

Millburn School District 24



February 2013

Introduction from Jason Lind, Superintendent

Millburn District 24 continues to offer students an excellent educational experience in the midst of significant changes and substantial reductions in revenue. I continue to be impressed with the extraordinary efforts of the ENTIRE Millburn staff, from bus drivers to teachers, who are dedicated to carrying on the Millburn tradition of excellence in all pursuits. Our students are blessed to have the opportunity to learn in an environment of dedicated and caring adults.

The Millburn Board of Education has taken steps to insure that excellence in education continues into the future.

- Progress has been made to improve lines of communication with the community with this district newsletter, weekly principal newsletters, community email database, and many community forums.
- Steps have been taken to improve the financial stability of the district. The Board of Education has adopted a balanced budget policy, hired an outside firm to improve forecasting, reduced expenditures to meet falling revenues, and reduced reliance on borrowing.
- Instruction has been improved. The Board has reallocated money for more teacher training, accelerated the math curriculum, and started the transition to the new Common Core State Standards.
- The culture and climate of the District has been strengthened with the addition of regular recognition at Board meetings for students and staff; the purchase of the Second Step program, designed to reinforce the social and emotional learning standards; and the support of the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) program with the goal of teaching appropriate behaviors.

The Board priorities mentioned above came about as the result of a strategic planning process that began in 2011. ALL Millburn stakeholders had input into District 24 priorities, and the result was the Board adoption of the Strategic Plan in February of 2012. The plan can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the Millburn 24 website at www.millburn24.net. The Strategic Plan is the second item under "Quick Links."

With the continued combined efforts of the Millburn staff, administration, Board, and community, the Millburn educational experience will continue preparing "tomorrow's leaders." We are investing in our future!

**You are invited to attend a
Community Forum!**

Thursday, March 14th – 7:00-9:00 pm
Millburn Elementary School

Saturday, March 16th – 10:00 am to Noon
Millburn Middle School

The Millburn Value

The Millburn School District continues to effectively use funds to educate its students. The following graph shows that Millburn students outperform any of the other elementary Districts that feed into Warren, Grayslake, and Lakes High Schools. Millburn has accomplished this with a hard working staff and school boards that have traditionally focused on funneling as many dollars as possible into the direct instruction of students.



**This data was gathered from the Illinois Interactive Report Card (iirc) website. It is a 5 year average of scores from 2006-2011.

School District	**Overall Performance Reading % 8th Reading	School District	**Overall Performance Math % 8th Math	Total Revenue Per Student	Operating Expenditure per Student	Instructional Expenditure per Student	% Spent on Instruction
Millburn	97.7	Millburn	96.3	Grass Lake \$26,782	Grass Lake \$14,720	Grass Lake \$8,088	Millburn 55.5
Emmons	95.3	Emmons	94.5	Emmons \$15,012	Emmons \$12,693	Emmons \$7,317	Emmons 53
Grayslake	90.5	Woodland	90.3	Gurnee \$14,291	Gurnee \$11,234	Gurnee \$6,197	Lake Villa 51.2
Gurnee	89.8	Lake Villa	89.2	Grayslake \$12,397	Woodland \$11,063	Millburn \$6,142	Woodland 49.8
Woodland	88.5	Antioch	88.3	Woodland \$12,055	Grayslake \$10,522	Woodland \$6,051	Antioch 47.7
Lake Villa	87.3	Gurnee	87.3	Antioch \$11,702	Millburn * \$9,766	Grayslake \$6,011	Grayslake 47.7
Grass Lake	87.3	Grayslake	86.8	Millburn \$10,668	Antioch \$9,289	Antioch \$5,447	Grass Lake 45.3
Antioch	87.3	Grass Lake	84.7	Lake Villa \$10,521	Lake Villa \$8,782	Lake Villa \$5,136	Gurnee 31.5
Average	90.5	Average	89.7	\$14,179	Average \$11,009	Average \$6,299	Average 47.71
Millburn	97.4	Millburn	96.2	\$10,688	Millburn \$9,766	Millburn \$6,142	Millburn 55.5

*2012 Numt \$9,217

The Referendum - April 9, 2013

On the heels of four straight years of significant budget cuts, the Millburn 24 School Board voted unanimously to place a question on the April 9, 2013 ballot asking taxpayers for additional support for the education of Millburn students. Millburn District 24 will run a referendum to offset the recent reductions in state and federal education funding. The cost of an estimated \$114 per \$100,000 of current market value will help lower average class sizes, help fund the statewide transition to a more rigorous curriculum, and preserve art, music, technology, band, choir, and other extracurricular activities. In consideration of the financial situation of district residents as well as economic forecasts, the district has requested the minimum necessary funding to avoid further program cuts. Taxpayers who currently pay \$10,000 per year in taxes will see an increase in the range of \$320-400 per year. This is about 4% of the overall tax bill. This equates to around \$1 per day or less for most

WHY a Referendum Now?!?!

