



MILNE-KELVIN GROVE ELEMENTARY

DISTRICT 91

Community Newsletter



STRATEGIC PLAN EDITION

VISIT WWW.D91.NET FOR UPDATES AND EVENTS



A ROADMAP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

DEAR MILNE-KELVIN GROVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

It is my pleasure to report that the 18-19 school year is off to a fantastic start! Witnessing our students returning eager to learn each August is the most rewarding part of my job. The excitement of a fresh start and seeing how the students have grown makes all of the behind the scenes work that goes into opening school each year (and keeping it going) worth it! The state's transition to an Evidence Based Funding model and the newly adopted ESSA plan (an accountability model that replaces No Child Left Behind) has changed the way we do some things at the district and school levels. However, children remain the focus of all of the work that the faculty and staff of Milne-Kelvin Grove District 91 prioritize. Over the past several years, we have achieved many goals that result in a stronger education for the children in our community. We are proud of our curricular development and resource adoptions, our ability to provide 1:1 technology, our PK-8 social emotional programming, and so much more!

Earlier this year, our Board of Education initiated the development of a multi-year strategic plan to guide the district's efforts toward providing a high quality education for all students. We invited the entire school community to contribute to this process and you responded! Your feedback has been important to our goal setting process and we appreciate your input. Looking to the future, our strategic planning committee envisions all members of the Milne-Kelvin community fully engaged and informed of D91's growth and development, even those without children in our schools. This newsletter is the first edition of a biannual initiative to keep YOU, our residents and taxpayers, abreast of our goal setting process as well as our progress toward those goals.

In order for our communication initiative to be successful, we need to ensure that our residents, local businesses, and other stakeholders can access the information they want, when they want it. Our website, www.d91.net, is the most expedient method; our strategic plan updates, newsletters, board agendas, and many more items are updated on a weekly or monthly basis. You can even visit our website to request inclusion on the D91 weekly message. If visiting our website doesn't work for you, you are welcome to contact my office at 815-838-0737x1100 to request the monthly newsletters and/or board meeting agendas to be mailed to your home.

Sincerely,

Donna J. Gray

Superintendent, Lockport School District 91

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WWW.D91.NET





Making daily investments to empower children to become life-long learners and future leaders.

OUR PROCESS

The Goal Setting Committee met on Saturday, February 19, 2018. Members took part in a goal setting workshop led by Mr. Perry Hill, IV from the Illinois Association of School Boards. Superintendent Gray provided a brief overview of the District including the Board's last strategic plan goals and accomplishments, district finances, and the result of the December 2017-January 2018 community survey.

Committee members spent time discussing core values in the three broad areas (1) students and learning, (2) teachers and teaching, and (3) district-community relations. Committee members, working in groups, then identified district strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats across five broad areas:

Student Achievement/Curriculum
Programs/Services
Facilities
District Finances
Community-District Relations

Members were tasked with developing vision and goal statements for each of the five areas to be provided to the Board of Education.

The Board of Education synthesized and prioritized the goals brought forth by the committee and charged the Superintendent to work with administration and teachers to develop strategies and a timeframe for meeting the identified goals.

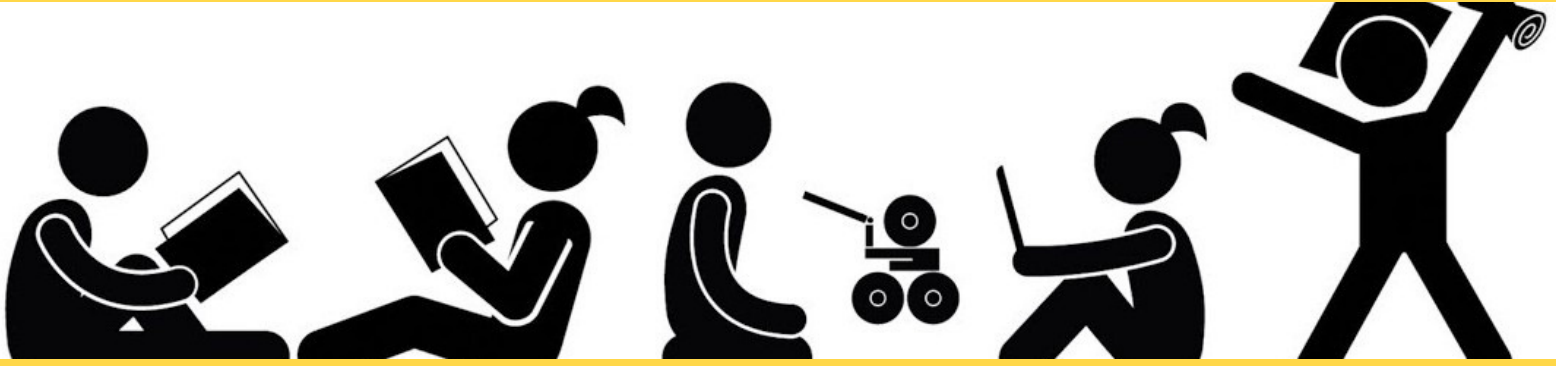
GOAL SETTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK PART!

