



## Dimmick Community Consolidated School District #175

*"Where Children Come First"*

Superintendent: Mr. Ryan Linnig

August 15, 2017

### **DIMMICK C.C.S.D. #175 AUGUST 14, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NEWS**

**BOND ISSUE:** The Dimmick School Board held the required public hearing at 6:30 PM regarding the intent to issue up to \$1,100,000 in bonds. John Vezzetti from Bernardi Securities was in attendance to review the proposal and answer questions. As was indicated last month, the Board is not issuing more debt, but rather refinance the existing debt that was incurred when the addition that houses the S.T.E.M./Science Lab, Music/Band, RtI/Title I, Kindergarten and Conference Rooms were constructed back in 2011.

The Board plans to use \$350,000 of reserves to pay down the balance and refinance the debt at a lower interest rate without extending the repayment term. Based on current projections, the District anticipates up to \$140,000 in interest savings. This is also part of our effort to offer property tax relief while at the same time ensuring that the District is well positioned to remain financial sound for many years to come.

**RtI ANNUAL REPORT:** Mrs. Fieck, the RtI Coordinator, provided the annual report on student progress in the RtI (Response to Intervention) program. Mrs. Fieck and Mrs. Petersen, the RtI/Title I instructor, work in collaboration with homeroom teachers to provide support for students in order to improve learning and achievement. This year parents will see new and improved reports as the District will be updating to AIMS Web Plus. Information about the new AIMS Web testing will be sent home in the coming weeks.

**TENTATIVE FY '18 BUDGET:** Mr. Linnig presented the tentative FY '18 budget which is balanced despite the uncertainty that exists at the State level. Unfortunately, despite having passed a State budget, no mechanism for distributing the funds to public schools exists. As a result there is much uncertainty as to what to expect from State funding sources for FY 18. The tentative budget is available for review in the District office.

Figures show that the District receives 1.6% of its funding from Federal sources, 6.1% from the State and 92.3% from local sources. Of the 92.3% from local sources, 69.1% comes from commercial/industrial properties. The remaining 30.9% comes from residential, farm and other sources. The District continues to offer one of the lowest tax rates in LaSalle County and is among the lowest 3% of public schools in Illinois. The Board of Education and administration remain committed to providing the highest quality education possible while doing so in a manner that is responsible to tax payers.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** Despite having a State budget for the first time in over 2 years, public school funding is still in jeopardy as the State has not passed a funding mechanism to distribute funds to public schools. While SB 1, the Evidence Based Funding Model, did pass the Senate and House, it faced an amendatory veto by Governor Rauner. The Senate overrode the veto, but in order for it to become law, the House must also vote to override the veto. If not, it is back to the drawing board which means distribution of State funds will be continue to be delayed.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** All 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take the PARCC assessment in English Language Arts and Math each spring. The preliminary results show that Dimmick students made significant gains in 2017 assessment with the percent "meeting" or "exceeding" in Math increasing by 14.3% and in ELA by 32.5%. The students and teachers are to be commended for their efforts and achievements.

**RETIREMENT ANNOUNCED:** The Board accepted, with regret, the retirement request of Mrs. Fieck effective upon the conclusion of the 2018-19 school year. Mrs. Fieck is a highly regarded educator and leader in the District and surrounding educational community. She wears many hats, serving the students, parents and District as the Special Education/Resource Teacher, RtI Coordinator and Lead Teacher. While we are fortunate that she will remain at Dimmick School for 2 more years, we realize that those will be difficult shoes to fill.

If you know anyone in the community that would like to receive Dimmick School updates, please have them contact the school office (815.223.2933) or e-mail Mr. Ryan Linnig, and we will be sure to add you to the list.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ryan Linnig, Superintendent.