



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The 2022-23 school year provided several new opportunities for our district staff, two years “post-peak” global pandemic. We opened the year with a new class of students eager to learn, some who had not been in school for two years, others coming to us for the first time from other countries. In response, our school community banded together to provide the best possible academic and social/emotional services for all our students.

One of the most notable events of the 2022-23 school year included the decision to reconfigure the district’s elementary schools for 2023-2024. The plan involves transitioning from kindergarten through fourth-grade elementary schools to kindergarten through fifth-grade elementary schools. This plan required that Wharton School, which had served for many years as the district’s dedicated 5th Grade Center, be converted back to a kindergarten through fifth-grade school. This grade level change also provides a single setting, prekindergarten through 8th grade for our Dual Language Program.

Related to the elementary grade level reconfiguration, the Board of Education approved bids for three major construction projects that are the first of this scale since the Graves/Heritage and Walsh additions built in 2001. The construction projects include additions at Wharton and Walker Elementary Schools to provide secure entrances and interior improvements that will enhance building security and a new administration center that was a necessary element to provide the classroom space needed for the above-mentioned plan to return to kindergarten through fifth-grade elementary schools. Through continued state evidence-based funding, federal pandemic relief funds, and strong interest earnings, the district could fund all three construction projects without the need to sell bonds or increase the tax rate through a referendum, resulting in no tax increase to our community.

We were also very excited that we qualified to renew our Food Service Community-wide Eligibility Program (CEP) with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) again for another 4 years. This designation will allow us to continue to provide free meals to all students regardless of household income. The continued receipt of this designation is a major component of the Board of Education’s desire to keep school fees at the absolute minimum.

The District ended the 2022-23 School year in the strongest financial position with an expected total fund balance of just over \$19 million. We continue to review all areas of the budget to identify opportunities for cost savings for our taxpayers without hindering any educational opportunities. In the past two years the Board of Education identified a surplus in the transportation fund due to the year of remote learning; and used it to reduce the annual tax rate for the payment of outstanding bonds. In addition, the district is in the second year of the Illinois State Board Property Tax Relief Grant which removes \$1.34 million from the district’s total annual tax extension.

We are looking forward to a productive summer and welcoming our students and staff back in August for the new school year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG. 23	SEPT. 4	SEPT. 12	SEPT. 13	SEPT. 14	OCT. 9
First Day of School	Labor Day No School	Curriculum Night Walker/Walsh/ Wharton	Board Meeting	Curriculum Night HMS	Columbus/ Indigenous Peoples Day



PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

HMS – Pam Malone

Heritage Middle School wrapped up a great school year. Teachers continued to collaborate through our Professional Learning Community, planning and creating engaging curricula for students. The 2022-2023 school year included educational field trips and a few fun end-of-the-year activities. We are proud to announce that HMS had forty-six students inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Heritage also had numerous clubs this past year such as Robotics and Coding, Leadership, Climate Action, Fusion Club, Student Council, Science, and Spanish Clubs.

Our 8th graders celebrated their graduation at the Wintrust Sports Arena on May 24th. Thank you to our many proud families and staff that were present at the ceremony. This year we had two Salutatorians, Ayesha Ajmal, and Janvi Patel, and our Valedictorian was Gwendolyn Yoe. Our third group of Dual Language students also graduated this year. We are very proud of the class of 2023 and wish them the best in their endeavors.

Many community members have had the opportunity to interact with our school secretary Mrs. Celia Ojeda who has greeted parents for the past twenty-five years. She will begin the next chapter of her life, retiring in November 2023. We wish her the very best. HMS also would like to wish Mrs. Christina Cooper a happy retirement. She retired from District 104 after 35 years of working at both elementary and middle schools.

We looked forward to continually seeing our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We are proud of all their academic accomplishments. We look forward to challenging and striving for academic excellence in the 2023-2024 school year!

Graves - Guillermina Arteaga

Graves Dual Language School had a fantastic 2022-2023 school year! We want to thank our students, staff, parents, and school community members for all their hard work and dedication to making it a great school year.

Through our Professional Learning Community, teachers continued to plan and strengthen our Dual Language program ensuring all students received the latest innovative and engaging instruction to obtain high academic achievement in both program languages. Our core curriculum consistently integrated innovative instruction into Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) and included text selections committed to social justice, inclusivity, and committed to building cultural competence. It filled us with great pride to see all our students fully engaged as teachers integrated these engaging and valuable lessons into their daily instruction.

