



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07**

### **ELMWOOD PARK COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #401**

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**The purpose of this report is to provide the Elmwood Park Community with highlights and an overview of the School District's status: financial, staffing, programming, academics, special events, recognition, and community connections. We take great pride in our accomplishments and with all those individuals who are a part of the Elmwood Park Community Unit School District #401: students, staff, parents, School Board Members, and community members at-large. Although this document is not intended to be all inclusive, you will glean that the "total educational experience" for our young people is amazing.**

**Douglas W. Rudig, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools**

## School Board members

Office	Member	Committee
President:	Michael Marzullo	Buildings and Grounds
Vice President:	Angela Stranges	IASB Governing Board/Legislative
Secretary:	Susan Capraro	Finance & Technology
	Mary Bruscato	Village Liaison
	Patricia Cleary	Finance
	Albert Fang	Buildings & Grounds Technology
	Joseph Viverito	IASB Conference Delegate

## Administration

Name	School	Position
Dr. Douglas Rudig	District Office	Superintendent
Dr. Paula Hlavacek	District Office	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Tom Zelek	District Office	Business Manager
Mrs. Nancy Serpico	Early Childhood Center	Director
Mrs. Sue Ponzio	Elmwood School	Principal
Mr. Kevin Seibel	Elmwood School	Assist. Principal
Mr. Peter Herbert	John Mills School	Principal
Mrs. Donna Kutrubis	John Mills School	Assist. Principal
Dr. Joan McGarry	Elm Middle School	Principal
Mr. Daniel Schuth	Elm Middle School	Assist. Principal
Mr. Jim Jennings	High School	Principal
Mr. Pete Binder	High School	Assist. Principal
Mr. Al Bruscato	District	Director of Building & Grounds
Irina Ziemann	District	Director of Technology
Karen Katolick	High School	Dean of Students
Luis Arroyo	High School	Dean of Students
Valerie McCall	District	Director of Reading
Douglas Noyes	District	Athletic Director



## **I. ORGANIZATION:**

### **Enrollment - (from State School report Card fall 2006)**

- **ECC – 212**
- **Elmwood – 529**
- **John Mills – 652**
- **Elm Middle School – 470**
- **EPHS – 1011**
- **District 2874**

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### **Staffing – New, Additional Support Positions (beginning fall 2007)**

- **Fulltime Elementary Art Teacher**
- **Fulltime Elementary Music Teacher**
- **Fulltime H.S. Counselor**
- **Third Grade Teacher**
- **Fourth Grade Teacher**

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***Business Management – Annual Data Highlights – 2007***

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>% Budget to Actual</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$33,674,367	\$35,582,093	5.7% Increase
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$33,372,887	\$31,735,508	4.9% Decrease
<b>State of Illinois Financial Rating 05-06</b>		<b>3.7 out of a possible 4.0</b>	
<b>The District received State Financial Recognition based on our financial rating</b>			

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***School Board Highlights / Initiatives –***

- Thank you Judy Dean for your dedication as an 8-year member of the Elmwood Park Board of Education. You are appreciated and will be missed.
- Congratulations to our re-elected Board Members Mike Marzullo, Angie Stranges, and Al Fang and to our newly elected member Mary Bruscato.
- This year the Board collaborated and supported the Educational Landscape Survey which is being used to create multi-year goals and initiatives for the entire School District (1600 parents, H.S. students, & staff members responded).
- Passed a revised policy – “Types of School Board Meetings.”
- Approval of Annual Tax Levy.
- Approved the 10-year Life Safety Program for the District.
- Approved and supported the continuing Energy Education program that has saved the District over \$1,000,000 during the last five years.
- Continued support for the Des Plaines Valley Regional Partnership with Triton College and surrounding School Districts.
- Approved facility improvements in various buildings.
- Selected a new Architecture Company to represent the District.
- Supported project to investigate H.S. Auditorium renovation.
- Approved Summer Staff Development projects (234 seats filled).
- Supported Monthly Reports regarding finance, personnel, School Board minutes, and disciplinary issues.

