

CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

OCTOBER 14, 2026



Celebrating GMS Students of the Month



Grayslake Middle School has expanded its tradition of honoring "Students of the Month" for eighth graders by bringing the celebration into the community through service opportunities.



Last week, the Student of the Month honorees visited Prairieview School's kindergarten and first-grade classrooms, where they read with students and helped with class projects. Prairieview teachers and students loved having the "big kids" in class. The GMS students had a great time and left feeling like they had made a meaningful difference to our community.



The following day, the seventh-grade Student of the Month honorees were invited to create a tie-dyed "Difference Maker" T-shirt in the multipurpose room, and family members were invited to attend and help out as well.

We are excited to see what service opportunities next month's student honorees will have to celebrate their accomplishments.

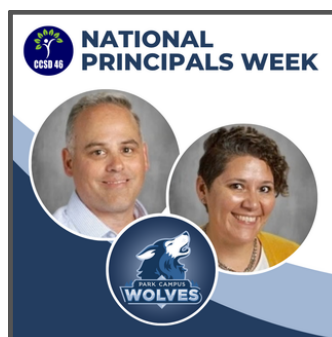
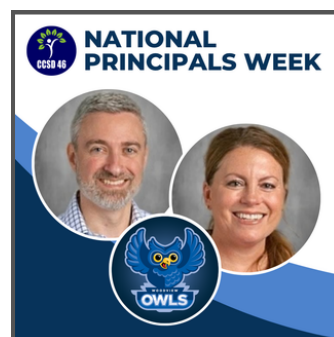


UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER

- 16 - MPAC Event: Stronger Together - Prairieview School, 6-8:00 pm
- 19-23 - Illinois Principal Appreciation Week
- 20 - Lake County NAVIG8 - Lake County Fairgrounds, 9-11:00 am
- 21 - *Board of Education General Meeting - *this meeting will be combined with the November 4th Board of Education meeting, held 11/4/26 at 6:00 pm at Frederick School*
- 23 - Preschool Screening
- 24 - Park Campus Fall Play Performance - Park Campus, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- 26 - Fall Choir Concert - Grayslake Middle School, 7:00 pm
- 29 - Districtwide Dine & Share for Early Childhood Center - Pizza Ranch, Round Lake Beach 4-8:00 pm



NATIONAL PRINCIPALS WEEK: October 19-23, 2026

*Great principals see potential everywhere — in students, staff, schools, and communities.
We celebrate our leaders who help others see what's possible.*

Principals: Barbara Zarras (AV), Jeff Prickett (MV), Vince Murray (PV), Josh Higgins (WV), James Goschy (FS), Marcus Smith (GMS), Matt Melamed (PC), Jana Donahue (ECC)
Assistant Principals: Stephanie Nicoletti (AV), Jamie Parker (MV), Jackie Rose (PV), Audrey Dzhurov (WV), Lisa Banegas (FS), Mary Murphy (GMS), Vanessa Morales (PC)



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE



PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

The Portrait of a Learner team met on Tuesday, September 29th, continuing its work to identify the skills and attributes CCSD 46 students will need to succeed in school, the workforce, and life.

Most of the meeting was spent working in small groups, with each group challenged to identify the 10 attributes they believed were most important to include in the Portrait of a Learner. Groups engaged in thoughtful discussion as they considered a wide range of possible skills and attributes and worked together to reach consensus on their selections.

Each group then presented its recommendations to the full team and made the case for why its selected attributes should be included. Students played a particularly important role in these presentations and did an outstanding job sharing their perspectives and explaining what they believe will be most important for their future.

Following the presentations, team members voted on the attributes identified by the groups. Through this process, the team narrowed the list of possibilities to 10 terms for further consideration.

Staff, families, and community members had an opportunity to provide feedback on these 10 terms through a survey. The Portrait of a Learner team will review this stakeholder feedback and use it to help narrow the list to the final 5–7 attributes that will make up CCSD 46's Portrait of a Learner.