Throughout the school year, we kept our student sailors motivated with PBIS incentives such as our monthly *Student of the Month* recognitions, the *Annual Turkey Trot*, *School Spirit Days*, and our *Sailor Online PBIS Store*. We continued our commitment to strengthen our parent involvement with the help of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored family events such as the *Trunk-A-Treat*, *Photos with Santa*, *Valentine's Day Family Dinner*, *Easter Egg Hunt & Movie Nights*.

We hope everyone had a great experience during our 2022-2023 school year. We are looking forward to next school year and welcoming our new incoming 5th graders.





Walsh – Christine Smith

The 2022-2023 school year was a successful one at Walsh Elementary. Walsh has a strong focus on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). School-wide PBIS is a multi-tiered framework to make our school more effective. Using PBIS, Walsh has improved academic performance, reduced bullying behaviors, improved social-emotional competence, and reduced office discipline referrals. An important part of PBIS is teaching clear behavioral expectations to students. Once our students have learned and practiced these classroom values, their social and academic growth will improve.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Walsh rewarded students for their efforts and growth. Students earn “points” for being “respectful, responsible, and safe” and can “shop” on the PBIS store with their points. The PBIS store has prizes such as lunch with the principals, lunch with the social worker, extra recess, pajama day, and many others. We also have “school-wide” celebrations throughout the school year. We are excited to continue our PBIS focus for the 2023-2024 school year.

Walker – Jeff Moore

The 2022-23 school year at Walker Elementary finished strong as we spent the last two months of school celebrating the successes of our school community. One major goal of our school leadership team was to recognize students and staff for their hard work in academics and social-emotional learning. Our focus for the third trimester was to build a culture of acceptance, kindness, hard work, and perseverance. Students were celebrated each Monday at our student recognition rallies where students received certificates for their academic success and kindness awards from the staff at Walker. Most importantly, these students were celebrated by their peers. A positive school culture is important, and these rallies did an amazing job building it.

As we transform our school culture, our building and its make-up will undergo some major transformations from the 2024-23 school year. Some teachers will be serving students in other communities, while others will be sharing time between multiple schools. We will miss our teachers greatly and wish them the best of luck on their new adventure. Change is positive, but at times with change, there are often some obstacles. We will do our very best to overcome these obstacles.

I’m very excited to announce that I will be Walker’s Principal moving forward. As part of School District 104’s community since 2009, my greatest successes come from building relationships and building a positive and collaborative school community. That will continue to be my goal as we move forward. You can continue to expect clear communication, collaboration with the community, and an emphasis on academic rigor, differentiation, meeting the needs of the whole child, and safety. You could also expect a lot of laughter and smiling faces from the school community.

I understand that you may have questions regarding the 2023-24 school year. Please reach out via email and I will do my best to address them.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you soon.

Mr. Jeff Moore, Principal





Wharton – Raquel Modiest

Wharton School Year 2022-2023 in Review...What a year! This past school year was filled with excitement and new learning opportunities. As the Principal, here at Wharton, I was fortunate to be part of such a great learning community. I am eagerly looking forward to moving from a 5th Grade Center to an Elementary K-5 building.

As the students and staff strived daily to make our school the best place to promote learning and meaningful experiences. We had many planned activities with the students always in mind first. The Wildcat family was prideful in making sure our students are academically, socially, and culturally aware today.

Our new journey started in August of 2022 with welcoming the families to an informal Popsicles with the Principal. This allowed the students to meet their principal, teachers, and other potential classmates. In September we had Wharton Curriculum Night. The night was an opportunity for families to learn about the academics and extracurricular activities that was being offered at Wharton. We also celebrated Mexican Independence and Anti-Bullying month.

In October, “Leaves are Falling, and Autumn is Calling”. Students participated in Red Ribbon Week, a PBIS Celebration, Family Pumpkin Painting, and Halloween/ Fall Celebrations. In November, we honored the Day of the Dead, focused on readers as leaders with the Chicago Wolves Assembly, and students gave back to the community with a successful food drive and turkey trot.

