



Butler School District 53
Annual Report

2016
2017

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Elizabeth Chun, President
Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice President
Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary
Mr. James Chow, Member
Mr. Christopher Edmonds, Member
Mr. Cabin Kim, Member
Mr. Lou Paskalides, Member



(From left to right) Mr. Lou Paskalides, Vice President Dr. Sally Beatty, Mr. Cabin Kim, President Dr. Elizabeth Chun, Mr. Christopher Edmonds, Mr. James Chow, Secretary Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Member,

Butler School District 53 has a dream for all students – that they will achieve excellence in all areas of their lives, develop curiosity, demonstrate personal and social integrity and experience success in school, high school, college, career and community. We want our students to master academic content, build creativity, have confidence, be curious, have a growth mindset and gain interpersonal skills that help them continue to grow and be successful.

This dream is the foundation of our Mission, Vision, Purpose and Instructional Blueprint. The Blueprint was developed with input from staff, students, parents and community members. The document highlights what we hold dear, what every graduate is expected to know and experience, what our students will be able to do, and our beliefs and values for our classrooms and schools. It also lists action steps for curriculum, instruction, assessment, technology and students' personal academic success. It outlines expectations for teachers and staff, students and parents, administration and Board of Education. We believe that when we pursue

excellence, we do so by defining our steps, creating a shared understanding of where we are headed and holding ourselves accountable to the highest performance standards.

This report is only a brief snapshot of our District for the 2016-17 school year. We welcome you to read it and learn more about our schools.

Sincerely,

Butler District 53 Board of Education

Dr. Elizabeth Chun, President
Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice President
Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary
Mr. James Chow, Member
Mr. Christopher Edmonds, Member
Mr. Cabin Kim, Member
Mr. Lou Paskalides, Member

Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, Superintendent

MISSION FOCUSED

MISSION

Butler School District 53 provides the best educational opportunities for each student to achieve academic excellence, to develop the curiosity for life-long learning, and to demonstrate personal and social integrity.

July 11, 1994

VISION

Education is a partnership in a journey of excellence preparing children to learn and succeed in an evolving world.

PURPOSE

We commit to do everything in our power to stand with and inspire our children to achieve a personal best for themselves and their community every day.

INSTRUCTIONAL BLUEPRINT

District 53 is committed to a culture of excellence in education through continuous improvement, innovation and professional development.

2013

"Excellence is not a destination; it is a continuous journey."

ACCOLADES

- District 53 was recognized, as it has been consistently, by the Illinois State Board of Education with its **Award of Excellence**.
- Student test scores on the PARCC exam **remained strong** and are among the top three in the state.
- Butler District 53 was one of only 30 schools in Illinois (out of 3,700) that marked **readiness scores** of 80 percent or more on the PARCC exams.
- The District's Standard and Poors AAA bond rating is the **highest possible rating**, an unusual feat among school districts in Illinois.
- The District's **tax rate remains among the lowest** of all school districts in the state.



NOTABLE STUDENT AND STAFF ACCOLADES

- The Butler Junior High Science Olympiad Team placed 8th in state competition, the highest score since entering the contest. Both the varsity and junior varsity team took home 2nd place in the regional competition. >
- Six students were recognized for academic excellence at the WSCAE Awards ceremony for achieving at least a 500 on the SAT and/or 20 on the ACT.
- The Butler Junior High Math Team competed in four contests over the year. In the first Illinois Math League test, in DuPage County, the 8th grade students earned 3rd place and all grade levels placed 2nd. Later, the Math Team placed 4th in the MATHCOUNTS Chapter rounds. In the third contest, at the Latin School, the 6th and 7th grade teams finished 1st and the 8th grade team won 2nd. At the Montini contest, 6th grade and 8th grade teams took 1st place and the 7th grade team took 3rd place.
- A Butler Junior High 8th grader earned his second regional spelling bee championship and took his second trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in June.
- The Varsity Volleyball Team ranked 3rd in conference with an 8-2 record.
- The Butler Swimming Team delivered excellent results, placing in the top three for both boys and girls.



