



THE VISION

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- New User Fees
- Academic Performance Report
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- Multicultural Club
- Board Briefs and News
...and much more!

Avoca School District 37:
Maximizing students' unique potential
for Glenview, Northfield, Wilmette and
Winnetka since 1870!

AVOCA BOARD NAMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

The Avoca Board of Education is excited to announce that Dr. Kaine Osburn has been selected to serve as the next Superintendent of the Avoca School District. For the past three years, Dr. Osburn has served as the Superintendent of Lake Zurich Community Unit District 95 and was the Deputy Superintendent of Naperville Community Unit District 203 prior to that.

Board President Rick Zelinsky shared, "Our superintendent search process involved input from administration, staff, parents and community members and a candidate profile was developed reflecting characteristics desired in the District's next leader. Dr. Osburn embodies those key qualities. We are excited to welcome Dr. Osburn to the Avoca family and moving forward under his leadership."

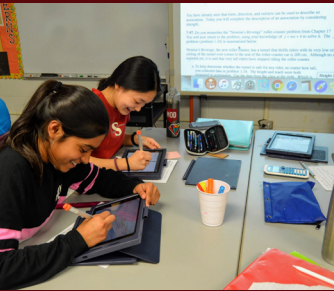


Dr. Osburn received his Bachelor degree from Southeast Missouri State and a Masters in English and American Literature from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He earned his administrative endorsements and his Doctorate in Educational Policy from Loyola University. Presently Dr. Osburn is a Wilmette resident and also an alumnus of New Trier High School. Current Avoca Superintendent Kevin Jauch commented, "Kaine's personal familiarity with the North Shore community will be a tremendous asset as he transitions into this new professional role, and I look forward to working with him as he learns more about Avoca's unique qualities."

Continued on page 4...



AVOCA TO INCREASE USER FEES, INITIATE SEVERAL NEW ACTIVITY FEES, BUT ESTABLISH A FUND TO ASSURE ALL CAN PARTICIPATE



The Avoca School District has always prided itself on the wide array of extra-curricular activities it offers for students. Those do not occur, however, without a cost. For the past two years the Board of Education and administration have been studying ways to address the budget deficit that has existed in recent years. A key strategy is to increase our current user fees and phase in several new ones over the next few years.

The BOE Finance Committee reviewed school fees in the following areas: instruction, technology, transportation, and extracurricular activities including: athletics, instrumental music, science olympiad, and school play. Before embarking on that study, the committee and the administration reaffirmed their commitment to supporting student connectedness through the arts and athletics. Determined to not let fees prevent students from participating in extracurricular activities, the District will be establishing the Viking Fund. Supported solely through donations from parents, staff and community members, the Viking Fund will be used to offset activity fees for students who qualify for this financial assistance.

In studying user fees, the BOE Finance Committee considered both past and current Avoca costs, comparisons to neighboring school districts, and different fee structures to help alleviate current and future budget deficits. For the 2019-2020 school year Avoca is increasing its extracurricular fee for all students in grades 1-8 from \$25 to \$35. This is the first increase in this fee since it was established 9 years ago.

Avoca's technology fees help offset the costs of devices, interactive display systems, software, infrastructure and other tech related supplies and materials. Traditionally technology fees were structured at one rate for a single student with a \$100 discount for each additional child per family. For next year, the discount will be decreased to \$50, then phased out altogether for 2020-2021.

Transportation fees are designed to offset the cost of drivers, dispatch, fuel and bus leases. Our transportation fees cover a mere 20% of the District's transportation costs. Currently, Avoca transports children who live 1.5 miles or more from school for free. Families that live within 1.5 miles pay \$500 for round trip service and \$250

for one-way service. A family discount of \$50 per child is offered for each additional round trip student. For the 2019-2020 school year, the district will keep the fee for two-way service the same for individual students, increase the fee for one-way service to \$300 and eliminate the family discount for additional children. Beginning in 2020-2021, the District plans to charge all riders \$500 for round trip service and \$300 for one-way. It is the goal of the Board of Education Finance Committee to offset at least 50% of the District's regular education transportation costs. In subsequent school years, instructional, technology and transportation fees will be increased by the consumer price index, and rounded up to the nearest \$5 increment.

Avoca is currently one of only two school districts in New Trier Township that do not charge athletic or other activity fees. After reviewing the costs associated with officiating, coaching, score-keeping, supervision, uniforms, transportation and supplies, the following fees will be charged for athletics for the 2019-2020 school year:

Basketball	\$125
Volleyball	\$95
Soccer	\$50
Cross Country	\$40

The Board of Education Finance Committee has set a goal to recoup 30% of the athletic costs for FY2020, 40% for FY2021 and 50% by FY2022.