The months of December and January, depending on what is celebrated we had a rockin’ holiday and Happy New Year! Our students engaged in the Hour of Code lessons with the support of our Board Members across the district. Each classroom had a holiday celebration and another fun-filled spirit week.

February is the shortest month but was the busiest and filled with sweet surprises. The following events and activities took place: Valentine’s Day, 100th Day, Kindness Week, a Block Party, Black History Assembly, and parent/child activity making yummy chocolate dip. Our students and staff engaged in an assembly by a well-known artist named Bruce Henry. Bruce Henry and his band brought a lot of enthusiasm to our school. The students had the opportunity to be creative and display their talents. The positive energy flowed into the month of March. The band came back and did the live music for the Luau Dance Party. We felt very lucky to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and an engaging Family Paint and Sip Event.

Spring sprung at Wharton School. In April we had a spirit week with the theme “Color Our World.” It was a great month to celebrate Earth Awareness. The family event included planting a herb garden which was another make-and-take project. The staff and students were so busy being engaged in the Poetry Café, Penny War, Minute to Win It, Movie Award Day, and Autism Awareness for the month. As a school, we were fortunate to donate \$700 to BEDS Plus in Summit. Our Student Council was responsible for distributing the funds that were raised during the Penny War.

At Wharton School, it seems as if we had unlimited ideas and possibilities. The month of May was the last month of the school year. In May our students attended a Culture Field Trip and Step-up Day at Heritage School. The students engaged in the Spring Band Concert and District 104 showcase displaying their talents. Some of the final highlights involved Cinco De Mayo, End of the Year Picnic/Award Ceremony, Field Day, Wharton Palooza/Staley da Bear, Mini Monsters, and delicious treats from the Snow Cone Truck.

As you can see, we had a very interesting year. Thanks to all for a great year! Looking forward to 2023-2024 new school, new students, and new approach!

Pre-K – Kathleen Dunn

The School District 104 Pre-K Program had a fantastic school year with our young learners. The students made great gains in pre-academic and social-emotional learning! We are appreciative of all our students, staff, and families for making 2022-2023 a memorable school year.

In preparation for the 2023-2024 school year, the Pre-K staff continues working in our Professional Learning Communities with a focus on curriculum alignment with the Illinois Early Learning Standards. In addition, staff will work towards individualizing lesson planning to meet the needs of all our students in all developmental areas. These areas include Mathematics, Language Arts,



DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Pre-K – Kathleen Dunn Cont.

Social Emotional Development, Social Studies, Science, Physical Development/Health, Arts, and English Language Learner/Home Language Development. As we look to next year, the program is also making improvements to our Pre-K hallway sensory path, adding materials to all our learning centers for hands-on exploration, and re-vamping our bike path in the courtyard!

The School District 104 program continues to hold the Gold Circle of Quality, which is the highest award in Illinois for Pre-K programs. We look forward to building connections with our families to create long-lasting success for our students throughout their path in education. Registration for Pre-K is ongoing throughout the year, please call the office at 708-546-7151 for more information.

Human Resources Report – Susana Aguirre

As we welcome the new 2023-2024 school year and anticipate all the latest and exciting changes this school has in store for us, we can't help but reflect on the past school year. It was a challenging year for many of us as we returned to the new normal after the pandemic. Our custodians worked extremely hard deep cleaning the classrooms and doing various repairs throughout the district. Teachers set up their classrooms with fun themes and colors to welcome our students to their first full year of in-person learning. Overall, every District employee took part in making the 2022-2023 school year a successful school year.

The teacher shortage impacted us as we started the school year with some unfilled teaching positions. Still, we are fortunate to have the support of our district substitute teachers, that stepped up and temporarily filled those vacancies. For the 2022-2023 school year, we welcomed our new teacher and support staff, Claudia Martinez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent (Mrs. Martinez will be taking on a new role as the VISTA Site Coordinator with the EL Dept. for the 2023-2024 school year) and Ms. Raquel Modiest, as the new Principal at Wharton Elementary School. Ms. Modiest was a district teacher for 24 years before joining our administrative team. We said goodbye to Susan Gallo, PE Teacher at Walsh Elementary; Laura Hosteny, Interventionist at Walsh Elementary School; Nancy Ocampo and Violeta Bosworth, both Interventionist at Graves Elementary School and Chistina Cooper, Paraprofessional at Heritage Middle School, who all retired at the end of the school year.

