MATTESON HEADLINES
Highlights from the Matteson School District 162 Board of Education

“We take the hopes and dreams of the community and turn them into reality!”

November 2016

BOARD APPROVES TENTATIVE 2016 TAX LEVY
The Board of Education approved the 2016 Tentative Tax Levy. Mr. Craig Englert, assistant superintendent of business services, made the following presentation about the levy to the Board of Education:

What Is a Levy?
- A levy is a request to Cook County for the amount to be raised by property taxes from District 162 residents for all purposes except bond payments.
- A bond levy is separate and completed at the time of a bond issue.

Tax Caps
- Tax caps are designated by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) implemented in 1994 in Cook County.
- Tax caps limit increases in the actual amount paid to school districts from existing properties, to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less, plus new property.
- The CPI for the 2016 levy is 0.7%.

CPI History-Past Five Years
- December 2015: 0.7%
- December 2014: 0.8%
- December 2013: 1.5%
- December 2012: 1.7%
- December 2011: 3.0%
**Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)**

- The EAV is reassessed every three years.
- The last reassessment for the south suburbs was in 2014.
- The actual EAV will not be known until summer 2017.
- The EAV has been declining since 2010.
- As of 2015, the EAV is back to pre-2002 levels.

**Tentative Levy**

- The Tentative Levy is designed to provide the District with the amount it received from the 2015 levy plus 0.7% (2015 CPI).
- The Tentative Operating Levy = $22,825,000 (this is a 4.9% increase over the prior year’s actual extension).
• The District will not receive a 4.9% increase in taxes.
• The Tentative Levy is set high to allow for any new property and a possible decrease in the EAV.

**Effect on Taxpayers**
On average, taxpayers will see a 0.4% increase (less than ½ percent) increase in the amount of taxes paid to District 162 next year.

Mr. Englert presented a timeline for the District’s completion of the levy process:

**Timeline**
- Vote to approve the 2016 Tentative Levy at the November 15, 2016 Board Meeting
- Vote to adopt the Final Levy at the December 20, 2016 Board Meeting
- File levy with Cook County no later than the last Tuesday in December

**TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**
Dr. Davis provided an update on the status of transportation services provided to the District by Kickert School Bus.

**Late Buses—Morning**
- September: 13
- October: 21
- November: 11

**Late Buses—Afternoon**
- September: 21
- October: 9
- November: 8

**Late Buses—Activity Runs**
- September: 12
- October: 3
- November: 2

**Driver Issues**
Drivers not knowing area or dropping off students in the wrong location:
- September: 12
- October: 3
- November: 1

**Bus Break Downs**
- September: 4
- October: 3
- November: 2

**Changes Implemented by Kickert**
- New manager
- New assistant manager
- New manager assigned to District 162 offices
- Two new experienced dispatchers
- Two new staff dedicated to answering phones
Changes Implemented by Kickert

- Thirty new vehicles assigned to District 162 routes
- Kickert sends daily logs to District 162, noting routes with sub drivers
- New driver attendance policy implemented
- New evening camera technician (pending)

Dr. Davis noted that communication between Kickert and District 162 has improved significantly. The following Kickert representatives were present at the meeting:

- John Benish, Chief Operating Officer
- Tom O’Sullivan, Vice President
- Jeff Barnes, Regional Manager
- Debbie Cipkar, Operations Manager
- Laketa Simpson, Special Assignments Coordinator

PRESCHOOL FOR ALL EXPANSION GRANT

Mrs. Yvonne Williams, chief special education officer, announced that the District has been awarded a $425,712 grant for FY17 to expand the District’s preschool program. The grant will enable the District to provide a full-day program for 80 four-year-old students who qualify for the at-risk preschool. Richton Square School will house four full-day preschool classrooms in addition to two half-day classrooms for 3 year olds. The District’s preschool program will now be able to serve a total of 160 students. The new full-day preschool program will provide the following:

- Full-time parent educator
- Full-time instructional coach
- Increased time for small group and individual support for students; opportunities for differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all children
- More time to develop social emotional skills
- More time for math, science, and social studies instruction
- More time for physical activity

The preschool program will also provide more comprehensive services including the following:

- Support for transition of students from birth to three programs and to kindergarten programs
- Community collaboration and partnerships
- More parent engagement opportunities led by a Parent Advisory Council
- Home visits
- Workshops and training for parents

The District expects the following results:

- Early learning program aligned within a birth through third grade continuum of services
- Students to meet/exceed expected kindergarten readiness milestones

MATH FLUENCY VIDEO COMPETITION

In order to facilitate its goal of improving students’ math fluency, the District sponsored a math fluency video competition, eliciting district schools and their families to share their strategies for teaching and learning math facts. Dr. Latunja Williams, director of mathematics, stated that the enthusiasm for the competition is an indication that staff, students, and parents are engaged in the District’s initiative to promote excellence in math education. Dr. Williams announced the following winners of the math fluency competition:
**Family Awards**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mia Ware and Tristan Newman</td>
<td>Best Student Collaboration Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haley Love and Andrea Love</td>
<td>Best Problem Solving Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaxon Hainey</td>
<td>Best Video Kicking Out the Facts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyler Johnson</td>
<td>Best Math Fact Dance Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorian Davis</td>
<td>Best Family Math Fact Involvement Video</td>
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<td>Julian Johnson, Jeffery Johnson, Jr., Destiny Johnson, Jeffrey Johnson, Sr., Daphne Johnson, Alphonso Kennedy</td>
<td>Best Multi-generational Math Fact Video</td>
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<td>Tia Jones</td>
<td>Best Team Spirit Math Fact Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Baker Billings and Anthony House (Two-way tie)</td>
<td>Best Math Fact Rap Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randall Nauden</td>
<td>Best Homework Help Video</td>
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**School Awards**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Huth Middle School</td>
<td>Best All-Around Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sauk School</td>
<td>Best Example of Math Fact Fluency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois School</td>
<td>Best Video Demonstrating Collaboration Between Students, Teachers and School Administration</td>
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<td>Indiana School</td>
<td>Most Videos Submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arcadia School, Matteson School, Richton Square School</td>
<td>Best Examples of Little People Standing Tall</td>
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**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

In additional business, the Board approved:

- the disability leave for Nicole Martin, teacher at Richton Square School, effective November 7, 2016.
- the resignation of Marcie Uelman, teacher at Huth Middle School, effective November 21, 2016.
- the Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Policy # 5660.
- the change in date for the April 2017 Board meeting from April 18, 2017, to April 11, 2017.

**WHAT’S NEXT**

Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., December 20, 2016