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

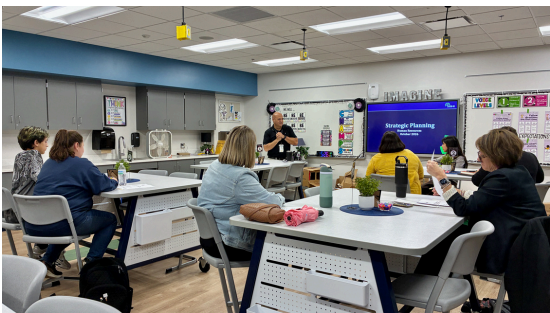
STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Team held its second meeting on Thursday, October 1. The team began early work on developing goals at this meeting. Stakeholders on the Strategic Planning Team were divided into three groups and rotated through presentations on Human Resources, Teaching and Learning, and Multilingual Services. In each round, a member of the District Office team presented background information, strengths, and opportunities for improvement, and group members had the opportunity to ask questions. The groups also had access to a summary of goal suggestions from the stakeholder groups that completed surveys last month, allowing the committee to consider broader stakeholder feedback.

Each group then brainstormed a list of suggested goals for that area. The committee will collect these lists and review and further develop them at a future meeting.

The next meeting will follow the same format, with presentations and discussions focused on three new topics: district finances, facilities & technology, and Student Services.

This process helps stakeholders learn more about the district while giving them a meaningful opportunity to provide input and influence its strategic direction.



Share Your Thoughts!

Your feedback goes directly to our planning team.
We want to hear from parents, staff, and neighbors.
Visit the d46.org/strategic-plan-2026 webpage.



ERIN'S LAW PRESENTATIONS

Erin's Law, House Bill 6193, was signed by Governor Pat Quinn on January 24, 2013. This law requires schools to implement an age-appropriate sexual assault and abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for grades Pre-K through 12.

We are very pleased to share that Childhood Victories will be assisting our schools with the curriculum entitled Be Seen and Heard©, a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program. This curriculum is developmentally appropriate, interactive, and aligned with the learning standards associated with the law.

The focus of the presentation is to teach students basic skills to keep them safe from dangerous or abusive situations. On Tuesday, October 6th, there was a parent presentation outlining the presentation students will receive. The concepts that will be discussed are:

- **Distinguishing safe from unsafe touches**
- **Safety rules at home and school**
- **Saying "NO"**
- **Safe/Unsafe Secrets**
- **It's not the child's fault if someone touches him or her.**
- **Telling a trusted adult**

To learn more about this curriculum, go to www.PeaceofMindVideos.com. The video of Been Seen and Heard Year 1 Peace of Mind covers exactly the same information that was shared during the parent information night.

Childhood Victories will be presenting at our schools through online videos that CCSD 46 staff will facilitate. **In grades Pre-K-4, these presentations will be completed by the PE teacher and social worker during the weeks of December 7 & 14. 5th graders will receive these presentations during their Trimester 2 health rotation.**

Grades 6-8 will receive a live presentation followed by discussion in their next health rotation. **6th grade at Frederick and 7th & 8th grade at Grayslake Middle School will have this presentation on October 15th. 6th, 7th, & 8th graders at Park Campus will have this presentation on October 16th.**

Requests to Opt-Out: If you prefer that your child opt out of this prevention education session, please email your student's principal.



MPAC: Stronger Together Multicultural Celebration

Join us on **Friday, October 16th** from 6:00-8:00 pm for this fun-filled family event held at Prairieview School.

Hosted by the Multilingual Department of CCSD 46, MPAC: Stronger Together celebrates our community's rich diversity and strengthens the bonds between families and schools. This evening will include fun activities for students and valuable resources for parents.

Please be sure to visit the webpage to register for the event: <https://bit.ly/MPAC-Together>



The poster for the MPAC: Stronger Together Multicultural Event features a blue background with the title in large yellow letters. Below the title, it says 'A MULTICULTURAL EVENT'. To the right is a circular graphic showing hands holding signs with 'Welcome' in various languages. Below that is the CCSD 46 MPAC logo, which includes a tree and the text 'MULTILINGUAL PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE' and 'CCSD 46 MPAC'. At the bottom, event details are listed with icons: a calendar for 'October 16, 2026', a clock for '6:00 - 8:00 p.m.', and a location pin for 'Prairieview School 103 E Belvidere Road, Hainesville, IL 60030'.

MPAC: STRONGER TOGETHER
A MULTICULTURAL EVENT

 **October 16, 2026**
 **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
 **Prairieview School**
103 E Belvidere Road, Hainesville, IL 60030

DISTRICTWIDE DINE & SHARE FUNDRAISER

Join us for a very special districtwide Dine & Share event benefiting the **CCSD 46 Early Childhood Center!**

Thursday, October 29, from 4:00-8:00 pm, Pizza Ranch in Round Lake Beach will donate 10% of all qualifying sales to benefit our littlest learners in our early education program. The ECC is home to students from across the district, and all of the D46 PTO/PTF organizations are pitching in to make this event a success!



