

LINK

Connecting the Elmbrook Schools Community

December 2010



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Message from the Superintendent – Community Weighs in on Elmbrook Budget Options



Greetings and Happy Holidays from the School District of Elmbrook.

Since the district began its financial planning process two years ago, we've been engaging the community on several options to help address a projected \$16 million budget shortfall. This Fall our community engagement efforts have increased as we near critical decisions about our district's future—decisions like possibly reinstating 4-year-old Kindergarten, increasing the number of non-resident students we accept, and closing an elementary school.

I want to thank each parent and community member who attended a feedback session in September or November, those who have e-mailed or phoned the district with feedback, and those who filled out a community survey on Election Day. These are challenging times when difficult decisions must be made and your feedback is valued to help inform these decisions.

Reporting Out on Your Feedback

Feedback from September Superintendent Chats (596 surveys collected)

To help address the budget shortfall:

- 90% agreed the district should implement 4K in 2011-12
- 76% agreed we should increase Open Enrollment to reach 18% of total enrollment by 2014-15
- 63% agreed we should convert Chapter 220 to Open Enrollment starting in 2011-12

- 58% agreed we should increase class sizes by one in 2013-14
- 24% agreed we should close an elementary school in 2012-13



Results from Election Day Community Pulse Survey (1,999 surveys collected)

To help address the budget shortfall:

- 60% agreed the district should add 4K
- 33% agreed we should add non-resident enrollment
- 29% agreed we should close an elementary school

While no decision on a school closing has been made, for due diligence purposes the district began developing initial scenarios

for redistricting if an elementary school is to close. These preliminary scenarios were presented at Superintendent Chats in November. Feedback is currently being processed from those events.

A date has not yet been determined for when decisions on these enrollment management topics will be made. At this time the Board of Education is taking time to thoroughly investigate all options and engage the community. As we work through this process, we again thank you for voicing your opinions, and encourage you to stay informed. Please visit us on the web at www.elmbrookschools.org/financialplan for up-to-date information on the district's financial planning process.

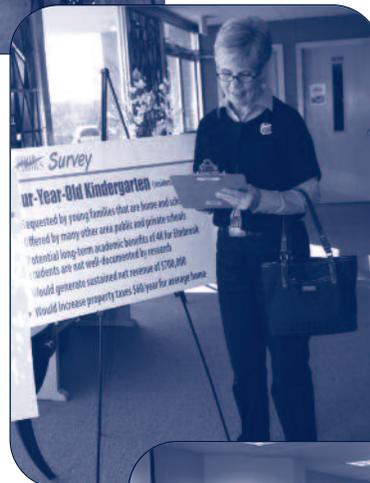
Thank you for your support of Elmbrook Schools.

Respectfully,

Matt Gibson
Matt Gibson
Superintendent

Above top and middle: Community members complete election day pulse surveys.

Below: Superintendent Chat with community.



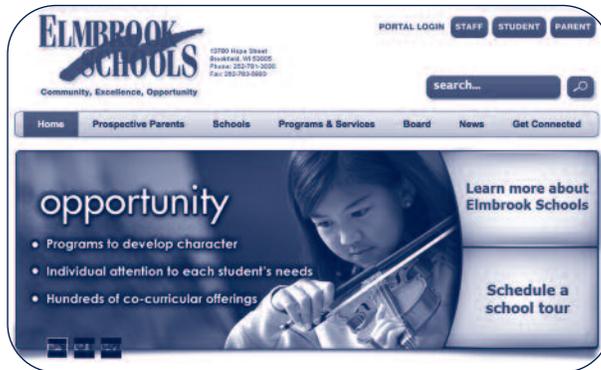
Elmbrook Redefines Web Experience

In January, Elmbrook Schools will unveil a new website that uniquely presents the district's marketing themes of Community, Excellence and Opportunity. Focused on providing key information to prospective parents and students as well as the greater Elmbrook community, elmbrookschools.org will integrate video testimonials, school and district advantages and achievements, upcoming events, and opportunities to engage and contribute to the schools.

The district began redesigning its website as part of an overall initiative to increase revenue by attracting new families to Elmbrook.

"Many times a family's first interaction with us is through our website," said Elmbrook's Communications Manager Melinda Mueller. "Feedback from new parents is that our website could do a better job marketing our schools, and that information could be more clearly presented and easier to find. With the new website we hope to better represent and celebrate our outstanding

schools and the greater Elmbrook community. Features like academic achievement scores for each school, as well as an online form to request school tours, will be



beneficial to school-shopping families during their decision-making process."