We are excited to start the 2023-2024 school year; many exciting changes are coming to our district. At the beginning of this school year, we welcome ten new Teachers with 1-10 years of experience. We are honored that they chose our district to continue their careers. We also have a few former District Alumni starting their teaching careers with our district; how exciting it is to have these once-former students be role models to current and new generations of students. We are excited to welcome to our administrative team Mrs. Maureen Kuhn-Rojas, EL Program Coordinator, and Mr. Robert Tucker, Associate Principal at Walsh Elementary School to the District; both come with significant experience that will be a great asset to our district. Also joining our administrative team are Ms. Jacqueline Payne, Coordinator of Specialized Services, and Mr. Jeffrey Moore, Principal at Walker Elementary School. Ms. Payne has been serving our district as one of the district Instructional Coaches and former Teacher Union President. Ms. Payne's knowledge of Specialized Services is a great asset to our Specialized Service Department and our students. Mr. Moore has served our district for 14 years in various roles, including his last role as Associate Principal at Walsh Elementary School.

Lastly, as we continue to adapt to the new normal, we are committed to bringing the best talent to our district to continue serving our students, parents, and community. To see a list of all available openings, please visit our employment page at www.sd104.us.



Curriculum Department – Sara Leone

Cook County School District proudly shares successes from the 2023-2024 school year with the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Work this year was viewed through multiple lenses, including equity, cultural diversity, and academic excellence. Throughout the year, students remained the priority as the success of every student in the district is always top of mind.

Recently, nationwide, there has been a great deal of attention placed on how students learn to read. While there are a variety of approaches to accomplish this complex task, this year, students in kindergarten through fourth grade have received specific, targeted instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students received instruction and support through differentiated lessons and the use Lexia Core 5 Reading. Teachers were able to formatively assess student progress and provide just-in-time instruction and support to ensure students establish a solid foundational base for reading. As a district, we understand the importance of students mastering learning to read, so that they can be successful, when they shift to reading to learn in the upper grades.

In addition to the reading focus this year, a math pilot was conducted for our elementary students. Teachers received training and implanted two highly rated math curriculums, Eureka Math Squared and HMH Into Math. Both programs included a more conceptual approach to understanding math and offered students a variety of activities and ways to demonstrate their mathematical thinking. After reviewing data collected throughout the pilot related to student performance as well as teacher feedback, it was determined to adopt HMH Into Math. This curriculum adoption will provide students with a comprehensive math experience starting in kindergarten and lasting through eighth grade. With the alignment of the curriculum, students will benefit from a consistent approach to math, similar vocabulary, and lesson components.

While a focus on core academic areas is crucial to our students' success, we also know that providing students with well-rounded educational experiences is important. Students regularly attend field trips with classes in their building, but this year, grade levels of our students were able to attend cultural events together as we celebrate diversity and celebrate the arts. Using grant funds, students were able to attend cultural arts field trips at the Old Town School of Folk Music located in Chicago. Grade levels attended a variety of shows including 1, 2, 3 Andres, La Escuelita Bombera, The Andalusian Trail, and Movement Revolution Dance. Feedback from both staff and students was positive; students were engaged during the performances and even had opportunities to participate on stage!

Throughout the year and prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year, professional development will be offered to teachers as the field of education is ever-changing, and it is crucial to remain current in best practices for students. Additionally, the department continues to monitor and adjust the curriculum as needed to ensure we are meeting educational outcomes as directed by the state of Illinois. Because of this, our curriculum is focused on being more inclusive and encompassing all groups. All students should see themselves reflected in the curriculum so that all feel a sense of belonging and acceptance not only within our schools but also in the world.

EL Department – Jon Baricovich

Nuestro Orgullo – Our Pride

Throughout this past school year, Summit School District 104 continued its efforts to recognize and celebrate its linguistic and cultural diversity. Multicultural awareness is a cornerstone of the district's Dual Language program, which supports all students in developing bilingualism, biliteracy, and sociocultural awareness. The district supports emergent bilingual students in its Spanish-English dual language program in grades Pre-K through 8th grade. Next year, the district expects over 600 students to be enrolled in the program. We celebrate the achievements of these multilingual learners and the contributions of their families to support their learning.