- Four Butler Junior High students were honored with top awards in the Midwest Region on the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards: a Gold Key (top 5-7%) in the Flash Fiction category; a Silver Key (top 7-10%) in the Personal Essay and Journalism categories and an Honorable Mention (top 10-15%) in both the Poetry and Personal Essay categories. >



- A Brook Forest student who won the school's Geography Bee qualified to take the state bee. >
- Brook Forest counted more than 50 projects and 100+ students who participated in this year's Science Showcase. Projects ranged from growing crystals to fruits and veggies powering clocks and much more.
- Butler Junior High Student Council raised funds to hold three sock hops and planned and organized all three events. In addition, the council planned Red Ribbon Week activities, executed two community fundraisers and ran the concession stand, building student spirit and leadership.
- Butler Junior High students participated in the WSCAE Science Fair at Brookfield Zoo. Students were awarded first place in the 7th/8th grade division and second place in the 6th grade division.



NOTABLE STUDENT ACCOLADES

- In the first of a new tradition, the Butler Junior High Concert Band joined its Hinsdale Central High School counterparts in a combined performance, which was open to the community. >
- Sixteen Brook Forest and Butler Junior High students' artwork was chosen to be on display at the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) Expo in April. The pieces were chosen for their quality and student effort.



"Giraffe at Sunset," 1st grade.



"Painted," 7th Grade.



"Color Wheel Lily," 4th grade.



"Underwater," 7th Grade.

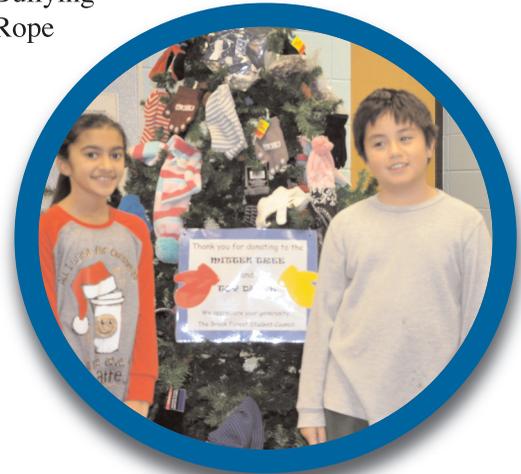
A CULTURE OF SERVICE

The District is very proud of the school community's commitment to service. Both Butler and Brook Forest boast very active student groups. The generosity of our students, families and staff is contagious. For instance, the Brook Forest Student Council initiated a new project, "Lunch Plus One," in which families packed a second lunch to be donated to a local food pantry. The Council also packed meals for Feed My Starving Children to give to people in impoverished areas across the globe and also held food and mitten drives. The Butler Junior High Student Services Board raised more than \$1,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, sponsored Anti-Bullying Week, held food and bottle cap drives, among other work. In addition, Jump Rope for Heart raised more than \$8,300 for the American Heart Association.

Indeed, Butler and Brook Forest students learned some of life's most important lessons: awareness, compassion, respect, responsibility, gratitude and empowerment.

“*I am so proud of the students and the school community.*”

- Lisa Owen, Assistant Principal, Brook Forest

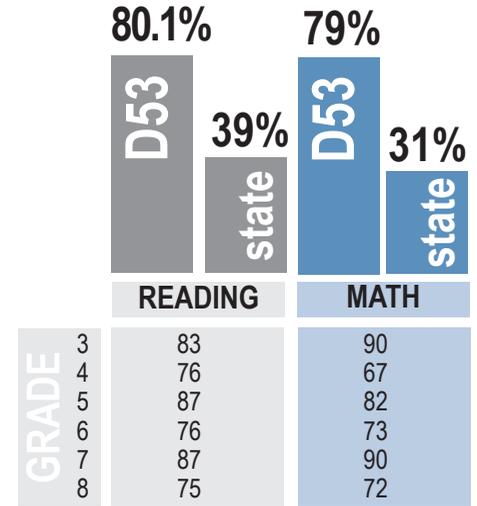


DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The District’s focus on folding the more rigorous Common Core State Standards into the curriculum is paying off. On the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), Butler District 53 students ranked 3rd of all public schools on the 2015-16 exams (reported in November 2016.) Further, compared to 18 districts alike in demographics and achievement in the Chicago region, Butler scored No. 2 with 80.1 percent of its students meeting or exceeding state standards on the PARCC. That percentage – or proficiency score – reflects all students in grades 3-8 and both subject areas of English language arts and math.

Analyzing Butler’s results by subject area, 79 percent of students met or exceeded state standards in math. An additional 16 percent “approached standards” in math, according to the School Report Card. In English Language Arts, 80 percent of students met or exceeded standards. An additional 15 percent “approached standards.”