The poster for the Districtwide Dine & Share Fundraiser features a blue background with the title 'CCSD 46 DISTRICTWIDE EVENT! DINE & SHARE' in white and yellow. Below the title, it says 'Join us! October 29!'. To the left is the Pizza Ranch logo, and to the right is the ECC Bear Cubs logo. In the center, there are images of several black trays filled with various food items like pizza, chicken, and vegetables.

CCSD 46 DISTRICTWIDE EVENT!
DINE & SHARE
Join us! October 29!

The fundraiser includes dine-in and carryout sales, along with all cash tips collected during the event! Pizza Ranch coupon books will also be available for purchase for \$15 each.

Enjoy a fun dinner with tasty food and know you are also supporting the CCSD 46 school community's Early Education Center. Pizza Ranch is located at 780 E Rollins Road in Round Lake Beach.

CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING REVIEW

CCSD 46 Board of Education Meeting Review is a brief summary of events and topics of discussion that occur at general board meetings.

We welcome you to join us at our meetings or watch our live video stream on the CCSD 46 website. We have two opportunities for public comments at our meetings. Board meeting schedules, agendas, video links, and minutes are available on the [BOE webpage](#).

Upcoming Meetings: The October 21 & November 4 meetings will be combined and held on November 4, 2026.

All meetings are held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, Grayslake.

GENERAL MEETING: October 7, 2026

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a general meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, in the Falcon Room in Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and approval of the agenda, visitors were invited to address the board for the first of two public comment opportunities. No comments were made.

The meeting began with a recognition of the Grayslake Middle School (GMS) Golf Team, which made history this season as the first golf team in the school's history. Three golfers qualified for the state golf tournament, where they delivered an impressive performance, earning 7th, 35th, and 51st-place finishes. Their dedication, determination, and hard work throughout the season contributed to these outstanding accomplishments.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

The meeting continued with a presentation by the GMS Way of the Panther. The Way of the Panther student leadership team presented an overview of their group, its goals, and planned initiatives for the 2026-27 school year.

The students explained that the Way of the Panther is a group of GMS students and educators focused on leadership, productivity, and teamwork. The group strives to ensure every voice is heard and to make GMS a better place for current and future students.

The students explained that the Way of the Panther is a group of GMS students and educators focused on leadership, productivity, and teamwork. The group strives to ensure every voice is heard and to make GMS a better place for current and future students. Members were selected through a Google Form completed during their seventh-grade year, which asked them to define leadership, explain their interest in joining the team, and identify ways to improve their school and community. The students shared their perspectives on leadership, emphasizing responsibility, respect, perseverance, listening to others, serving as positive role models, and making a meaningful difference in their community.



The team reported holding four meetings to date and brainstorming more than 30 ideas before selecting four primary areas of focus for the school year:

- Therapy Dog Program: Researching steps to bring a therapy dog to GMS to support students and staff.
- Eighth-Grade D127 Connection: Exploring opportunities to strengthen connections and support the transition of eighth-grade students to high school.
- Feminine Hygiene Access: Working with school and district staff to ensure reliable access to appropriate products in restrooms and the health office.
- Mental Health Connections: Exploring ways to increase mental health awareness and connect students with support networks and resources.



The students also discussed continuing initiatives established by previous leadership teams, including eighth-grade career exploration, lunch-and-learn opportunities, involvement in the GMS Garden, and expanding the school's No Place for Hate campaign.



The presentation concluded with the students expressing appreciation to the Board of Education, Dr. Carmona, Mrs. Gluck, and the District 46 learning community for the opportunity to share their work. The team looks forward to providing future updates on the progress of its projects.

CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Following the student presentation, Mr. Scott Wold, Assistant Superintendent of Finance/Chief School Business Official, presented the proposed 2026 Tentative Property Tax Levy. The presentation reviewed the District's strategic financial goals and Board Policy 4:20, which seeks to maintain a year-end fund balance to revenue ratio of no less than 25–30%.

The Board reviewed the property tax levy process and timeline, including the proposed tentative levy presentation on October 7, 2026; publication of the legal notice on November 5, 2026; the public hearing and adoption of the 2026 Final Property Tax Levy on November 18, 2026; and filing of the adopted levy with the County Clerk in December 2026.

The presentation included a disclosure of the District's cash balances as required by Public Act 102-0895. The total cash balance across all funds was reported at \$28,915,293, with \$12,413,517 held without capital and debt service funds.