Our Dia de los Muertos celebration keeps growing and we were fortunate to once again be able to celebrate this holiday by showcasing the talents of our students. With the support of our partnerships, and of course, the support of our parents, our folkloric dance and mariachi groups performed well-deserved and resounding cheers. Likewise, our Dia del Nino community event was well-attended and served to celebrate the achievements of all our students. Throughout 2022-2023, our student performers were able to represent our community at several other events, such as the Noche Guadalupeana at St. Joseph's Church in December and the Night of Joy in May hosted by Argo Community High School.



EL Department – Jon Baricovich Cont.

We look forward to even more performances in the upcoming year. The 2022-2023 school year opened with great energy and enthusiasm. While the pandemic receded behind us, we knew also that the effects of COVID would continue to present us with opportunities to support students, families, and teachers alike in our continued recovery. As a critical support for our entire community, the district instituted a comprehensive health and wellness program. Monthly opportunities to engage our parents and community members were presented throughout the school year. These included workshops on everything from academic support to nutrition to mental and physical health and wellness for our parents. Teachers have received training in supporting students through trauma-informed and restorative practices. The district recognizes that wellness and learning go hand in hand. Look out for other opportunities to support our community in the development of healthy lifestyles in the upcoming school year.



El Arte Vivo – Art is Alive

Summit School District 104 has been fortunate enough to have successfully secured additional funding focused on a wide variety of activities related to student growth and achievement. The EL department currently administrates 4 award programs: the UNIDOS and VISTA Full-Service and Community Schools Programs, the INFUSE 21st Century Community Schools Program, and the HORIZONS Community Partnership Grant. Each of these critical programs serves to strengthen our practices in supporting students, teachers, and families across a wide variety of activities. At the core of each of these programs, is the integration of the Arts. During the last year, our students and teachers have explored how the Arts can deepen and strengthen our learning, offer other ways to see the world, express our ideas, and connect each of us to one another. The district has established partnerships with both local and international artists who have worked with students as well as teachers to strengthen our arts programming. Throughout all our schools, students have experienced a wide variety of art forms adjacent to their learning. Japanese water painting, Hojalatas – Mexican tin relief drawing, printmaking, Alebrijes – decorative, imaginative animal sculptures, collage, Huichol – communal bead and glass mosaics, and much more enjoy prominent positions in our curriculum. Our grant programs continue to provide vital and critical resources to our community that otherwise might be unavailable. Please look for more opportunities to be involved in programming related to the arts in the upcoming school year.

Specialized Services – Kathleen Johnson

During the 22-23 school year, District 104 Special Education Department was renamed Specialized Services Department to best capture the big picture of the department. In a nutshell, the Department of Specialized Services oversees multiple aspects of school life beyond servicing students with disabilities who require individualized service programs (IEPS).

Examples of what our department has accomplished this year include:

- Case management and IEP meetings for 184 students
- Case management and 504 plan meetings for 35 students
- McKinney-Vento (housing instability) support for 35 students/families
- Case management for general education outplaced students due to expulsion
- Program and staff evaluation across environments (resource level, instructional level, and self-contained levels of support)
- Global crisis prevention training for all staff
- Specialized crisis prevention training for school teams to include social workers, administrators, and learning behavior specialists.
- Case management and service plan meeting support for students in private schools within district boundaries (Peckwas Prep).
- Management of youth-in-care
- Committee/council work support for parent advisory
- Support of multi-tiered systems of support for academics
- Structured support of multi-tiered systems of support for functional needs



Specialized Services – Kathleen Johnson

While the bullet points highlight duties and accomplishments for the 2022-23 school year, our team also worked across domain areas to meet many other demands via 27 learning behavior specialists, two psychologists, seven social workers, five nurses, one occupational therapist, and numerous paraprofessionals plus a contract physical therapist. The specialized knowledge of our team allowed us to continue to support students in the least restrictive environment in alignment with our core beliefs exceeding the state expectation that 60% or more of students with disabilities be educated alongside their general education peers most of the day.

Core beliefs:

1. Every student is a general education student first. Some students require additional support and services.
2. All students must be educated in the least restrictive environment.