Katie Alcantar	Peter Klauser
Deanna Anderson	Jaime Koziol
Caryn Arriaga	Jessica Lakics
Sarah Beechler-Wilson	Anne and David Lee
Steven & Therese Berglund	Ann Lopez-Caneva
Jannette Boucher	Chris Malak
Angela Cushman	Jacob Maly
Darren Deskin	William Merchantz
Lia Ditter	Michaelene O'Halloran
Dan Dorion	Courtney Oxley-Turner
Tom Drake	Jim Pierson
Lucy Fiday	Estella Rodriguez
Laura Garrett	Dianna Skoczek
Becki Georgopoulos	Adriana Sosa
Donna Gray	Larry Spencer
Erin Holland	Lisa Stanly
John Jennings	Andrea Thornton
Bryan Kincaid	Adriana Westerhausen



ENGAGE, INSPIRE, SUPPORT

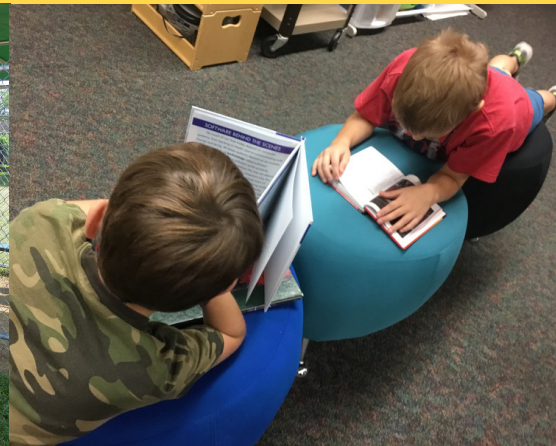


Five Focus Areas for Student Success in D91

1. Student Achievement & Curriculum:

District 91 will prepare learners for future opportunities by leveraging resources, encouraging critical thinking skills, and providing high levels of curricular challenge.

- Develop and provide targeted, individualized, professional development experiences for educators focusing on instructional strategies and student engagement
- Individualize student learning experiences by offering enrichment and remediation, as needed, while putting students to the forefront in the positions of active learners.
- Identify and address achievement gaps exhibited on local and state assessments.
- Address the need for additional minutes in mathematics to ensure District 91 meet the state average of minutes.
- Imbed hands-on, real-life projects within the curriculum.



- Identify options the district may consider to enhance its engagement of students while fostering learning.
- Fully utilize existing resources, staff, and students to enhance the existing programs/services provided at each school.
- Implement enrichment programs by engaging the larger community and maximize local resources.
- Implement full social-emotional program in grades 4th-8th.
- Provide a more elementary student-centered learning environment in grades four and five.
- As district funds allow, grow the gifted program to include mathematics and elementary grades.
- As district resources allow, work to establish a foreign language program in the middle school grades.
- Stay abreast of cutting-edge technology to engage students. Implement as appropriate for elementary & middle school students.

2. Programs & Services:

District 91 will offer diverse programs that address the academic, social - emotional and developmental needs of all students.

3. Facilities & Grounds:

District 91 will provide facilities that are safe, functional, comfortable, well maintained, and conducive to learning.