The District will charge each Science Olympian \$200 for the 2019-2020 school year, and plans to increase that by \$50 each year over the next two. It is the goal of the Board of Education Finance Committee to offset 30% of the District's Science Olympiad costs by FY2022. For the spring play for 2019-2020 a fee of \$140 will be charged per student cast and for the student director. Volunteers who run the lights and sound, help with props and costumes, and build the sets will not be charged a fee. For more detailed information on school fees, please visit <http://bit.ly/BOEfeestudy2019>.

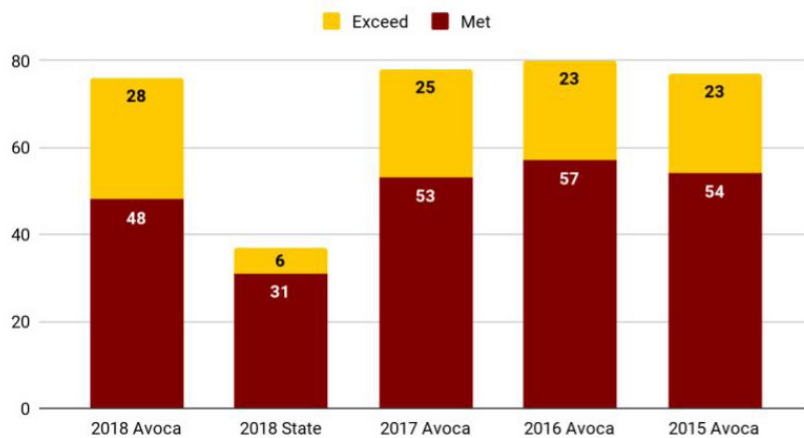
It is important to reiterate that the District does not want any child to be unable to participate in extracurricular activities because of the financial burden. The Viking Fund will be established to offset the costs for students of need. Keep an eye out for more information regarding the Viking Fund and how you can donate or access these funds.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

They say the more things change, the more they stay the same. The Illinois State Board of Education has again made a change to their federally required assessment program and is introducing the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) this year, to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) that had been in place for the last 4 years. The IAR has many similar attributes with PARCC. Both are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards, emphasizing depth over breadth by requiring students to apply their knowledge of the standards to real world situations.

For this first year, the tests will look very similar to students and teachers as the IAR will include the same content, including an “anchor set” of questions from PARCC thereby maintaining comparability with the previous assessment. A significant change that students, parents and educators alike will appreciate is that the IAR is approximately 2/3 the time commitment.

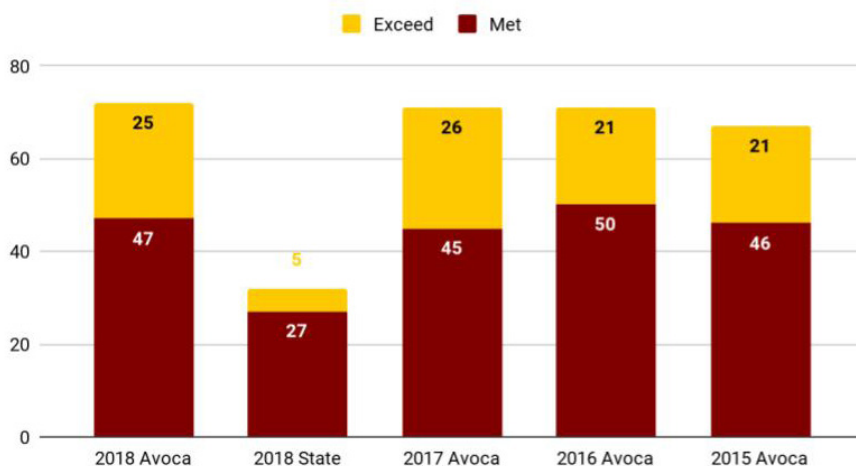
ELA Meets/Exceeds



This year's battery of tests will still include English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for 3rd through 8th grade students. 5th and 8th grade students will also take the Illinois Science Assessment. One goal of IAR, which will be administered this spring, is to return test results to the school districts more quickly. To learn more about the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, visit www.isbe.net/iar.