In alignment with our accomplishments and core beliefs, our department reviewed student/school need to determine service allocation for 23-24 school year. To this end, we look forward to adding two social workers and a health office aide to the team as we look ahead to 2023-24.

Building and Grounds – Don Dames

As the 22-23 school year comes to an end several projects and upgrades have either been completed, in the process of or are in the works. Some of which include:

- Maintenance is in the process of installing over 30 smartboards District-wide.
- Anderson Lock re-keyed all the classrooms and exterior doors district-wide this summer.
- Maintenance have installed vape sensors and cameras throughout Heritage Middle School.
- Added a second-floor loft to the maintenance shop to open storage space in the Graves basement.
- Harp Construction installed a generator at HMS/Graves.
- Bear Construction started construction in June. Walker and Wharton School will be getting new, secure vestibules and main offices.
- Walsh School has 8 classrooms and halls retiled over Christmas break. We will also be upgrading the uninvents and cabinetry in those 8 classrooms.
- Bear Construction broke ground on the New Administrative Building this summer.



Technology Department – Tim Willis

The Technology Department was very busy this Summer. We're replacing several hundred staff laptops that are aging out. We're also prepping another 350 Chromebooks to distribute to incoming 1st and 5th grade students. These student devices are Acer 734T touchscreen devices that are military grade hardened for student use. They will also come with a foam case to further aide in device protection. 5th grade students are encouraged to take very good care of these devices, as they will own the devices upon successful graduation from 8th grade.

A new admin center is being constructed and, with it, an entire set of technology needs. Most of those are ongoing. The elementary schools shifting to K-5 centers also comes with considerable technology needs to make sure all is ready to go for start of school.



Technology Department – Tim Willis Cont.

Finally, if you've not yet registered your children for school, head over to <https://www.sd104.us/page/parents> and get them registered as soon as possible! For any questions or assistance with registration, please contact registrationhelp@sd104.us.

Welcome back! Here's to the start of another great year!

Board of Education President – William Green

In April School District 104 welcomed new board of education (BOE) members Luleta Dardovski and Evelyn Rangel and the return of current board member Delia Cahue. Congratulations to the three for winning their elections. To our outgoing members Lorena Leon and Eloy Frias, you will be missed. Thank you for your service and may your callings be full of success.

Board members Travon Davis, Rachel Garcia, Kevin Pacheco, and I round out the current BOE that were each voted into office by the constituents of Summit, Bedford Park, and Bridgeview Gardens.

The new BOE completed the first order of business with the election of officers by electing Rachel Garcia as vice president, Kevin Pacheco as secretary, and myself as president for two-year terms. Committees were also reorganized at that time.

The BOE conducts regular board meetings, and committee work to maintain safe and secure facilities and fiscal responsibilities and creates policies to help guide the superintendent and district. Our commitment is to the community and all its stakeholders, especially to our student's education and well-being.

Committees consist of three board members which include budget and finance, certified employees, classified employees, policy review, buildings, and grounds. These committees meet regularly outside of the monthly regular board meeting.

Additionally, a member represents the BOE as an IASB delegate, another as an alternate IASB delegate, and a third as part of the AERO governing board.

Further information about IASB delegates, the AERO governing board, and committee member breakdown is available at sd104.us for your reference.

One of the most important committee work projects this spring involved the negotiations with our school district's teacher's union. After many meetings, a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) came together. A special thank you to all involved for agreeing to a mutually beneficial contract that runs 2023-2026.

The policy review committee shapes the district. Policy changes are an ongoing matter. Recommendations are reviewed and vetted on a near-monthly basis. This is where the big-picture objectives from all levels of government and expectations are established as guides for the district's administration to establish procedures.

The building and grounds committee is continually looking at school security and ways to improve district facilities. With the aid of grants and fiscal responsibility, this committee has recommended numerous actions over the past several years. Among the highlighted recommendations that the board eventually approved were the following.

- adding air conditioning to all our schools (not long ago some went without, and all schools closed as a result because of excess heat)
- constructing a stand-alone maintenance building
- converting all lighting to LED
- reconstruction of Wharton's foundation
- installation of back checks on dual sewer lines to stop regular flooding (seemed like a regular occurrence when I first arrived)
- Worked through the COVID protocols to provide a safe environment
- Numerous security measures
- STEAM Labs for all five schools
- Increased out-of-classroom opportunities for our students (athletics and other activities)



Board of Education President – William Green Cont.

