

21st Century Learning in The Winnetka Public Schools

The Winnetka Public Schools
1235 Oak Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

Mary B. Herrmann, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Shelley Clark, Ed.D.
Chief Financial Officer

Mark Ditthardt
Director of Pupil Services

Darlene Larson, Ed.D.
Director of Human Resources

Julie Pfeffer, Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum

Matt J. Fuller
Director of Technology and Communication

Crow Island School
1112 Willow Road
Winnetka, IL 60093
Deirdre Churchill
Principal

Greeley School
275 Fairview Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
Susan Hugebeck
Principal

Hubbard Woods School
1110 Chatfield Road
Winnetka, IL 60093
Maureen Cheever, Ph.D.
Principal

The Skokie School
520 Glendale Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093

Tom Eber
Principal

Michael Fahrenbacher
Assistant Principal

Alison Hawley
Assistant Principal

Carleton Washburne School
515 Hibbard Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

Dan Schwartz
Principal

Steve Schacherer
Assistant Principal

School Board

Van Barletta
President

Anne Kelly
Vice President

Beth Moritz Filip
Secretary

Susan Whitcomb
Member

Dana Crumley
Member

Nancy Fehrenbach
Member

Jon Kaplan
Member

The 2009–2010 school year marks the 150th anniversary of the Winnetka Public Schools. This exciting time offers our community a unique opportunity to reflect on our history and accomplishments with an eye to the future.

Winnetka has always been at the forefront of education from Carleton Washburne’s philosophical ideas to the revolutionary building of Crow Island School. Over the past 150 years, countless committees of teachers, administrators, Board members, and community

members have convened to probe philosophical beliefs, design curriculum based on core values, and assess the outcomes of these initiatives in thoughtful ways inclusive of the voices of students. To this day, our classrooms are developmental in nature and child-centered. We make curricular decisions based on research, data, and best practices. We respect tradition while understanding that self-awareness and reflection are vital for our community’s continual growth. Yet recent changes in technology, the environment, economics, and globalization demand a comprehensive review of our community’s educational plan. Successful 21st-Century learners will need to be flexible, creative, and capable of the synthesis involved with “big picture” thinking if they are to succeed.

With ever-growing demands on school districts to prepare students for the increasing complexities of their 21-Century lives, The Winnetka Public Schools is engaged in two major activities this year. The Winnetka Summer Institute, held June 16–17, focused on “Shaping Progressive Practice in the 21st Century.” This

retreat was not just another routine meeting. Participants raved about the hands-on activities, the thought-provoking discussions, and the expert speakers. The Summer Institute planners, thanks to a generous grant from the Winnetka

Public Schools Foundation (WPSF), invited world-renowned author Daniel Pink whose work served as a touchstone for the two-day seminar. Mr. Pink’s recent book, *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-*

Over 100 District 36 staff and community members participated in the 2009–2010 Winnetka Summer Institute held at Greeley School in June.



Brainers Will Rule the Future charts the rise of right-brain thinking and explains six abilities that professionals need to survive in an outsourced, automated age. He explains that a successful 21st-Century learner will be able to analyze a problem systematically and with detachment, but also be able to make connections and solve problems through attunement: “The people who will thrive will be those who can toggle between the two.”

A special pre-Institute session was attended by staff, administration, and School Board members and open to community members as well. Other

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SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

Highlights of June 23, 2009 School Board Meeting

- ▶ Van Barletta, Board President, reported that meetings have been held with the District's custodians for the 2009–2010 contract and they anticipate that an agreement should be reached soon.
- ▶ Mary B. Herrmann, Superintendent, reported on a successful Summer Institute and expressed gratitude to the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation for their generous grant in support of this event.
- ▶ Shelley Clark, Chief Financial Officer, and George Reigle, Green Associates, gave an update on the construction at Carleton Washburne, Skokie, and Greeley Schools.
- ▶ Dan Schwartz, Carleton Washburne School Principal, presented an update on the Advisory Program that will be implemented in the 2010-2011 school year. Dan Schwartz and Steve Schacherer, Assistant Principal, presented an update on the athletic program fees.
- ▶ Shelley Clark, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the 2009–2010 Tentative Budget. The tentative budget is available at www.winnetka36.org/District/boe/finances.htm.
- ▶ Matt Fuller, Director of Technology and Communication, discussed Technology Referendum Funding recommendations.

