



District Reporter

Spring/Summer 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Plano School District #88 Stakeholders,

As the 2018-19 school year comes to an end, it is always an exciting time in which we celebrate our success and we continue to plan for the upcoming years. In my first year as the Superintendent of Plano District 88, I have continually reflected upon the many aspects of our schools and community that makes Plano such a wonderful place to learn and grow. The expectations of our district have never been higher, and we are very proud of the progress we continue to make.

Whether or not you have a child in our school system, the Board of Education and I want to share our success and our ongoing challenges with you. We continually strive to provide accurate information to all our residents. Throughout this publication, we highlight many of the outstanding accomplishments of our students and our plans for the future. We firmly believe that all stakeholders need to have an accurate understanding of our challenges in order to support our students and staff. We are hopeful that this bi-annual publication can help us accomplish that goal and answer some of your questions. Please do not hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions or would like to have a discussion.

Sincerely,

Tony Baker

Superintendent of Schools

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¿Habla Español?

Consulte el sitio web del distrito en www.plano88.org para obtener una versión electrónica de este boletín en español e inglés.

Please check the district website at www.plano88.org for an electronic copy of this newsletter in Spanish and English.

The preparation and printing of this bi-annual newsletter is being paid for by a Title I grant that encourages districts to communicate its goals and achievements to parents, community members and stakeholders. Title I is a Federal Grant which also supports Preschool Screening; instructional strategies based on scientifically based research; professional development; some staff salaries; intervention resources and materials; community outreach and engagement; technology; summer school; instructional materials; equipment; and McKinney-Vento (homeless) services.

BOARD MEMBERS ARE YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES



MISSION

The Mission of Plano School District is to empower and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence, experience personal growth, and make positive contributions to society.



Pictured left to right: Jim Ward, Tim Campbell, Kim Velazquez, Kyle Klatt, Estela Martinez, Mike Jernigan and Tim Waldrop.

VISION

Students

Our Student will think critically, persevere, and contribute productively to society.

Families & Community

Our Families and Community members are partners in the educational process and will support the fundamental Mission of the District.

Educators

Our Educators have unwavering high expectations, believe in students, demonstrate a growth mindset, and foster a collaborative environment.

PLANO DISTRICT 88 BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Tim Campbell is the President of the Board of Education. Elected in 2011, he will serve until April 2021. Mr. Campbell is Co-Owner/Vice President of Lite Construction. Tim is a Plano High School graduate and he, and wife Tammi, had four students graduate from Plano. Tammi Campbell is a 3rd grade teacher at Centennial School.

Mr. Jim Ward is the Vice President of the Board. Elected in 2013, he will serve until 2021. Mr. Ward is a National Account Designer for International Paper in Aurora. Jim and Barb have a senior at Plano High School and another son who recently graduated.

Mr. Mike Jernigan was appointed in 2015 was re-elected to serve until 2023. Mr. Jernigan is Co-Owner/Vice President of Bur Oak Group Inc. Mike and Jennifer, a 2nd/3rd grade STEM teacher in Plano, have a senior and two Plano graduates.

Mr. Kyle Klatt was appointed in 2017 and was re-elected to serve until 2023. Mr. Klatt is service technician with Mechanical Inc. Kyle, and his wife Nikki, are both Plano High School graduates and they have three children in the school district.

Mrs. Estela Martinez was appointed in 2008 and was re-elected to serve until 2021. Mrs. Martinez is an Administrative Assistant at Fabtek Aero in Plano. Estela graduated from Plano High School. Estela and Tony have two Plano graduates and currently have one son attending Plano Middle School.

Mrs. Kim Velazquez was appointed in 2010 and was re-elected to serve until 2023. Mrs. Velazquez is the Training Coordinator for Joliet Junior College ^{Waldrop} Corporate and Community Services. Kim and Leo have one Plano graduate and two high school students in the fall.

Mr. Tim Waldrop was elected 2019 and was re-elected to serve until 2023. Mr. Waldrop is employed at Lite Construction. Tim and Jenny, a Plano alumni, have two daughters who graduated from Plano High School.