- Create a proactive multi-year plan for improvements that builds infrastructure and health/life safety.
- Explore creative partnerships for improvements addressing district assets on its campuses.
- Have bi-annual safety committee meetings to discuss what is working and areas of improvement.
- Continue to enhance security at both buildings.
- Work with local police and fire departments to establish best practices to ensure student safety.



4. District Finances:

District 91 will maintain a balanced budget and increase resources in order to have sufficient funds for future expenses.

- Seek and identify alternative revenues.
- Continue to develop and manage a fiscally-responsible budget.
- Continue to monitor funding sources that could negatively impact district finances.
- Monitor Federal, State and local legislation and how it will impact District 91.
- Keep the Board of Education abreast of changing enrollment patterns.



5. Community & District Relations

The community will be fully engaged and informed of the growth and development of the school district.

- Upgrade and/or modify methods of communication to the community to enhance community awareness about the district.
- Articulate opportunities for involvement and participation in the community.
- Develop an active mentor program that engages both parents and the community-at-large.
- Publish a community newsletter.
- Look for additional methods of sharing district information with the community at large.



DID YOU KNOW?

Get to know your local school district with some fast facts

D91 TEACHERS ARE DEDICATED!

and they LOVE their students

On average, our teachers and student support personnel have 12 years of experience with District 91 adding up to a whopping 502 combined years with Milne or Kelvin Grove Schools. More than half of our teachers possess a master's degree or higher and fourteen percent are pursuing the highest teaching credential in the nation, National Board Certification.

OUR STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE!

and have time to act like kids

Children in grades 1-8 benefit from physical education class EVERY day of the week for 35-45 minutes each day. In K-5, students are encouraged to PLAY during their daily recess and get a chance to access our high quality parks. In 6-8, students have a wide variety of extra and co-curricular activities to choose from in order to develop their physical and mental talents.

21st CENTURY SKILLS ARE IMPORTANT!

and the students love technology

It is no longer enough to provide students with instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Students in today's world need to understand how to access and synthesize information, utilize up to date technological tools, and collaborate with their classmates effectively. D91 has been committed to bolstering infrastructure, training teachers, and providing 1:1 devices.

COMMUNITIES MATTER!

and we thank you for being great

Support from children's parents & caretakers, community residents, business owners, and other stakeholders is the foundation of what we are able to accomplish with your children. We thank you all for your engagement and welcome both your volunteerism and participation in school life! Contact the building principal to see how we can partner to create opportunities for students.





IT'S NOT THAT I'M SO
SMART, IT'S JUST
THAT I STAY WITH
PROBLEMS LONGER.

Albert Einstein



SUCCESS IS NOT AN
ACCIDENT, SUCCESS
IS A CHOICE.

Stephen Curry



DON'T TELL ME HOW
TALENTED YOU ARE.
TELL ME HOW HARD
YOU WORK.

Arthur Rubenstein



WHAT'S AT OUR CORE?

Here's what matters in D91.

Students and Learning:

We believe students must have access to a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment.

We believe students must be engaged and challenged with opportunities to learn and grow based on their unique learning styles.

We believe students must be responsible and active participants in their learning.

Teaching and Learning:

We believe teachers in District 91 can ensure the success of all students by fostering a challenging and supportive classroom environment.

We believe teachers and teaching should provide life-long learning experiences through empathy, engagement, and differentiation based on the learning styles of both teachers and students.

We believe when teachers love what they do, they seek out professional development, advocate for resources and support, as well as meet the challenges of a profession that demands community respect.

District - Community Relations

We believe our community and schools should engage in a mutual relationship to provide opportunities for each other.

We believe our school district needs to be transparent about communicating to our stakeholders in such areas of safety, student performance, finances, and school events.

We believe our district and community should model good citizenship to each other and to students.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FALL 2018



Estrella Rodriguez
David Lee
Laura Garrett
Jennifer Fracaro
Daniel Dorton
Courtney Oxley-Turner, Vice-President
Marge Otis, President
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Donna J. Gray, Superintendent
Milne-Kelvin School District 91

HOME OF THE HORNETS

*LOCKPORT SCHOOL
DISTRICT 91*

808 ADAMS STREET
LOCKPORT, IL 60441

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WWW.D91.NET



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