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## Facilities / Life Safety

### Projects completed during the summer, in addition to the regular maintenance, cleaning and refurbishing:

#### **ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY**

- **New Roof**
- **New tile in all classrooms**
- **Replaced carpeting in the office and the media center (library)**
- **Refurbished office**
- **Repaired front steps**

#### **ELM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- **Sidewalk replacement**
- **Repainted and refurbished cafeteria**

#### **ELMWOOD PARK H.S.**

- **Painted stairways and refurbished gymnasium floors. Researched method to refurbish all lockers (during the year or in summer of 2008)**
- **Plans in place to replace office carpeting (fall or winter)**

#### **DISTRICT**

- **10-Year Life Safety Study**
- **Refurbished Administration office space**
- **Thor Guard Lightning Detection System**  
(Phase I EPHS – operational)  
(Phase II – waiting for Homeland Security approval – 2 month projection)
- **Address and number the doors at all buildings**
- **Outside windows washed – all buildings**

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## **II. INSTRUCTION/CURRICULUM:**

### **School Improvement Committees**

- **Each building collects/analyzes, and evaluates data from major assessments (ISEL, ISAT, & PSAE)**
- **Follow-through on Reading Audit**
- **Emphasis remains on Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.**

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### **Staff Development (summer 2007)**

#### ***Training for teachers in the following areas:***

- **Curriculum Mapping** – Designing K-12 aligned curriculum documents on software that can be accessed by team members
- **AIMSweb®** – Literacy Assessment for students to determine proper programming
- **ISAT Training** – Writing improvement through rubrics and strategies in reading
- **CRISS (Creating Independence through student-owned Strategies)** – Specific strategies which help H.S. & Middle School students improve learning
- **RTI (Response to Intervention)** – 3 tier model to meet the needs of all students based on their learning needs
- **ThinkLink** – Diagnostic tool to gather data and to create a structure for flexible group instruction – linked to ISAT and State Standards
- **Title I** – Created reading kits to aid parents at home

- **Writing** – K-4 Focused on weekly writing instruction and 5-8<sup>th</sup> focused on research which supports effective writing
- **ELL (English Language Learners)** - Learned about the standards and the development of lessons for students
- **SEL – Social Emotional Learning** – Training for Middle School teachers under the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority Grant (training will take place during the 2007-08 school year)

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### **Major District Assessments**

- **CIP - Comprehensive Identification Process** - Preschool Screening
- **ISEL - Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy-** Language based assessment for Pre-K & Kindergarten age students)
- **KRT – Kindergarten Readiness Test** – Assesses children’s preparedness for Kindergarten
- **ACCESS** –Assessment for English Language Learners
- **ISAT - Illinois Standards Achievement Test** – Battery of test to cover Reading, Math, Social studies and Science for grade 3rd – 8<sup>th</sup>
- **COGAT - Cognitive Ability Test** – Overall test to determine ability (potential) not achievement (grade 2)
- **ITBS** – Iowa Test of Basic Skills – Nationally Normed Achievement Test for Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies – (will be replaced in 2007-08 by ThinkLink (improved assessment to enhance instructional planning)
- **IMAGE – Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English** – Assesses the growth in reading & math for English Language Learners
- **EXPLORE** – ACT readiness test for 9<sup>th</sup> graders
- **PLAN** – Act readiness test for 10<sup>th</sup> graders
- **PSAE – Prairie State Achievement Exam** – Tests reading, math, science and writing for 11<sup>th</sup> graders

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## Grants

### Competitive Grants

- Elm Middle School, under the direction of Dr. McGarry wrote and received a \$10,000 renewable grant which will focus on student skills regarding self-management, interpersonal relations, decision making, and responsible behaviors in school and the community.
- Elm Middle School received a Target grant of \$1000 for art education.
- Under the direction of Valarie McCall, our Director of Reading, we received a \$10,000 grant for early literacy instruction using technology.

### Entitlement Grants

- **A.D.A. Block** – State grant money based on Average Daily Attendance
- **Bilingual Ed** (Transitional Bilingual Education/Transitional Program of Instruction) – Funds for language learning
- **Career & Technical Educational Improvement** - High School
- **Career & Technical Educational Improvement** – Elementary
- **D.O.R.S** - (Department of Rehabilitation Services) – Assistance with career training for older high school students (19 – 21 yrs.)
- **Early Childhood Block** - Parental Training: 3-5/Pre-K At Risk
- **Early Childhood Block** – Parental Training: Birth to Three
- **Reading Improvement Block**- Reading paraprofessionals that assist teachers/students
- **School Library Per Capita Grant** - Library funds
- **Supplemental State Aid** - Additional state grant money based on average daily attendance
- **Tech Prep Federal** – Federal technology funds
- **Tech Prep Implementation** – State technology funds
- **Title I** – Disadvantaged Children – Low Income
- **Title IIA** – Teacher Quality
- **Title IID** – Ed-Tech Enhancing Education thru Technology
- **Title III** – Bilingual/Limited Instruction Programs for LEP Students
- **Title IVA** – Safe/Drug Free Schools
- **Title VA** – Innovated Programs - Gifted