The results are remarkable, given that Butler District 53 students already achieve at the highest levels. Moving higher is always difficult for top achieving schools, but Butler District 53 students did just that. In the prior year, 78 percent of students met or exceeded standards. Also notable is that more students overall exceeded expectations – from 23 percent in 2015 to 26 percent in 2016.



Percentage of students who met or exceeded standards on the PARCC exam, the third highest in the state.



“ Students come ready to learn, parents are committed to their child’s education and teachers, staff, administration and Board are extraordinarily committed. ”

- Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom

Historically
Comparable
School Districts

PARCC
Readiness %

Lincolnshire 103	81.9
Butler D53	80.1
Kenilworth 38	77.3
Northbrook/Glenview 30	76.8
Avoca 37	75.6
Sunset Ridge 29	74.8
Bannockburn 106	73.9
Western Springs 101	73.1
Kildeer 96	71.5
Wilmette 39	71.1
Aptakistic-Tripp 102	70.5
Glencoe 35	70.4
River Forest 90	69.7
Hinsdale 181	68.9
Winnetka 36	66.2
Gower 62	65.7
Lake Forest 67	61.0
Pleasantdale 107	59.9
Glen Ellyn 41	57.7

Source: 2016 Illinois State Report Card
<http://www.illinoisreportcard.com>

TEACHING AND LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS



In developing new curriculum and teaching strategies and in enhancing existing ones, the District is focused on helping each child perform at his or her personal best. This District has already achieved measures that many have said are excellent and our job is to further that excellence. Here are some initiatives in the last year:

- Enhanced the English Language Arts curriculum by integrating the Reading and Writing Workshop models with increased word study, vocabulary and grammar. In Reading and Writing Workshops, students are immersed in reading and writing, working both independently and collaboratively. They are exposed to a wide variety of genres and use vocabulary and other tools to increase their critical thinking. They learn different skills each day related to reading and writing and practice applying that skill. Because of the focus on literacy, both schools in the District have been awarded Model Schools from Schoolwide, an educational resources company.
- Initiated a leadership, life skills and character education program, called Eight Keys of Excellence at Brook Forest, which builds on the qualities of character, competency and commitment. The Eight Keys are a set of principles derived from the Carnegie Foundation's research on the most highly successful people. The program teaches students that they have power and



that their words, decisions and actions make a difference. Each month a different key is taught to students and embedded into the culture of the school. The program will expand to Butler Junior High in 2017-18.

- Launched a professional development leadership program, where teacher “leaders” coach, teach and facilitate collaboration and learning among staff.
- Provided training to teachers that advanced the teaching of 21st Century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, all with the goal to elevate student learning and engagement.
- Provided structure for teachers to meet in curricular teams across subject areas to collaborate on curriculum and assessment.

“ I love working alongside smart, talented educators who share my passion for inspiring students to be curious and learn from the world around them. ”

- Ann Wolff, Brook Forest social worker

With technology rapidly growing and changing, it is more important than ever to ascertain the best uses of technology for learning. Butler District 53 is not a district that adopts the latest fad for educational technology; rather, it approaches the area as a tool for learning. With that in mind, the District adopted a 1:1 program several years ago that gives every student a laptop or iPad to use in school. This provides for greater student engagement, updated curriculum and teaching strategies, better efficiencies and a sharp drop in paper use. In the older grades, students can take Chromebooks home, further increasing seamless instruction and mirroring real world use.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

- Expanded the use of 1:1 technology by providing Chromebooks to 3rd graders. This allows students to move beyond using Apps on the iPad and into producing works on laptops and having the ability to access the Internet and the Cloud.



- Enhanced the use of Google Classroom at Butler Junior High, allowing parents more effective access to their child's classroom information. Plans are to move to this free resource at Brook Forest in 2017-18.

-
- In partnership with the PTO, integrated the use of large touch screen devices in common or collaborative spaces in both schools, integrated their use in the curriculum and trained teachers on them.
 - Expanded tech resources in a variety of areas, most notably with those that incorporate the teaching of 21st Century skills of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Additional tech resources were also obtained for English language arts and science curriculum.
 - Launched software called Seesaw that gives parents an immediate, personalized window into student projects and learning, and one that enhances parent communication.



“Our mission-driven schools ensure that there are extraordinary experiences for students every day.”

- Butler Junior High Principal Amy Read

FACILITIES OVERVIEW

UPDATING AGING SCHOOL BUILDINGS

With schools built in 1959 and 1971, the buildings have needed many repairs and upgrades. The District has internally funded \$6.8 million in capital improvements over the last 3 years. An additional \$2.5 million will be spent by 2020 to improve/maintain the aging school buildings.