PROUD OF OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH AND STABILITY

Illinois State Board Awards District the Highest Category of Financial Strength Financial Recognition



Parking Expansion, Landscape Renovation and Outdoor Classroom

In 2014 the Board established a finance committee which set five ambitious goals in addition to the Board's guiding principles of providing quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Tim Campbell, Jim Ward, and Mike Jernigan, current financial committee members, meet with district personnel to insure these goals are being maintained. They are happy to report that in the five-year period, these goals were met and sometimes exceeded.

1. Make Financial Decisions with the Taxpayers in Mind

Over the last five years, the district has abated over 7 million dollars in taxes. This is a process by which the district uses its own funds to pay bond payments rather than the homeowner's taxes. During this period, this has saved the average taxpayer over \$1000. In addition to this saving, the district has lowered its operating rate applied to homeowners by over 20%. Tim Campbell said, "This goal is the one the committee is most proud of exceeding."

2. Maintain Fund Balances

Fund balances are maintained to insure the district can function in times of trouble. The state of Illinois suggests that districts maintain a 25% fund balance of their revenues. Over the last five years the district has not only maintained but increased their fund balance. The Illinois State Board of Education has awarded a "Financial Recognition" designation, the highest category of financial strength to District 88.

3. Keep Quality Employees

The district has high quality and dedicated employees. They are the cornerstone of providing students a quality education. Over the past five years the district has negotiated agreements that were a win-win for both sides.

As Jim Ward said, "We value all of our employees and want to keep them in the district, serving our students."

4. Upgrade Facilities

Mike Jernigan stated that, "This goal was one of the hardest to accomplish. "The buildings are getting older and requiring needed repairs and preventive maintenance. Each year the district has singled out one building on which to focus this work. From roofs and windows to heating and air conditioning, badly needed repairs have occurred. The Plano Area Chamber of Commerce awarded *The Golden Broom Award* to Plano High School for the beautiful landscape renovation project, including the outdoor classroom with amphitheater; learning garden; new electronic signage; and expanded parking with safe and more functional bus turnarounds and lots.

A state-of-the-art **Innovation Center** will be coming in the fall. The Board did not have to issue bonds for this project. Some features of the Innovation Center will include a coffee shop operated by the District's Transition Students, and a Career Center. Tracy Thurwanger, Assistant Superintendent, said that, "Students will have access to a 21st Century learning space for regular and after school hours for studying, collaboration project completion, access to technology, adult support, and supervision, and food and beverage items in the coffee shop."



Rendering of New Innovation Center

5. Address District Debt

Lastly, the district is aggressively addressing the districts debt. New construction at the beginning of the century left the district with a large debt. Working with financial advisors the district now has a plan to pay off this debt without impacting taxpayers. More information about Plano School District finances will be available in future newsletters and on the district website at www.plano88.org.

DISTRICT MUSIC PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



The Plano High School Music Department, consisting of all band, choir, and music students, has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. This award recognizes that Plano is

leading the way to provide music access and education to all students. Productions like Plano High School's musical, *Legally Blonde*, demonstrate how our students are putting this excellence into practice.



LEADERSHIP AWARD

Plano Middle School student Gio Diaz (pictured with Principal Mark Heller) was the recipient of the Illinois Principal Association Student Leadership Award. The Award is given to students who excel in leadership, citizenship, and character.

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED IN ATHLETIC TEAMS

The Illinois High School Association recognized a number of Plano High School teams for maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or higher throughout their respective season. These teams include the girls golf team, girls volleyball team, boys and girls cross-country team, girls basketball team, and the cheer teams. Congratulations to these students!

EIGHT PLANO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES SIGN WITH COLLEGES THROUGHOUT THE NATION



Left to right

- Andrew Johnson—Aurora University, baseball
- Art Padilla—Aurora University, baseball

- MaKenzie Vann—Bryant and Stratton, basketball
- Bryson Schmidt—Augustana College, football and baseball
- Alyssa Dolan—University of St. Francis, track and field

- Josh Schopp—Loras College, volleyball
- Torry Jackson - Elmhurst College, football
- Ernesto Rosales—Concordia University, football (not pictured)

PLANO WELCOMES NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Rick Ponx brings an impressive winning record and coaching experience at both the collegiate and high school levels. In 2016, the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference recognized Rick's excellent record at Aurora University by naming him "Coach of the Year." Plano Athletic Director, Jim Schmidt said, "Rick will bring a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge to our program...We are extremely lucky and honored to land a coach with all of his accolades & expertise." Pictured (l-r) are Plano High School principal Jim Seput, Athletic Director Jim Schmidt, Coach Ponx and Superintendent Tony Baker.