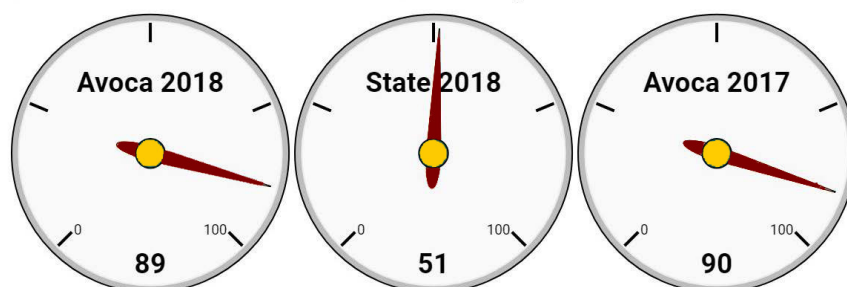
One thing that has remained remarkably consistent over the years and changes in assessments is Avoca's student's impressive performance! As one of the highest performing school districts in the state, we pride ourselves in not just meeting the standards, but exceeding them in both ELA and mathematics. As you look at the charts accompanying this article you will note that approximately 1/4 of Avoca students **exceed** the state's rigorous learning standards.

Math Meets/Exceeds



However, achievement alone is not the reason that both Avoca schools both earned “exemplary” status from the State of Illinois. Our children also demonstrate tremendous growth over their years in District 37. Data shows that the longer a child is in the Avoca School District, the better they perform. For more information regarding the achievement of our students, visit www.illinoisreportcard.com.

Illinois Science Assessment Proficiency



New Supt. continued from cover...

Before moving into district office positions, Dr. Osburn was an Assistant Principal and Principal of Niles West High School where he also served as an English Teacher. Kaine also serves as a Trustee for The College Board.

Dr. Osburn shared, "Having grown up in Wilmette, living here now with my family, having attended New Trier, I know of Avoca's stellar reputation as a nurturing and rigorous learning community. I feel fortunate to be the next Superintendent for Avoca, and I look forward to getting to know the community and learning how we will grow together."

The district is hosting an open house for the community to meet Dr. Osburn on May 1st at 6:00 p.m. at Avoca West Elementary. Please help us in welcoming Dr. Kaine Osburn to the Avoca community!

MEET DR. KAINE OSBURN COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

MAY 1ST
6:00-7:00 P.M.

Avoca West Elementary
235 Beech Drive
Glenview



Top: Dr. Osburn and Board President, Rick Zelinsky chat during a recent visit. Right: Dr. Osburn challenges Avoca staff to dream big!



MULTICULTURAL CLUB CREATES GLOBAL AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Avoca School District 37 is a vibrant community of learners, teachers, families and people of all walks of life; our community is a melting pot, brimming with diversity. An incredible place to learn and grow, we are always seeking opportunities to celebrate the many different cultures represented within our district.

Avoca West teachers Diana Cole and Helen Kim, who both grew up in homes that spoke different languages, ate ethnic foods, and had distinctive customs, felt that a Multicultural Club was a perfect opportunity for students to also share their similar experiences. Ms. Kim noted "as teachers, we see the diversity at our school every day and wanted to start a Multicultural Club to build global awareness and understanding, as well as to increase opportunities for education about the many cultures of our students and around the world." Exploring different cultures allows students to organically come to the awareness that they are more alike than different, while fostering acceptance, tolerance, and empathy.

The club meets once a week to "travel" to different countries to learn about geography, culture, customs, and fun facts. Thus far, students have "visited" South Korea, Romania, Mexico, Ethiopia, Peru, Afghanistan, Philippines, Russia, and India. The club has been very well received, with much excitement around each meeting. It has also provided parents an excellent opportunity to share their worldly knowledge and experiences. The Multicultural Club encourages anyone interested to join in the celebration of Avoca's diversity.





Board Brief

Updates from the Avoca Board of Education Meetings
December 2018 to February 2019



Village of Glenview Easement Agreement

This summer, the Village of Glenview will be conducting storm sewer and water supply projects on the properties adjacent to and on the land at Avoca West. The projects include replacing an 8" water main at Sherwood Lane and Beech Drive and looping it through the school site to connect it to the existing water main located within the easement on the school property. The Village also plans to up-size several sections of storm sewer along Wilmette Avenue, Heatherfield Lane, Hunter Road, Sherwood Lane and Beech Drive, including storm sewer extension along the drive of Avoca West. The Board granted the Village access to the property and approved a new easement to maintain improvements overtime.

Preschool Tuition and Program Structure

The Board approved a 2.1% increase in tuition for Avoca Community Preschool for the 2019–2020 School Year. If enrollment justifies the means, the program will still offer a morning and afternoon session with the same staffing. The district has also increased promotion of the program in order to increase enrollment.

Summer School Tuition

The Board approved a fee of \$180 for basic classes and maintained a fee of \$140 for transportation for summer school 2019.