Highlights of August 27, 2009 School Board Meeting

- ▶ Mary Herrmann, Superintendent, provided a back-to-school update and announced that the administrative priorities for this year include strategic planning, personnel practices, and differentiated instruction. She also provided a strategic planning update. September 8–22: Parent and resident survey; October 13 and 14: Select focus groups; October 19: Open community forum at 7:00 P.M. in the Carleton Washburne School Little Theatre; October 23-24: Planning Retreat; October 27: report to School Board.
- ▶ The 2007-2008 *Annual Report* for The Winnetka Public Schools was selected as a winner by the 2009 Illinois

Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association.

- ▶ Shelley Clark, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the District is working with neighbors, the Village of Winnetka, and the Winnetka police in an effort to improve traffic around Crow Island School. She also gave an update on the construction at Carleton Washburne School, The Skokie School, and Greeley School. Construction plans were discussed for Summer 2010, including Crow Island School ventilation and bathroom upgrades and The Skokie School ventilation and heating systems. She reported that a VOIP telephone system recommendation is in process after an audit indicated that our District's 14-year old phone system is outdated, making repairs and equipment replacements difficult and expensive; recommendations are forthcoming. She also further discussed enhancing security in the schools.
- ▶ Nancy Fehrenbach reported that the NSSED (Northern Suburban Special Education District) budget is \$53 million.
- ▶ Dana Crumley introduced several Board Policies for first readings.
- ▶ Van Barletta introduced a series of questions regarding tutoring for research and further Policy consideration.
- ▶ Matt Fuller, Director of Technology and Communication, provided a recommendation for a wireless technology system in our schools.
- ▶ Susan Whitcomb reported highlights from the Village Planning Commission meeting.
- ▶ During Public Comment, parents opened up discussions and questions on many issues including technology, survey data, instructional methods, curriculum and assessment, supervision and evaluation of teachers and administrators, communication, the processing of parent feedback, District performance indicators, and strategic planning.
- ▶ Action was taken to approve the 2009-2010 NSSED budget, approve summer 2010 construction, and approve the installation of access control and security cameras at all District buildings.

If you have questions regarding items in the School Board Update, additional information is available on our website or you may contact Mary B. Herrmann, Superintendent.

New Member Welcomed to School Board

At the June 23, 2009 School Board meeting, newly appointed Board member Jon Kaplan took the oath of office. Mr. Kaplan has lived in Winnetka since 2008. He holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from Stanford University, a teaching credential from Mills College, and an MBA from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. With twenty years experience in education, Jon has demonstrated his commitment to teaching and learning as a

university lecturer, a high-school teacher, and a founder and leader of a progressive, internationally recognized charter school in Alameda, California. Jon Kaplan is currently the Director of the Training Center of Excellence at Discover Financial Services in Riverwoods, Illinois. Jon and his wife, Shari, are the parents of two children—the older child attends Hubbard Woods School.

Each new school year brings a promise of new energy, new learning and the expectation that anything is possible. For us in District 36, this October marks a celebration of 150 years of educational excellence and community support. On Sunday, October 4, we will invite our entire community to join us in dedicating and touring our new spaces at Washburne and Greeley Schools. We hope to see you there!

This celebration of our extraordinary history reminds us of the incredible responsibility we share to thoughtfully and creatively shape our future. The learners we serve and the global community in which we live has changed significantly over time. As a community of learners we are deeply committed to meeting the ever-changing needs of our students and community. To this end, we have designed a comprehensive strategic planning process that will help us assess our current effectiveness as a District and plan for a future of innovation and continuous progress.

To assist us with our planning efforts, we are surveying all community members, parents, staff and middle school students this month. As a follow-up to our surveying efforts, we will conduct focus groups and community forums in

October. On Oct 23-24 our Strategic Planning Development Team will meet to consider all the survey and assessment data we've collected as well as up-to-date research on best educational practices and future trends. Following our planning retreat, there will be more "loop-back" focus groups and community dialogue sessions related to the directions and priorities generated during the planning retreat. It promises to be a very exciting and productive process!



Your thoughts are very important to us! Please help us assess our effectiveness and plan for our future by completing the survey and participating in a focus group and/or community forum. For more information, check out our website at www.winnetka36.org.

