



September 2014

■ Golf School District 67



One Community...

Many Voices



A Letter from the Board of Education President and Superintendent

September 2014

Dear Friends,

In November 2013, the Golf School District 67 School Board approved the formation of a Community Engagement Committee (CEC). We believe that connecting with the community and engaging stakeholders is one of the primary responsibilities of citizen school boards. Engaging the community is both complex and vital to the success of the students in the school system.

The CEC has met regularly since its formation to develop a blueprint for action for Golf School District 67. This document introduces the CEC and our initial district-wide action: a series of community dialogue sessions aimed at engaging community members in important conversations about the District related to our strategic plan. It is our hope that at these sessions, we will hear differing viewpoints and develop ideas for broad-based solutions. We invite you to attend our sessions and participate in rich dialogue about the decisions that affect our most precious resource – our children.

This document also introduces other community engagement initiatives undertaken by District 67 administration, teachers, and staff. We welcome you to join us in these initiatives. The District believes wholeheartedly that working closely with the community is key to enhancing educational excellence. We are here to serve our students and as our vision states: To educate and inspire the whole student by providing dynamic and challenging learning experiences in a nurturing and collaborative community.

Thank you in advance for the work we will do together!

Sincerely,

Louise Karlin
*President, Board of Education
Golf School District 67*

Beth Sagett-Flores, Ed.D.
*Superintendent,
Golf School District 67*

Jennifer Hirsch, Samina Hussain, Kristina Otte, Bashar Jazrawi, Bari Levin, Tom Sikoral and Rich Toth (alternates)



What is *Community Engagement*?

Definition & Activities

Community engagement involves working with the community to improve educational excellence in our schools and to ensure that the schools benefit the community. Golf School District 67 is engaging the community in three ways:

- *Establishing community partnerships* with Morton Grove and Niles community organizations including libraries, the North Shore Senior Center, the Niles Township ELL Parent Center, park districts, village departments, other school districts, chambers of commerce, businesses, and more;
- *Engaging District 67 community members in dialogues* on key topics that will influence decisions made by the Board of Education; and
- *Involving parents and other community members in educational initiatives* through school volunteer programs and other programs focused on student learning.

We believe:

Educational excellence enhances the value of the community just as the community enhances educational excellence. The cultural, civic, and intellectual resources of the community are important assets for the development of all our students and families. Enhancing our family and community partnerships is key to improving our educational results.

The benefits of community engagement:

Our community engagement work will help to ensure that District decisions and activities reflect a broad range of community concerns and values, and overall serve the general public good. It should also enhance student education and the value of the District to the community.

We invite you to *Engage With Us!*

Your active participation, support, and positive energy are welcome and needed as we develop opportunities to engage the Golf School District 67 community. Our goal is to move forward with a common vision and shared responsibility for educating our children. Here are some ways you can get involved:

Community Partnerships

We have strong partnerships with many community organizations, village departments, and businesses. And, we are creating more all the time. Some of our most exciting activities for the 2014-2015 school-year include:

- Partnership with the Niles Township ELL Parent Center, which offers ESL/literacy classes, access to community resources, and parent education
- Hynes Elementary students partnering with the North Shore Senior Center and the Morton Grove Public Library on an intergenerational book study
- Golf Middle School students partnering with the North Shore Senior Center to participate in the *Active Aging Walk* at Harrer Park
- Village Greening, a cooperative, intergovernmental initiative within the village of Morton Grove to promote energy conservation and sustainability across the Village
- **Morton Grove Farmers' Market: The first Golf School District 67 Community Day** on September 20th from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Morton Grove Park District events like Park Pride Day and Oktoberfest
- Kindergarten Career Week: welcoming local residents into the classrooms to share information about their careers

CEC Dialogue Series

The purpose of the community dialogue process is to give our community the opportunity to discuss key topics related to the



overall strategic direction of the District.

Community discussions will focus on issues that are aligned with the **District’s strategic plan and have a broad, community-wide** impact including: student achievement and instruction, district finances and facilities, a safe and secure learning environment and other topics **relevant to educating today’s students. The Board will also listen** closely to the broader community about discussion topics of interest.

Dialogue sessions will provide introductory information on the topic at hand followed by sufficient time for discussion. Key takeaways from the sessions will come to the full Board of Education for consideration and action if appropriate. The takeaways will also help inform decisions made by District administration.

See the calendar of events on page seven for more information.



How can you *Get In Touch and Get Involved!*

- Volunteer at the schools
- Join the PTA
- Come to parent and public programs throughout the year

More details about community engagement can be found on our website at: www.golf67.net

You may contact any of us at any time at the emails below:

Jennifer Hirsch
jhirsch@golf67.net

Rich Toth
rtoth@golf67.net

Bari Levin
blevin@golf67.net

Bashar Jazrawi
bjazrawi@golf67.net

Samina Hussain
shussain@golf67.net

Tom Sikoral
tsikoral@golf67.net

Kristina Otte
kotte@golf67.net

Beth Flores
bflores@golf67.net



TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME FRAME
Golf 67 Day	Morton Grove Farmers' Market	September 20, 2014
Common Core	Golf Middle School Media Center	September 23, 2014
ELL Family Field Trip	Niles Township ELL Parent Center	September 27, 2014
Resources/Finance	Hynes New Gym	October, 2014
Facilities/ Transportation	(TBD)	October, 2014
School Safety / Security	Golf Middle School Media Center	November, 2014
Bullying	Morton Grove Public Library	January, 2015
Village Greening/ Wellness	Kappy's Restaurant	Ongoing
Community Voices	(TBD)	Ongoing
Coffee with Principal	Hynes/GMS	Quarterly



District 67 Board of Education

- Ms. Louise Karlin, President
- Mr. Robert Clark, Vice President
- Ms. Samina Hussain, Secretary
- Dr. Jennifer Hirsch, Member
- Dr. Ashwini Kumar, Member
- Mr. Thomas Sikoral, Member
- Mr. Richard Toth, Member

Administrators

- Dr. Beth Saget-Flores,
Superintendent
bflores@golf67.net
- Ms. Carol Westley, Principal,
Hynes ES *cwestley@golf67.net*
- Ms. Karen Chvojka, Principal,
Golf MS *kehvojka@golf67.net*
- Mr. John Reimiche, Business
Manager
jreimiche@golf67.net

Golf School District 67
9401 Waukegan Rd.
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Non-Profit
Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Morton Grove, IL
Permit No. 1

Resident
Morton Grove, IL 60053