

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear District 26 Parents,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to update you on District 26's financial situation.

As you know, District 26 has been working the last two years to reduce the budget because, similar to 80% of the school districts across Illinois, we are deficit spending. That means we are spending more money than we receive. If you compare that to your own budget, you realize what that signifies.

In order to be fiscally responsible to the Cary taxpayers, the Board of Education made \$600,000.00 — Tier 1 cuts this current year.

Tier 2 cuts were identified prior to the referendum as well as Tier 3 cuts to be implemented in the event of a failed referendum.

As you know the referendum was unsuccessful, and it is absolutely essential that District 26 reduce the budget further to become better aligned with the revenues received.

The Board of Education voted on March 22, 2004, to close Oak Knoll School in an effort to save almost \$600,000.00 on a yearly basis. This decision creates the need to do some redistricting. Please see the enclosed chart regarding the changes. If your neighborhood or subdivision is not listed, then your children in kindergarten through grade 4 will attend the same school as this year. Please also note whether your children will be walking or bused on this new schedule, as there are some changes.

In early August the transportation routes will be posted at each school so you can determine the times and bus routes for each of your children. Also in August, each of the remaining four elementary schools will have Open Houses for new students and families.

In addition to closing the school, increased student fees will be needed for registration and programs. Please see the enclosed chart.

The Board did not want to eliminate the programs, but wanted to increase revenues to justify supporting the programs.

Although the Board has now made a total of slightly over 3 million dollars in cuts or increases in revenue, the budget will still not be quite balanced next year. District 26 will need to continue investigating methods to either reduce expenses or generate revenue as reserves are dwindling quickly.

If you would like to become part of the solution to help District 26 make plans as we go forward, please email me and you can become involved in committees. I anticipate forming an alternative funding research committee and a political action committee. Please become involved before we need to make additional reductions.

Brian Coleman currently Oak Knoll Principal, will replace Eligio Marcheschi who is retiring from District 26 after 39 years of service, 23 as Principal of Briargate School. District 26 is fortunate to have Mr. Coleman with his level of experience to assume the Briargate School Principal position.

It is also very sad because we will be losing approximately 54 employee positions after this year, 11% of the total teaching, educational support and administrative staff. However, we must move on and try to do the best job possible working with your children. We will continue to be successful with your ongoing support and all the volunteer work you do for your schools to achieve excellence in education.

Thank you for being partners with District 26.

Educationally yours,

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2004–2005 School Year Attendance Area Changes as a Result of Closing Oak Knoll School

Location	New School	Transportation
Oak Knoll students East of First Street	Three Oaks	Walk
Oak Knoll students West of First Street	Briargate	Bus
Oak Knoll students in Hilltop subdivision	Briargate	Bus
Briargate students in Greenfields — south of Main Street	Maplewood	Walk
Briargate students in Cary Oaks	Maplewood	Walk
Three Oaks students in Bright Oaks	Deer Path	Bus

2004-05 Registration Fees

MANDATORY Fees per Student	Amount
Registration: ECE — Kindergarten (1/2 day program)	\$ 60.00
Registration Dual: ECE/Kindergarten Dual (full day program)	\$ 80.00
Registration: Grades 1–8	\$ 80.00
Technology: Kindergarten	\$ 15.00
Technology: Grades 1–8	\$ 35.00
Activity: Grades 5–8 (includes all clubs and intramural activities)	\$ 25.00

Mandatory fees for K–4:
One Registration Fee and
One Technology Fee

Mandatory Fees for 5–8:
One Registration Fee,
One Technology Fee,
and One Activity Fee

OPTIONAL Participation Fees per Student	Amount
Band: Grades 5–8	\$ 300.00
Competitive/Conference Sports (per sport): Grades 7–8	\$ 200.00
In-house Sports (per sport): Grades 7–8	\$ 100.00