On behalf of all the children and families we serve, thank you for your continued support.

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presenters at the Summer Institute included Stephanie Hamilton, Senior Manager IT & Learning Technologies of Apple Inc. and Dr. Clark McKown, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Pediatrics Associate Executive Director and Research Director Rush NeuroBehavioral Center. For more information on the Summer Institute, including photographs and feedback from participants, visit <http://web.me.com/winnetka36/summerinstitute>.

The second activity this year is the Strategic Planning Process which was presented in conceptual format last winter to the School Board by Superintendent Mary B. Herrmann. The purpose of this long-range planning effort is to engage stakeholders in shaping District priorities for the future that address the needs of 21st Century learners. This thorough and thoughtful process preserves our core values of respecting childhood, challenging the intellect, nurturing creativity, encouraging action, fostering reflection, and exploring possibilities as the foundation for our planning efforts.

The Planning Development Team brings together people with diverse backgrounds and experiences from every attendance area in the District. The team will gather research from multiple sources including the comprehensive community survey and focus group data

Further Information

The Winnetka Public Schools Philosophy
www.winnetka36.org/District/wacol.htm

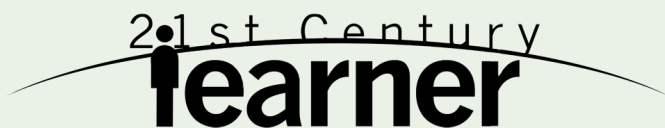
The Winnetka Public Schools Summer Institute
<http://web.me.com/winnetka36/summerinstitute>

Winnetka Public Schools Foundation www.wpsf.org

The Winnetka Public Schools Strategic Planning Portal
<http://web.winnetka36.org/strategicplan>

to review within the context of changing environmental conditions and 21st century practices. During a weekend retreat in October the team will craft several strategic directions to loop back with the community for additional input before going to the School Board for plan approval.

For more information and to keep up to date with our planning efforts visit www.winnetka36.org and click on "Strategic Planning Portal."



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 Winnetka, IL 60093
 www.winnetka36.org

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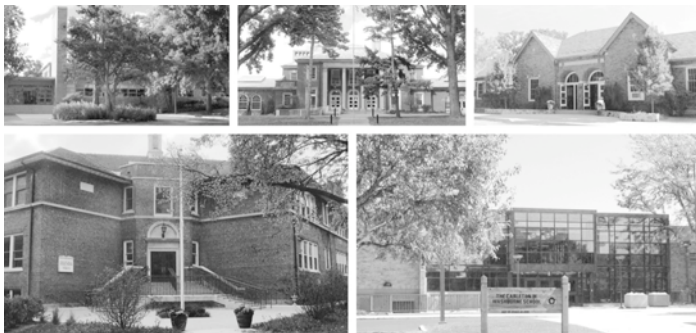
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2009–2010 Calendar

Tuesday, September 22, 2009	7:15 P.M. Board of Education Meeting at Hubbard Woods School
Sunday, October 4, 2009	Dedication & Tours of Washburne & Greeley Schools
Tuesday, October 27, 2009	7:15 P.M. School Board Meeting at Skokie School Community Room
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	7:15 P.M. School Board Meeting at Washburne School
Wednesday November 25, 2009	Thanksgiving Holiday Begins (No school)
Tuesday, December 15, 2009	7:15 P.M. School Board Meeting at Crow Island School
Monday, December 21, 2009	Winter Vacation Begins (No School)
Monday, January 4, 2010	Schools Reopen

Winnetka Community Members

Please join us for the meetings and events listed. For more information about The Winnetka Public Schools events visit www.winnetka36.org/calendar.php for the complete and current 2009–2010 School District Calendars.



*With gratitude & appreciation to our community,
 we cordially invite you to the kickoff of the*
150 Year Celebration of The Winnetka Public Schools
Sunday, October 4, 2009

*Please join us in dedicating and touring
 our recently renovated schools.*

Greeley School
 275 Fairview Avenue
 1:00–2:30 P.M. Tours
 1:30 P.M. Dedication
 Popcorn served

Carleton Washburne School
 515 Hibbard Road
 2:00–3:30 P.M. Tours
 2:30 P.M. Dedication
 Community ice cream social