This summer and fall the district continues to proactively change with the construction of an administrative building. Driven to reduce classroom student-to-teacher ratios, to provide equal community school options to all, and to better secure the schools during class sessions the board moved forward with the superintendent's recommendation. All five schools within SD104 have ongoing summer projects.

Heritage and Graves are converting former admin spaces into classrooms. Walker and Wharton are finally getting properly secured entrances. Walsh HVAC repairs and asbestos removal round out the major ongoing summer projects.

The public can view the Walker and Wharton projects anytime at the following links.

Walker - <https://vkda.co/view/3d0ba056-73d2-4c8d-8327-e783a2b18a9e?shard=prod1>

Wharton - <https://vkda.co/view/bd4183d3-15c7-4443-a470-02e750e99211?shard=prod1>

Administrative Building - <https://www.senserасystems.com/public/embed/3M7835456J6A>

The finance committee reviews all expenditures prior to each regular board meeting. Duties include working with the superintendent to develop the district's annual budget, monitor cash flow through the school year and make financial recommendations. In recent years, the board has restructured SD104-specific bonds so all will be paid off in 2030. The bonds were restructured to smooth out the payments.

One Aero bond related to the new building will remain afterward.

As for our district, there are currently 4 bond series outstanding 2017 A, 2017 B, 2018 A, and 2018 B.

2017 A has a payoff date of 12/01/24

2017 B has a payoff date of 12/01/30

2018 A has a payoff date of 12/01/25

2018 B has a payoff date of 12/01/30

In 2030 the tax extension will be reduced by a total of just over \$2.7M. We will all have fewer taxes collected. These bonds were acquired before my time and likely helped the district in a tough period. The BOE does not want to bring on any new debt and has avoided it for the last 11 years.

Another taxpayer notes, in four out of the last five years the BOE has voted for a 0% tax levy. This is a conscious effort to keep our taxes as low as possible.

Cook County does have a minimum percentage that the board does not control.

The finance committee has also recommended and the BOE has voted to issue (4) Tax Relief Measures for our constituents since 2013.

1. 2013 Return of Just Over \$900,000 For Cook County Clerk Taxation Error
2. 2021 Abatement of \$1,000,000 To Reduce the Debt Service Burden On Tax Payers.
3. 2022 Abatement of \$1,340,168 Property Tax Relief Grant
4. 2023 Abatement of \$1,340,168 Property Tax Relief Grant

As we move into the 2023/2024 school year the board has one of its most important tasks of hiring our next superintendent.

The process is underway and will include stakeholder input. Please be in the lookout for notices. The expectation is to have the next superintendent transition with Dr. Whalen prior to his retirement. May the next district leader have the same longevity and success.

Dr. Whalen a job well done, thank you!

STATE OF THE DISTRICT



Cook County School District 104 | 6021 S. 74th Ave. Summit, IL 60501 | 708.458.0505