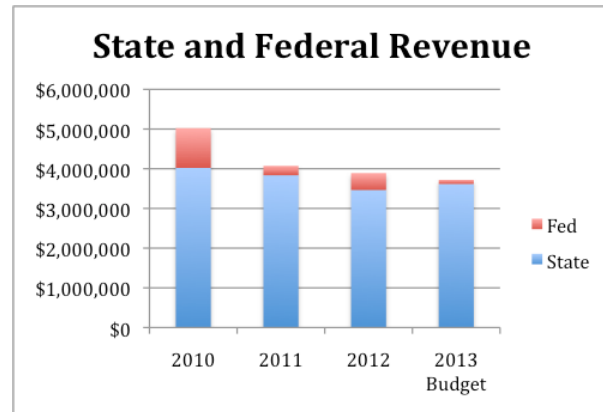
Further delay in additional funding will result in the loss of programs such as art, technology, music, and library services, and AIM.* Passing a referendum on the April 9, 2013 ballot will not have an impact on the budget until the 2014/15 school year. The Millburn Board will be forced to make cuts before another opportunity for a referendum.

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of smaller class sizes in maintaining academic excellence over time. The Board also recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education, which includes technology, library, art, music, and AIM.

*AIM = Advanced Instruction at Millburn

Reduced Funding

Millburn has faced significant cuts in revenue from state and federal sources, and we expect further cuts in state funding for the upcoming school years.



Where does Millburn rank in revenue and expenditures among Lake County elementary schools?

Millburn ranked second to last in revenue per student in the county. Millburn ranked the fourth lowest in Lake County for operating expenditures per student in FY 11. Operating expenditures include the expenditures on direct instruction, support services, building maintenance, and transportation.

Total Revenue Per ADA		Operating Expenditure per ADA	
Bannockburn	\$35,623	Rondout	\$25,355
Rondout	\$30,887	Bannockburn	\$18,961
Grass Lake	\$26,782	Lake Bluff	\$16,161
Lake Bluff	\$19,582	Aptakisic	\$15,473
North Shore	\$18,985	North Shore	\$15,245
Lincolnshire	\$18,611	Lincolnshire	\$14,727
Aptakisic	\$18,027	Grass Lake	\$14,720
Kildeer	\$17,431	Lake Forest	\$14,572
Lake Forest	\$17,146	Oak Grove	\$13,519
Deerfield	\$16,920	Deerfield	\$13,218
Oak Grove	\$16,115	Kildeer	\$12,955
Emmons	\$15,012	Emmons	\$12,693
Hawthorn	\$14,489	Hawthorn	\$12,168
Gurnee	\$14,291	Diamond Lake	\$11,918
Diamond Lake	\$13,867	Fox Lake	\$11,321
Libertyville	\$13,745	Gurnee	\$11,234
Fox Lake	\$13,639	Woodland	\$11,063
Fremont	\$13,580	Zion	\$10,981
Gavin	\$13,526	Fremont	\$10,947
Zion	\$13,361	Gavin	\$10,706
Mundelein	\$12,442	Grayslake	\$10,522
Grayslake	\$12,397	Libertyville	\$10,333
Big Hollow	\$12,285	Beach Park	\$10,115
Beach Park	\$12,215	Mundelein	\$10,056
Woodland	\$12,055	Winthrop Harbor	\$9,844
Antioch	\$11,702	Millburn *	\$9,766
Winthrop Harbor	\$11,541	Antioch	\$9,289
Millburn	\$10,668	Big Hollow	\$8,968
Lake Villa	\$10,521	Lake Villa	\$8,782
	\$16,119	Average	\$12,607
	\$10,688	Millburn	\$9,766
		*2012 Number	\$9,217

Data was collected from the 2010-2011 Lake County Financial Data Report compiled by the Staff at the Lake County Regional Office of Education, March 2012.

Data from other school districts have not yet been made available at this time. It is anticipated that Millburn will fall below Antioch and possibly other schools in expenditures per pupil when the new data is made available.

What has the District done to reduce expenditures?

✓ Reduced Staff

Millburn has reduced the number of certified staff from 151 in 2009 to 96 for the 2013 school year.

A significant increase in class size is due to the reduction of staff. The student/staff ratio includes every certified adult in the building (Special Education, Speech, PE, Art, Band, Music, Health, Tech, etc.)