Coinciding with the release of the new website, the district will also release MyElmbrook—Parent Edition, a content-rich, secure parent portal. "The challenge for most school districts on the web is

communicating a lot of information to four different stakeholder groups; students, staff, parents, and the greater community," said Chris Thompson, Chief Information

Officer. By segmenting these groups and providing a customized and personal experience for our parents we are striving to better inform and engage our parent community." Extending far beyond the parent portal that currently offers grade and assignment information, MyElmbrook—Parent Edition will highlight school news, announcements, key forms, course information, and actionable alerts. Thompson added, "Our new approach to

*Coming soon.... a new
www.elmbrookschools.org*

presenting information on the web contributes positively to our district goal of a connected learning community. We

are looking forward to our January release and will continue to seek input from all stakeholders on how we can improve their web experience."

Elmbrook Kindergarten Open Houses

Calling all families with children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2011... please attend our upcoming Kindergarten Open Houses!

Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 6:30 pm.

Burleigh Elementary School
16185 Burleigh Pl., Brookfield
Brookfield Elementary
2530 North Brookfield Rd., Brookfield

Dixon Elementary
2400 Pilgrim Square Dr., Brookfield
Hillside Elementary
2250 Lynette Ln., Brookfield
Swanson Elementary School
305 N. Calhoun Rd., Brookfield
Tonawanda Elementary,
13605 Underwood Pkwy., Elm Grove

Families with children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2011, should receive a packet of information in the mail in December with an invitation to the event. If you don't receive a packet, please contact the Elmbrook Communications Department at 262-783-2960. We look forward to welcoming you to our schools!

Brookfield Elementary PTO Builds Outdoor Classroom

On Oct. 20 Brookfield Elementary held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new outdoor classroom.

Funded by the school's PTO, the space was designed like an amphitheater and is located in a wooded site south of the school. It can accommodate more than 100 students and will provide unique

opportunities for students to gain knowledge and obtain new skills in a natural setting. It will be utilized in several curricular areas—from science, art, music, ecology, math, presentations, writing and more.



Renovations Complete!

Brookfield Central and Brookfield East High Schools say thanks!

Renovations are now complete at Brookfield Central and Brookfield East, thanks to the community's passage of a \$62.2 million referendum in 2008. On Sept. 25, Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies and Community Tours were held to celebrate. Students are now benefiting from:

- Remodeled classrooms with new windows, doors, lights, ceilings and blinds for energy efficiency; refreshed paint, flooring and casework
- Safer, better-equipped science labs
- Remodeled music spaces with improved lighting, acoustics, private rehearsal and storage spaces
- New gym (Central) and fieldhouse (East) to provide additional space for athletic practices and events

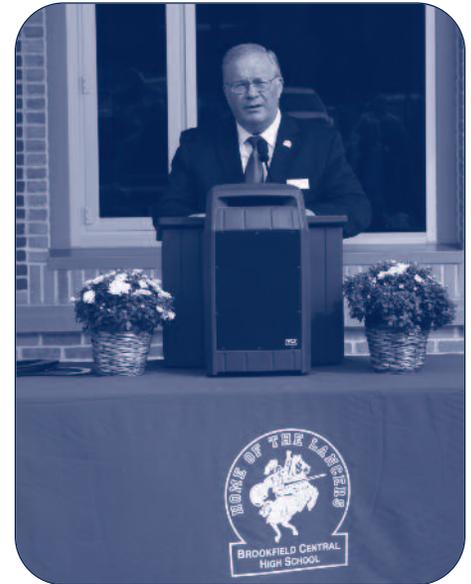


Above: Brookfield East High School students and district administrators cut the ribbon on Sept. 25.

- New event lobbies for community gathering
- Remodeled library media center (Central) with more study and research spaces

- Increased fire protection with new sprinkler systems
- Increased security with more video cameras and electronic monitoring of all exterior doors
- Increased handicapped accessibility
- Energy and mechanical efficiencies including new boilers, HVAC, plumbing, electrical

- New black box theaters for student dramatic performances
- More spacious cafeterias for lunch and common usage; better equipped, more efficient kitchens and serving areas
- New guidance centers for class, college and career planning
- Administrative and teacher planning areas for productive meetings with students and parents



Above: City of Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto addresses the community at the Brookfield Central High School ribbon cutting ceremony.