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## *Special Curriculum Related School Programs - highlighted*

- **ECC** – Family Reading Night, Young Authors, Monthly Parent Training Nights
- **Elmwood School** – Young Authors, Accelerated Reader, Mad Science, Spelling Bee, Write On Friday, Family Reading, Safety Town
- **John Mills** – Spelling Bee, Choir sang at Elmbrook Senior Center, The Fire Department’s Smoke Alarm Show, Stamp club, Family Reading, Safety Town
- **Elm Middle School** – Career Day, Civil War Days, Snowflake, 20’s & 30’s Day, Science Fair, Wild West Days, 50’s and 60’s Day
- **EPHS** – Concerts, plays, Athletic Award Assemblies, Annual Athletic Banquet, Snowball (drug education), DECCA, College Nights
- **PreK – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Musical Programs, Honors Assemblies, Arts Festivals, Student Councils, Red Ribbon Week, District-wide Reading Event.

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## **III. Communication/Climate/Community**

### *Communication Connections*

- **Newsletters from each school**
  - **ECC** – Early Childhood Center News (weekly)
  - **Elmwood** - Elmwood Express (weekly)
  - **John Mills** – Mills Moments (weekly)
  - **Elm** – Parent Newsletter (monthly)
  - **EPHS** – Tiger Pause (every 4 weeks – with progress reports)
- **District Newsletter for the entire community** – FOCUS on Education
- **Community Newspaper** – Elm Leaves
- **District Website** – <http://www.epcusd401.org/>
- **School Open Houses**
- **Board meetings- Examples of special presentations include:** State School Report Card presentations, Staff Development, Finance, Levy Reports, Educational Landscape Planning, and Summer Academy.

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**Climate Initiatives**

- Spirit Days
- Teddy Bear Day
- Patriot Day
- Honors assemblies
- Multicultural Days
- Sporting events
- After school activities
- District “World’s Greatest Reading Event”
- District Band Fest
- Stamp Club
- Annual Yearbooks
- Halloween Parades (ECC & Elementary)
- Students Counsel (grades 1st – 12<sup>th</sup> )
- Talent Shows
- Hoops for Heart / Jump Rope for Heart
- Above and Beyond Recognition for Students
- National Junior Honor Society
- National Honor Society

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**Student Recognition- National, State, and Regional**

- Only chapter in Illinois to win the National DECA Diamond Award (EPHS)
- State Music Awards - Solo and Ensemble (EPHS)
- State Finalists in Penmanship (John Mills)
- Gold Medal at the Illinois State Science Fair (Elm Middle School)
- Read 180/ Scholastic Recognition Award (Elm Middle School)
- Triton Art Competition – 21 Awards Winners (EPHS)
- SCOTY – Student Citizen of the Year Awards (All Schools)

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### **Teacher Recognition**

- **National Teacher Certification** – **Valerie McCall** is the first person in our District to earn this coveted credential
- **DECCA** – Karen Bear received the honor for “National Outstanding Chapter Advisor”

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### **Community Collaboration**

- **Elmwood Park July 4 Freedom Fest**
- **Kiwanis Key Blood Drive**
- **Knights of Columbus Food Pantry Drive**
- **Leyden Township Needy Fund**
- **Veterans Day Activities**
- **Key Club Halloween Night**
- **Triton College Adult Programs**
- **Triton College Dual Credit Programs (College Credit)**
- **Hezibh Warm Clothing Drive**
- **Children’s Youth Theater Company**
- **DARE – Drug Abuse Resistance Education (Police program)**
- **Fire Prevention / Fire Safety**
- **Summer Academy / Elmwood Park Summer Camp**

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### **Parent Group Sponsored Events - highlighted**

- **ECC – Parent Reading Nights, Book Fair, Fundraisers**
- **Elmwood – Fun Fair, Book Fair, Santa’s Workshop**
- **John Mills - Fun Fair, Santa’s Workshop, Target –“Take Charge of Education,” Book Fair, Wrap Pack (Supplies for students)**
- **Elm Middle School – Cancer Walk-a-thon, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance**
- **EPHS – National Honor Society sponsored Adopt-a-Kid Program, DECA Community Service, Key Club decorated Elmwood Park Home for Autistic Children for the holidays, the Varsity Club raised money for the Anti-hunger Federation, *Operation Blizzard (drug education)***