Public Hearing on Amended FY 19 Budget

The Board held a public hearing on the Amended FY19 Budget on December 20th. Ms. Dever noted that the budget was amended to include a deficit reduction plan and to report fund balances on an accrual basis, as was determined through the 2018 Audit. The Board approved the Amended FY19 Budget during regular session.

Public Hearing on 2018 Tax Levy

The Board held a public hearing on the 2018 Tax Levy. The District recommended increasing the 2017 operating levy by ballooning the levy to a percentage greater than 2.1% plus estimated new growth, totaling \$14,225,807. The Board approved the proposed 2018 Tax Levy during regular session.

Technology Update: 2nd and 7th Grade iPad Implementation and 5 Year Projections

An update on the implementation of iPads in the 7th and 2nd grades was presented on December 20th. In 7th Grade, the slow and deliberate roll-out of the devices led to a smooth implementation that has been well received by students and teachers. The 2nd grade implementation started in late October and was given special focus to teach students basic skills to operate the devices. 2nd grade teachers are pleased with the improved workflow and ability to capture student learning.

ELA Committee Update

An update regarding the work of the ELA Committee was presented on December 20th. The update reviewed the work achieved during the previous year, highlighted various programs being piloted in Kindergarten–3rd Grade and the methods created to ensure consistent implementation and to track student and instructional progress.

Advanced Learner Program at Marie Murphy

The Board was informed of changes regarding the Advanced Learner program at Marie Murphy beginning in the 2019–2020 school year. Advanced Learners will be given differentiated learning opportunities through the regular classroom teacher, rather than the current pull-out structure currently in place.

The Board Approved: Summer Construction Contractor Bid; Instructional, Technology, Transportation, Athletic, Science Olympiad and School Play Fees; Razing Avoca Center; and Summer 2019 Asbestos Abatement Bid.



2016-2021 Strategic Plan

Avoca continues to achieve progress toward the five goals of the Strategic Plan: Student Learning, Collaborative Teams, Continuous Improvement, Community Communication and Engagement and Management of Resources.

To view progress visit:

<http://bit.ly/strategicplan20162021>



SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARD WINNERS

Alliance for Young Artists and Writers sponsors the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7–12. Some students begin working on their submissions months before the deadline and revisit their writing or artwork repeatedly to prepare for this highly competitive contest. Creative Writing Teacher, Daira Tramotin, noted “I am really proud of all the students that submitted this year. It takes a lot of work and requires taking a risk. There is no guarantee of success. Writing is a very personal thing. Writers put a part of themselves on every page and in every word, becoming vulnerable to how the work is received.”

For the Scholastic Art Awards, 11 students received an award, and 4 are moving on to the national competition. Some students received multiple recognitions for different mediums. The winners this year are:



Gold Key (moving on to Nationals):

Enie Batbold - for “ImPerfect” - Painting; Audrey Chung - for “Se-



renity” - Drawing & Illustration; Alivia Gao - for “Shadow Jumper” - Drawing & Illustration; and Aaron Morales - for “Leading Memories” - Digital Art

Silver Key:

Lisa Isseva - for “The Snow Storm” - Painting; Sumi Pandiri - for “Moonlight Dream” - Painting; and Sumi Pandiri - for “The Outsider” - Digital Art

Honorable Mention:

Zijun Deng - for “Big Ebi” - Ceramics & Glass; Suvali Dhar - for “Welcome to Japan” - Ceramics & Glass; Myra Gallant - for “The Killer at Dinner” - Photography; Alivia Gao - for “The Spirit of America” - Painting; Ned Koh - for “The Cry” - Drawing & Illustration; Aaron Morales - for “Familiar World” - Digital Art; Brandon LeFebvre - for “Nothing But Net” - Photography; and Sumi Pandiri - for “The Stubborn Beauty” - Drawing & Illustration

Out of the 20 writing pieces submitted by Marie Murphy students, with 10 of those pieces winning on the regional level, the winners are:



Gold Key (moving on to Nationals):

Anwyn Li for her short story A Cup Full of Regret - she received the highest possible score for this piece and was the only middle schooler to receive the American Voices Nomination; and Ivanah Rajwani for her short story The Good Sanglian

Silver Key:

Becca Arneson for her short story Raine; Myra Gallant for her sci-fi/fantasy piece The Village of Death and Thieves; Anwyn Li for her memoir Princess; and Owen Meehan-Egan for his novel Crystal Soul

Honorable Mention:

Halle Cornelius for her sci-fi/fantasy piece Reaching Our End; Nathan Gelfgat for his short story Racing in the Woods; Monika Glueck for her memoir A Walk to Always Remember and Sadie-Grace Richardson for her memoir Looking onto Tomorrow



For the latest news and updates from Avoca visit
www.avoca37.org

Farewell from Dr. Jauch

It has been a pleasure serving the Avoca Community as both Principal and Superintendent over these last 13 years. I have appreciated the support of the Avoca Community from families and business owners to municipal leaders and our local legislators. Avoca is an exceptionally impressive school district, and you should all be proud to live within its boundaries! I look forward to continuing my relationship with Avoca as I move to the North Cook Regional Office of Education. Farewell!