2016-17 Accomplishments

- Approved summer of 2017 plans to replace the roof and exhaust units at Brook Forest. The roof was last patched more than eight years ago and is now past its life expectancy.
- Approved plans to replace the courtyard at Butler Junior High and improve drainage in the area. Currently, the courtyard is prone to pooling water and flooding.
- Dedicated the new vestibule off the gym at Butler Junior High and the new improved visitor entrance to the district office. The improvements help provide an area for students waiting to be picked up. The new drive and traffic flow also allow for safer access to the building.
- Approved plans to replace furniture in the Butler Junior High STEM lab to enhance learning and create more effective and collaborative 21st century learning spaces.

- Conducted water testing at both schools that showed “no detection” of lead in the schools’ drinking water samples. The testing was done as a precaution after national news about lead concerns. The Board plans to test the water every year.



ENROLLMENT

At the end of the school year, total student enrollment was 531, an increase from a low of 421 in 2009-10 and near the high of 537 in 2001-02. At Brook Forest, the enrollment has increased more than 65 students in the last four years. The major increase is due to many young families moving into the District. Butler Junior High had similar enrollment increases. Enrollment is important as it impacts the capacity of the building and the number of staff/teachers who are hired. Brook Forest School is currently nearing building capacity.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

Long-term financial planning is vital and integral to the Butler District 53 Board of Education. The Board said it is committed to keeping costs as low as possible for taxpayers while enhancing the educational program. To do that, the District utilizes zero-based budgeting, is committed to balanced budgets and uses longitudinal data to inform its budgeting process.

Here are ways that the District has strengthened its finances:

- The District has reduced its instructional spending per pupil 15 percent in the last 5 years; its overall operational spending per pupil 13 percent in the same time period. At the same time, it has enhanced its educational program.
- It maintains a zero-based budgeting process, only budgeting for essentials that are needed.
- The District is saving \$500,000 a year to add to its reserves earmarked for facility repairs and improvements.
- The District continued its practice of developing balanced budgets.
- It retained the highest AAA rating from Standard and Poors.
- It boasted one of the lowest tax rates in the state, 1.2932 per \$100 of assessed valuation in the District.
- Its fund balances totaled \$13.3 million at the end of the 2015-16* school year.
- Auditors have given the District the highest marks on its financial statement and processes.

** No audited financial data is yet available for 2016-17*

15%

DECREASE IN
INSTRUCTIONAL
COST PER PUPIL
OVER 5 YEARS

1.2932

TAX RATE;
AMONG THE
LOWEST
IN ILLINOIS

AAA

EARNED THE
HIGHEST RATING
FROM STANDARD
AND POORS

13%

DECREASE IN
OPERATIONAL
COST PER PUPIL
OVER FIVE YEARS

“The expenditure of local tax dollars is a public trust that we take very seriously.”

- Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin

\$18,294

OPERATING EXPENSE
PER PUPIL IN 2015-16

\$6.8m

INVESTMENT IN
CAPITAL
PROJECTS OVER
5 YEARS

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Year End June 30, 2015 and 2016

	2015	2016
Revenues	\$10,041,869	\$10,605,265
Expenditures	\$9,000,485	\$9,443,658
Annual Surplus	\$1,041,384	\$1,161,607
Cumulative Ending Balance	\$14,388,417	\$12,277,559

Note: Numbers shown are for the Educational, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation and Working Cash funds. Source: Annual Financial Report

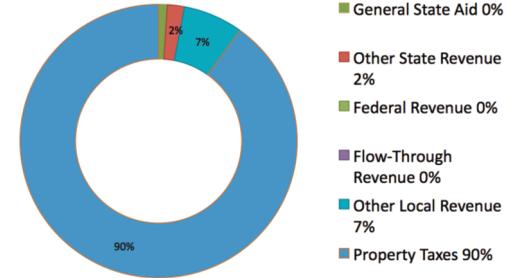
Instructional Expense Per Pupil



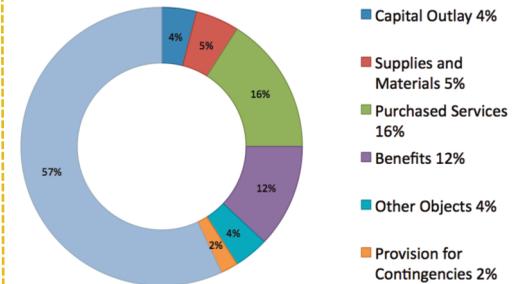
*Source: 2016 Illinois School Report Card;
Financial data in Illinois Report Card is from 2014-15 school year.*

2016-17 Budget

Revenues



Expenditures



Note: 2016-17 figures are unaudited



LONG TERM CHALLENGES

Future concerns in the budget are state legislation that may shift state teacher pension costs onto local school districts, a freeze on the tax levy and a recalculation of the state's General State Aid to schools.