Board of Education Seats up for Election

Are you interested in shaping Elmbrook's future and serving your community? Consider becoming a part of the district's Board of Education.

Three seats up are up for election on April 5, 2011. The filing period to declare candidacy for these seats is Dec. 1, 2010 – Jan. 4, 2011. If more than two candidates file for any office, a February 15 primary election will be held.

Candidates elected for each of these seats will serve three-year terms from April 25, 2011, through April 27, 2014. Current annual compensation for Board of Education members is \$3,600.

Seats up for election include:

- Area I (the District's northeast quadrant, currently held by Gary Jones)
- Area III (the District's southwest quadrant, currently held by Thomas Gehl)
- At-large seat (currently held by Kathryn Wilson)

For more information on candidacy requirements, visit the website at www.elmbrookschoools.org/boardelection, stop by the district's business office at 13780 Hope Street in Brookfield, or contact Deputy Election Clerk Pat Felde at 262-781-3030 ext. 1140.

Information Sessions for Potential Candidates

- Wednesday, December 8, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, December 9, 9 a.m.

Elmbrook Schools
Central Administrative Office
13780 Hope Street, Brookfield

Elmbrook Schools Musical and Holiday Events

Event Questions? Contact Elmbrook's Communications Department at 262-783-2960.

Come celebrate the holiday season with Elmbrook Schools! Parents, relatives, friends and community members are invited to the following:

Dec. 3-5

Brookfield East High School Musical "Mame"
Dec. 3, 4: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5: 2 p.m.
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center
Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$8 Students/Senior Citizens

Friday, Dec. 3

Fairview South School Craft Fair & Silent Auction
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fairview South School Gym and Cafeteria

Sunday, Dec. 5

Pilgrim Park Middle School Pilgrim Pizzazz performs at Lights of Love Concert
3 p.m., Elm Grove Public Library

Wednesday, Dec. 8

Wisconsin Hills Middle School
"Band-O-Rama" Concert
7 p.m., Wisconsin Hills Middle School Gym

Thursday, Dec. 9

Pilgrim Park Middle School
6th Grade Orchestra and Choral Concert
7 p.m., Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Monday, Dec. 13

Brookfield Central High School Holiday Band Concert
7 p.m., Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Swanson Elementary
5th Grade Orchestra Concert
11 a.m., Heritage Place
12 p.m., Brookfield City Hall

Wisconsin Hills Middle School
Choral Concert

7 p.m., Wisconsin Hills Middle School Gym

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Burleigh Elementary
4th & 5th Grade Winter Concert
7 p.m., Burleigh Elementary Gym

Fairview South School Winter Program
1 p.m., Fairview South School Gym

Wisconsin Hills Middle School
Orchestra Concert
7 p.m., Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Thursday, Dec. 16

Brookfield Central High School
Holiday Lights Concert
7 p.m., Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Brookfield East High School
Winter Choral Concert with Orchestra
7:30 p.m., Shattuck Auditorium, Carroll University

Tonawanda Elementary
Friends & Family Orchestra Concert
1:45 p.m., Tonawanda Elementary Gym

Sunday, Dec. 19

Brookfield Central High School
Sacred Music Concert
7 p.m., St. Mary's Church, Elm Grove

Monday, Dec. 20

Brookfield Elementary
4th & 5th Grade Band, Orchestra & Chorus Concert
1:15 & 7 p.m., Brookfield Elementary Gym

Pilgrim Park Middle School
7th & 8th Grade Orchestra & Chorus Concert
7 p.m., Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Pilgrim Park Middle School
Band Concert
7 p.m., Pilgrim Park Middle School Gym

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Tonawanda Elementary
All School Sing-A-Long
2:30 p.m., Tonawanda Elementary Gym

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Swanson Elementary
Winter Band & Orchestra Concert
10 a.m. & 7 p.m., Swanson Elementary Gym

Thursday, Jan. 13

Brookfield East High School Winter Band Festival Concert
7 p.m., Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Dixon Elementary Winter Concert
2:30 p.m. & 7 p.m., Dixon Elementary Gym

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Hillside Elementary 4th & 5th Grade Band, Orchestra & Chorus Concert
2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Hillside Elementary Gym



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www.elmbrookschools.org

The School District of Elmbrook welcomes your feedback for continuous improvement. E-mail questions, feedback, and suggestions to feedback@elmbrookschools.org.

***The mission of
the School District of Elmbrook
is
to educate and inspire every student
to think,
to learn,
and to succeed.***