Mr. Wold reviewed key property tax levy terminology, including the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), Consumer Price Index (CPI), Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), extension, and the distinction between the PTELL limiting rate and the property tax rate.

The Board was informed that the District's EAV is projected to increase by 9.3%, or approximately \$100 million, resulting in a projected decrease in the property tax rate from 4.3751 to 4.1065. An illustrative example of the impact on individual property taxes was also provided, based on an assumed 9.3% increase in EAV.



The proposed levy by fund was presented as follows: Education, \$35,490,000; Operations and Maintenance, \$5,700,000; Transportation, \$2,900,000; Working Cash, \$32,000; IMRF/Social Security, \$1,400,000; Tort, \$352,000; SEDOL IMRF, \$24,810; and Debt Service, \$1,073,338, for a total proposed levy of \$46,972,148. The SEDOL IMRF and Debt Service amounts were identified as supplemental tax levies required.



Administration reported that the 2025 final extension was \$44,998,106, the CPI was 2.7%, and estimated new construction was \$2,018,687. The proposed 2026 levy was \$45,874,000, or \$46,975,981 when Debt Service and SEDOL IMRF were included. The proposed levy represented a 4.46% increase over the prior year's extension, or 4.35% when Debt Service and SEDOL IMRF were included.

The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed 2026 Tentative Property Tax Levy.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board and Superintendent reports were then presented.

Mrs. Kristy Miller shared that PTOs and PTFs had been advised not to use AI to create flyers due to ADA accessibility requirements. She also announced that a districtwide Dine and Share fundraiser will be held at Pizza Ranch in Round Lake Beach on Thursday, October 29. This fundraiser, a joint venture by all school PTO/PTF organizations, will benefit the district's Early Childhood Center.

Mrs. Maureen Heun shared that she attended the Portrait of a Learner session as part of the District's Strategic Plan development. She reminded attendees that the survey response deadline is October 9. She also discussed the U.S. Treasury tax credit voucher and its potential benefits for private schools compared to public schools.

GMS Student Representative Molly Weber shared that the GMS garden flourished over the summer. She announced that GMS will host its first International Night on November 13, and that St. Baldrick's will take place on March 10, 2027. She also congratulated Ms. Amy Corey on being named a Hometown Hero recipient.

GMS Student Representative Ulysses Prevoznak shared updates on GMS athletics, including golf, cross country, soccer, and softball. Tryouts for basketball, cheerleading, and dance will take place soon.

GMS Student Representative Jackie Cuevas shared updates on school events, including Student of the Month, field trips, and intramurals. She announced that the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will take place December 11-13 and that Science Olympiad will begin soon.



Dr. Alfonso Carmona, Superintendent, reminded attendees that October 8 and 9 were half-day dismissals for parent-teacher conferences. He celebrated student-athletes and encouraged the community to visit the Strategic Plan website to review meeting notes and stakeholder survey results. He emphasized that transparency remains a core commitment.

CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Mack then requested a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes Minutes from previous meetings, the Personnel Report, Exception Report, Accounts Payable Report, Treasurer's Report, and Google Contract Renewal. The motion carried.

Action Items voted on by the Board for this meeting included:

- None

Unfinished Business, which includes unresolved issues that were previously brought before the Board to be discussed further, included:

- None

New Business, which are new issues for the Board to discuss, included the following:

- None

As the meeting drew to a close, topics for future agenda items were discussed, and the public once again had an opportunity to address the Board of Education. No comments were made.

The Board adjourned the general meeting at 6:52 p.m.

The next Board of Education general meeting, originally scheduled for October 21, will be combined with the November 4th General Meeting held in the Falcon Room at Frederick School at 6:00 p.m. and live-streamed online. Please visit d46.org/board-of-education for more information.

Stephen Mack, EdD, President

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2016

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5679

Email: mack.stephen@d46.org

Kristy Braden, Vice President

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2018

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5664

Email: braden.kristy@d46.org

Tamika Nash, Secretary

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2019

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5618

Email: nash.tamika@d46.org

Hillary Halverson, Member

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2025

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5648

Email: halverson.hillary@d46.org

Maureen Heun, Member

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2025

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5678

Email: heun.maureen@d46.org

Kristy Miller, Member

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2019

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5691

Email: miller.kristy@d46.org

Jim Weidman, Member

Term: 2025-2029

Member Since: 2013

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5669

Email: weidman.jim@d46.org