HMS ATHLETICS Athletic Director – Kelsi Frank

**HOSTED IESA
REGIONALS
TOURNAMENTS
FOR BOYS
BASKETBALL AND
GIRLS
VOLLEYBALL**



**40 ALL
CONFERENCE
ATHLETES**



**30 ALL
ACADEMIC
ALL
CONFERENCE
ATHLETES**



**1 STUDENT
ATHLETE WITH
#1 OVERALL
GPA IN THE
CONFERENCE**



**BOYS AND
GIRLS JV
CROSS
COUNTRY 1ST
IN
CONFERENCE**



**JV AND
VARSITY BOYS
AND GIRLS
SOCCER 3RD
PLACE**



STATE OF THE DISTRICT



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Summit, IL 60501



Congratulations to the Heritage Middle School Class of 2023

McKailey Abar /Miley Abeja /Janny Aguado /Marlene Aguilar /Ayesha Ajmal* /Alexandra Alonso /Khanari Anderson /Emmaline Araujo /Jazir Arias /Abigail Avalos /Jalene Bahena* /Marcus Bailey /Jairo Bailon /Ana Banuelos* /Alias Bellinder /Karyme Brambilla* /Karolina Bukowski* /Fabian Calderon /Yuritza Calderon /Alonso Campos /Alexander Campos /Jocelin Campos* /Jose Campos /Genesis Cannon* /Daniel Carreno /Esmeralda Castillo* /Sofia Cepeda /Miranda Cervantes* /Shreesha Chauhan* /Vanessa Chavez /Aysia Chester /Omar Clemente /Maya Collins* /Alexa Davila /Kevin Davila /Ignacio De La Paz /Salvador De La Torre* /Saul De la Torre /Arleth De Luna /Jaime Del Aguila* /Thomas Dominguez* /Addison Doss /Mia Duran* /Ahilyne Duron /Jazzlyn Escobedo /Diego Escobedo* /Arelly Escoto /Zariah Fields /Javari Fletcher /Yanis Flores /Zulia Fortiz /Sofia Fuantos* /Joel Galaviz /Crystal Garcia /Gabriela Garcia /Gianna Garcia* /Yasmin Garcia* /Britzia Garcia /Jayden Garcia /Gerardo Gonzalez /Jonathan Guerrero /Milani Guerrero /Richard Hartman /Jayden Hernandez /Jose Hernandez /Alyvia Holland /Ethan Jimenez /Pierre Johnson /Kyra Jones /Eddy Juarez /Angelica Loera* /Victor Lopez /Tony Lopez* /Evelyn Lopez* /Isaias Martinez /Joel Lozano /Clarissa Martinez /Enrique Martinez /Vanessa Martinez* /Gael Martinez /Miriam Medina /Yazmine Medina /Madeline Medveskas /Jose Montes /Mario Morales /Dalina Moreno /Noe Mozo /Emilia Nebus /Joshua Nunez /Jacqueline Ornelas* /Adolfo Orozco /Arelly Orozco* /Stephanie Orozco /Sheila Ortiz* /Cesly Padilla /Vanessa Padilla /Henry Padua /Mia Palacios* /Jainim Patel /Janvi Patel* /Rudra Patel* /Xavier Pena /Allison Perez /Briana Perez /Jennifer Perez /Ruby Perez /Paula Pineda /Valery Pinto /Lillian Polanco /Neena Quintero* /Samuel Quiroz /Cesia Ramirez* /Delilah Ramirez* /Daniel Rangel /Samantha Recendiz /Sincere Reeves /Francisco Reyes* /Joel Rodriguez /Adan Romero /Eliana Rosales /Yahir Rosales /Enrique Rosales* /Marylin Rosas* /Jocelyn Rubalcaba /Jesuri Ruiz /Alanys Ruiz* /Abigail Ruvalcaba /Adan Salgado /Brandon Salgado /Alexis Salinas /Axel Samaniego /Donavin Sanchez /Irvin Serrano /Jayden Smaw /Lizette Solano /Manuel Soto /Jocelin Suarez /Suleman Sulemani* /Angel Torres /Nancy Urquizo /Irma Urquizo* /Antonio Urquizo /Yuliana Vargas* /Alejandro Vences /Karla Villanueva* /Angel Viramontes /Laniyah Williams /Olivia Williams /Gwendolyn Yoe /Luis Zuniga

School District 104



(708) 458-0505

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William Green, Board President

Rachel Garcia, Vice President

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Travon Davis, Member

Delia Cahue, Member

Luleta Dardovski, Member

Evelyn Rangel, Member

Our Schools ...

Heritage Middle School

Grades: 6th – 8th

Principal: Pam Malone

Asst. Principal: Laura

Skowronek

6021 S. 74th Avenue

Summit, IL 60501

(708) 458-7590

Walker School

Grades: K – 4th

Principal: Jeff Moore

7735 W. 66th Place

Bedford Park, IL 60501

(708) 458-7150

Walsh School

Grades: K – 4th

Principal: Christine Smith

Assistant Principal: Robert

Tucker

5640 S. 75th Avenue

Summit, IL 60501

(708) 458-7165

Wharton School

Grades: 5th

Principal: Raquel Modiest

7555 W. 64th Street

Summit, IL 60501

(708) 458-0604

Graves School

Grades: Pre-K – 4th

Principal: Guillermina Arteaga

Asst. Principal: Oscar Guillen

6021 S. 74th Avenue

Summit, IL 60501

(708) 458-7260