Millburn has reduced the number of office staff, bus drivers, custodians, paraprofessionals (teacher aides), and administrators since 2009.



✓ Curriculum Adjustments

Millburn has eliminated the curriculum director position starting in the 2012/13 school year. Curriculum, staff development, and assessment responsibilities have been distributed among the administrative team. Millburn has not purchased any new textbook or adopted any new curriculum since 2007.

✓ Grade Level Centers

Millburn has transitioned from two K-8 schools to grade level centers for the 2012/13 school year. This move has saved the district \$225,000 in efficiencies. More detailed information on this transition may be found at <http://www.millburn24.net/schoolboard.cfm?subpage=292356>. The move also allowed class sizes to remain stable while retaining Art, Music, PE, and Technology taught by a specialist.

✓ Teacher and Administrative Contracts

The Millburn teaching staff voluntarily opened their contract in 2011 to reduce the compensation terms of the contract.

Millburn administrators voluntarily opened their contract to take a pay freeze for the 2010/11 school year. They have taken an additional pay freeze for the 2012/13 school year.

✓ Bond Refinancing

The Board decided to refinance Bonds to capture as much savings as possible for taxpayers. The result of the refinance will save the taxpayers over \$300,000.

✓ Other Savings

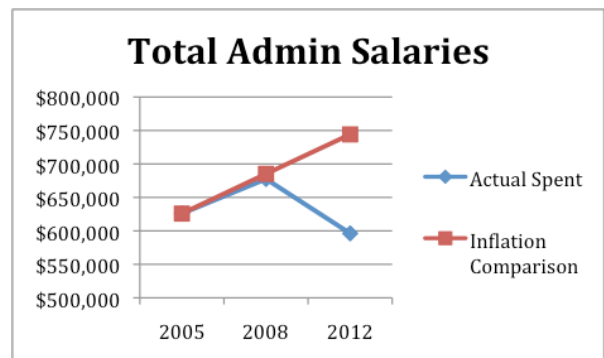
Millburn bid a bus lease for a three-year term instead of a 1-year term for a total savings of \$181,560.

The number of copiers in each building was reduced as was the amount of paper use.

Millburn has increased the use of volunteers to support the educational process thanks to some VERY dedicated parents.

Is the District Overspending on Administration?

The district is currently spending less on total administrative salaries in 2013 than it did in 2005! The administration has had a 4% increase in salary over 4 years. The average inflation is about 10% over four years. Millburn's administrative salaries are currently among the lowest in the county when compared directly with equivalent positions.



Will the teachers' decision to unionize impact District expenses?

The teachers chose to join the Illinois Federation of Teachers for a variety of reasons. The current educational climate is placing more and more pressure on educators in general, and teachers are feeling the increased demands. The teachers' Union will advocate for our teachers and their concerns. The Union will also advocate for fair teacher compensation. The Union does not approve the District's budget. The Board of Education approves the District's budget including anticipated revenues and expenses. The Board has a balanced budget policy.

What happens if the referendum does not pass in April?

The Board will be looking to cut some or all non-mandated programs for the 2014-15 school year. The level of cuts will be determined by the projected funding for upcoming school years. Non-mandated programs include Art, Band, Music, Library Instruction, Technology Class, Gifted Education, Physical Education (taught by a specialist at the elementary level), Athletics, Drama, Yearbook, etc.

The Board is passionate about maintaining a strong educational opportunity for students far into the future. The Board has run a balanced budget for 4 years, and is committed to strong fiscal responsibility into the future.

District Highlights

The District continues to be recognized with the School Search Bright A + award. This award recognizes the top Illinois performers on the ISAT test. Millburn is in the top 5% of all districts in the state.

Millburn offers an outstanding music performance program for students in 4th through 8th grade. Millburn offers a variety of opportunities for students to engage with their peers in common interest groups. Clubs offered to our student are: Journalism, Yearbook, Student Service, Ecology, and Drama. Millburn is also recognized for its outstanding athletic programs. Millburn is one of the smallest schools in our athletic conference, yet we consistently compete for conference championships in all sports. Millburn sent the boys and girls cross-country teams to the state competition along with over 40 track athletes in 2012.

The Millburn standard is excellence in every endeavor as we focus on turning "Today's Learners into Tomorrow's Leaders." Millburn has provided a well-rounded educational experience despite reductions in revenue over the past four years.

Residents without children enrolled at this time, please choose to stay informed and receive emails from our district by sending your email address to Opt-in@millburn24.net

Millburn School District 24

18550 Millburn Road

Wadsworth, IL 60083