SUMMER ENRICHMENT OFFERED FOR PLANO STUDENTS

District 88 students in grades PK-12 were invited to take part in exciting summer enrichment programs during the month of June.



Kindergarten Readiness took place at PH Miller School. This free program was grant funded. Breakfast, lunch and transportation were provided for all summer enrichment programs.

Steam Ahead!



The LEGO STEM and Literacy Program for Grades 1 through 3 was located at Emily G. Johns.

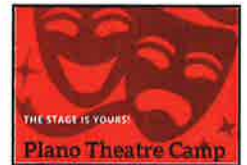
Separate Camp Invention Programs for Grades 4, 5, and 6 were held at Plano High School.



Invention Project for Grades 7 & 8 will be held at Plano High School.

Invention is a process which requires working together, hands-on applications of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM), innovation and problem-solving, and concepts of entrepreneurship.

Plano Theatre Camp was offered for students in grades 4 through 8 and



was held at Plano High School.

DISTRICT 88 OPENS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER AT METHODIST CHURCH

The District partnered with Pastor Stevan Saunders and members of the Methodist Church to provide free resources and free services to families. The Plano Family Resource Center, located at the Methodist Church, is a place at which parents can meet other adults; learn from experts and one another; receive vital information and connect to the community. The Plano Family Resource Center will provide an array of resources and services to families in our community including:

- Weekly playgroups
- Parent and family education
- Toy and book lending library
- Books and materials for parents
- Information about community resources.

The Plano Family Resource Center will provide exactly what Plano families need to prepare children to be :

- Healthy
- Safe
- Eager to learn
- Ready to succeed.



P.H. MILLER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AWARDED GOLDEN CIRCLE OF QUALITY



The Illinois State Board of Education awarded the **Golden Circle of Quality** to the P.H. Miller Preschool Program, the only public preschool program in Kendall

County to achieve this recognition. ExceleRate Illinois, the statewide quality and improvement system, recognized the P.H. Miller Preschool Program as meeting the highest quality standards in learning environment and teaching quality; administrative standards; and training & education. District 88 is

proud to offer high quality programs and services to the families in our community and will continue to provide FREE, high quality supports and services in our preschool program and at the NEW Plano Family Resource Center.



Pictured are Principal Laurel Mateyka, Superintendent Tony Baker and children from the preschool program.



Plano School District No. 88 is dedicated to offering opportunities to explore College and Career Choices.

Plano High School provides a comprehensive high school education. The high school offers challenging courses through the College Board and Advanced Placement Courses. In addition, Plano High School supports students through the Career and Technical Education Department, which provides instruction in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations, as well as maintaining a cooperative relationship with Indian Valley Vocational Center.

At the College and Career Night, parents and students met with representatives from the military, unions, trades, community colleges, and many colleges and universities.

Plano Area Special Education Cooperative

The Transition Program at Plano High School provides instruction and support for students with special education needs ranging from age 18-22. The program provides opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills to assist them to be independent adults. Our community partners provide vocational experience or employment opportunities for our students. We appreciate the support from Hillside Nursing Home, Walgreens, Pet Supplies Plus, Dairy Queen, Silver Dollar Restaurant, YMCA, Dunkin' Donuts, McDonalds, Heritage Woods, Kendall County Food Pantry, Plano Public Library, Yorkville Public Library, Edgebrook Country Club, and Target.

Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)

At all levels of instruction, Plano students are engaging in STEM activities.



P.H. Miller Students

High School Physics students visited Fermi Lab where they attended a lecture about Einstein's General Relativity and toured the neutrino facilities where they learned about these particles which come from the sun and other celestial objects.



Fermi Lab

Emily G. Johns School hosted a Math & Science Spectacular evening which featured an Inflatable Starlab Planetarium, 6th grade Math Fair Projects, 5th Grade Science Experiments, IMSA and an opportunity to make your own rocket.



Students from Emily G. Johns School during their rocket launch.

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