More recently, bus transportation costs have risen steeply in the District with the per student rider cost registering as much as \$1,851 and costs for next year are more than \$2,000 per student rider.

Despite these challenges, the District continues to be in a positive financial position, able to incorporate efficiencies and add to its savings in order to fund improvements and repairs to its aging buildings.

In developing a budget each year, the goal is to match revenues with expenditures, adequately support excellent instruction, professional development and technology, while providing resources for capital improvements. The District also looks at opportunities for savings and increasing efficiencies and in the last three years has created efficiencies that have resulted in a 15 percent decrease in instructional costs per pupil.



OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- The Board approved two sets of documents called Effective Parent Communication Norms and District 53 Parent Volunteer Guidelines. The documents address positive parent-educator communications, code of conduct for visitors and volunteers and commitments for teachers in communicating to parents. It also addresses steps in resolving conflicts. The documents were extensively reviewed by parent and teacher groups.
- Provided before- and after-school care at Brook Forest in partnership with the Oak Brook Park District. The program, called Dolphin Station, is entirely funded through user fees providing a beneficial and safe option for families,
- Improved communications with families and the school community by rolling out Facebook to the existing communication vehicles such as the District 53 App, community newsletter, Twitter, website and school/district emails.



GOVERNANCE

- The Board welcomed four new members to the Board. Dr. Sally Beatty, Mr. Cabin Kim, Mr. James Chow and Mr. Christopher Edmonds were elected in April. Returning board member Mr. Ahmad Sulaiman, who was appointed in October to fill an unexpired term, additionally was elected in April.
- Celebrated four retiring members of the Board who had a combined 32 years of experience: Mr. Alan Hanzlik, Dr. Alan Kumar, Dr. Hitesh Patel and Mr. Todd Rusteberg.
- Approved a Board of Education Handbook that details the duties, commitments and guiding principles of the Board of Education,
- Assembled as a Board 12 times for regular business meetings, 7 times for special meetings and 26 times in committee meetings.
- Reviewed and approved 60 policies and an additional 70 administrative procedures and exhibits.

PTO INITIATIVES PARTNERS WITH PARENTS

The PTO is integral to our schools. The parent group sponsors extra curricular events and activities, provides a multitude of volunteers in our schools and develops fundraising events to fund equipment and help with new programs. In the school year 2016-17, the PTO donated nearly \$25,000 in supplemental gifts. This included interactive touch screens, STEM lab equipment and buddy benches. They also funded 10 field trips, 6 assemblies and special events such as Exploremore Day and sports programs, among others. Additionally, they operated three after-school clubs each week. In all, the group totaled roughly 1,000+ volunteer hours during 2016-17.

BROOK FOREST PROFILE

Brook Forest Elementary School

60 Regent Dr.
Oak Brook, IL 60523

K-5th grade

Principal: Dr. Chad Prosen (began July 1, 2017)

Assistant Principal: Lisa Owen

Enrollment: 331 students *

Educational attainment: 77 percent of teachers have a Master's Degree or higher †

Teacher retention rate: 90 percent

Average teacher salary: \$77,522 †

Pupil/Teacher Ratio: 14:1 †

* *End-of-year enrollment*

† *District-wide statistic*

Source: 2015-16 Illinois State School Report Card

BUTLER JUNIOR HIGH PROFILE

Butler Junior High

2801 York Rd.

Oak Brook, IL 60523

6th-8th grade

Principal: Amy Read

Assistant Principal: To be named

Enrollment: 200 *

Educational attainment: 77 percent of teachers have a Master's Degree or higher †

Teacher retention rate: 81 percent

Average teacher salary: \$77,522 †

Pupil/Teacher Ratio: 14:1 †

* *End-of-year enrollment*

† *District-wide statistic*

Source: 2015-16 Illinois State School Report Card



Butler School District 53

2801 York Rd.

Oak Brook, IL 60523
