and music/socializing to follow. For additional information, please contact Denise Ramm at 630-365-5559.