-- Dr. Kevin Jauch

Farewell Open House for Dr. Kevin Jauch

May 23rd
5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Marie Murphy School
2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, IL

Please Join Us...

Retiring Board Member Recognition Open House

**April 25, 2019
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Marie Murphy School, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette

*Honoring retiring Board Members for their
dedicated service to Avoca 37*

Joel Raynes (2011-2019)

Sheryl Swibel (1996-2005 & 2012-2019)

All are welcome!

Contact 847-728-4128 with questions

Marie Murphy Theater
Presents...

darklight

April 26

7:00 p.m.

**Marie Murphy
School**



darklight creatively illustrates the characteristics of anxiety and depression through the lens of teens. Ultimately, it's a search for hope and victory over very real and relevant struggles of the modern teenage experience. This play does contain mature themes. It is free to the public and a fantastic opportunity to experience the arts at Avoca!

Avoca Center/Summer Construction continued from back page...

Finally at Avoca West, the Village of Glenview will also be conducting a significant amount of work along Beech Drive east of Sherwood to the back of Avoca's property and across Avoca West's front parking lot. This work is part of Glenview's East of Harms Stormwater Phase II project. For more information on that project, please visit the Village of Glenview's website.

The scope of projects at Marie Murphy School this summer is also significant. New unit ventilators equipped with air conditioning will replace the failing ones in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade wings of Marie Murphy School, as well as the science/music wing. A new air handler will also be installed in that building's multi-purpose room. This is a significant undertaking, but all work is scheduled to be completed so both schools will be able to open on time in the fall.



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Wilmette, IL 60091

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- Morning or afternoon classes
- 4 or 5 day option
- Blended and inclusive program
- The Creative Curriculum®
- Low child to adult ratio
- Specialized instructional staff
- Competitive tuition
- Developmental screening

A few spaces open in the afternoon class 2019-2020

• Avoca School District 37 • 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette • 847-724-4142 •
www.avoca37.org/school/avoca_community_preschool
preschool@avoca37.org • Find us on Facebook @avocaprek

ADDRESS BLOCK

AVOCA CENTER UPDATE AND SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Efforts to raze Avoca Center continue to move forward. At its January Board of Education meeting, Avoca's Board voted unanimously to raze Avoca Center. This official action directed District Administration to engage asbestos consultants, MKA Environmental Consulting, Inc., and the District's architectural firm, DLA Architects Ltd., to begin work preparing bid documents for the abatement of all asbestos from the building and the demolition of the structure itself, including landscaping the property for use as athletic fields.

It is anticipated that the BOE will approve a bid for the asbestos abatement at its April BOE meeting, and they are looking to the May meeting to potentially approve a demolition proposal. If everything follows the time line that has been laid out for this project, abatement will be at the end of April to mid-May to avoid the high cost of summer work and the demolition will also occur outside of the busy and more expensive summer construction season.

Still the summer will certainly be a busy one at both Avoca Schools from a facilities standpoint. At Avoca West, work to abate asbestos and replace carpeting and cabinetry continues. This project is in phase 4 of a 5 year plan, and addresses areas of the 2nd and 3rd grade wing. New unit ventilators equipped with air conditioning are also being replaced at AW in the 2 south kindergarten classrooms and the strings classroom.

Continued on page 7...

Avoca School District 37
2921 Illinois Road • Wilmette, IL 60091
P: 847-251-3587
Website: www.avoca37.org
Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.

Avoca School District 37 Business Office
2921 Illinois Road • Wilmette, IL 60091
P: 847-251-3587
Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever

Pupil Services
2921 Illinois Road • Wilmette, IL 60091
P: 847-728-4142
Interim Director of Pupil Services, Michael Meyers
Interim Director of Pupil Services, Tim Thomas, Ed.D.

Avoca West Elementary School
235 Beech Drive • Glenview, IL 60025
P: 847-724-6800
Principal, Jessica Hutchison

Marie Murphy School
2921 Illinois Road • Wilmette, IL 60091
P: 847-251-3617
Principal, Matt Palcer