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Proposed School Boundary Changes

Before an audience of more than 150 interested parents, staff and community members, Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** publicly presented his recommendation for the realignment of elementary and middle school boundaries in District 95 to the Board of Education at its January 15 Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting held in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Lake Zurich High School. Joining him in the presentation were **Mark Linder**, facilitator of the Boundary Study Committee (BSC), several community members of the BSC, and **Mary Kalou**, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations.

The need for school boundary realignment was required due to the upcoming closing of Charles Quentin Elementary School at the end of the current school year. The school board had made the decision to close Charles Quentin School due to budgetary issues, declining in student enrollment, available space in other school buildings, and the cost for repairing and maintaining the facility.

While Dr. Knutson and the committee discussed two of the 25 boundary options considered by the BSC, only one, known as Option 13, was recommended to the school board. Under that recommendation, middle school boundaries would remain essentially the same, except for Rainbow Road, which currently has no middle school students living on it.

Cont. on Pg. 2--see *School Boundaries*

District Questions TIF District Extension

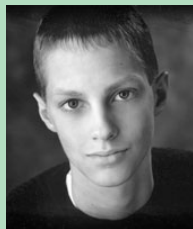
On Tuesday, January 13, Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction/Incoming Superintendent **Dr. Michael Egan**, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations **Mary Kalou**, and Board of Education President **Kathy Brown** met with representatives of the Village of Lake Zurich regarding the village's desire to extend the current Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district in downtown Lake Zurich for an additional 12 years.

While the district's representatives called the meeting an important first step, at this time, the school district cannot forward a recommendation to the Board of Education regarding the TIF until a number of concerns and questions can be addressed.

"Given the current and past challenges encountered with the TIF district, there are a number of concerns and questions about the TIF that must be answered before the Board of Education can even discuss the possibility of whether or not to support a 12-year extension of the TIF," said Dr. Knutson. "Until we receive responses to our questions and concerns, we cannot take this issue forward to the Board of Education. However, we look forward to further discussions with the village on the issue."

While no additional meetings with the Village of Lake Zurich have been set, more are expected.

MSS Show to Benefit Ryan York Foundation



Ryan York

The Lake Zurich Middle School South Variety Show scheduled for tonight, January 16, at 7 p.m., will showcase student talent while also raising money for the Ryan York Foundation. The cost is only \$5 per person.

Every year the variety show donates the show's proceeds to a different charity or foundation. The Ryan York Foundation was chosen this year because of the ties it has to the Lake Zurich community. Ryan was a student at Lake Zurich High School when he passed away in 2001 from Neuroblastoma. The Ryan York Foundation provides financial assistance to children affected by cancer.

There are 18 acts in the show that range from singing, musicians/bands, skits, and dances. There are approximately 55 students involved who had to audition for the show. There are also five eighth grade emcees for the show: **Mandi Burkley**, **Nick Buto**, **Matt Trujillo**, **Erika Smolyar** and **Becca Marshalla**. They also had to audition and all five were chosen because they are all extremely funny entertainers. They will be doing skits and short introductions between acts of the show.

Far Right: Broadway star **Kate Loprest** shares her experiences with students at Middle School South. (photo provided by **Jacqui Heinemann**)

School Boundaries *cont.*

The approximately 350 students of Charles Quentin School will attend either Isaac Fox School or May Whitney School, depending upon where they reside. Students living in the Chestnut Corners, Hunter's Creek and Ponds of Kildeer would attend May Whitney School, while the rest of the students at Charles Quentin School would attend Isaac Fox School.

The Lucerne, Cardinal Lane, Bishops Ridge and Stoneybrook neighborhoods would attend May Whitney School. The Wicklow East and North Lakewood West residents would attend May Whitney School, while Shagbark Acres would attend Seth Paine School. Timberlake, which currently attends Seth Paine School, would attend Spencer Loomis School. Other neighborhoods would remain at their current schools.

In total, the Option 13 realignment would affect the fewest number of students, with only 11.38 percent of non-Charles Quentin School students being moved.

Before asking numerous questions about the proposal, the school board members thanked the BSC, along with Dr. Knutson and his staff for their hard work on the boundaries over the last six months. The committee held 20 meetings for a total of more than 140 hours meeting as a committee, with many more hours outside the committee meetings devoted to research and analysis.

Parents and interested community members will get their chance to comment and ask questions about the school realignment boundary proposal during community forums that will be from 7-8:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- January 28, May Whitney School Gymnasium
- February 3, Middle School South Gymnasium
- February 9, Middle School North Cafetorium

The Board of Education is expected to vote on the boundary realignment proposal at its regular February 26 meeting in the Little Theater at Lake Zurich High School.

Interested staff and community members can learn more about the boundary realignment proposal at <http://www.lz95.org/lzboe/boundary.htm>.

Broadway Star Comes to Middle School South



Broadway star **Kate Loprest** left the stage lights to appear center stage before **Jacqui Heinemann**'s drama and music students at Middle School South, bringing them "Broadway in the Classroom."

Students and the Broadway actress discussed her path and the training it took to get to Broadway as well as her experiences performing. She also had a question and answer session at the conclusion of her presentation. Many students saw Kate perform in *Wicked*, in Chicago and brought their playbills from the performance for her to sign.

Loprest's theater credits include: *Hairspray* (Amber), *Xanadu* (with Whoopi Goldberg), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Ensemble), *Happy Days* (Joanie), and *Wicked-Chicago* (Ensemble, U/S Glinda, Nessarose).

"Kate was just amazing!" said Heinemann, a childhood friend of Loprest. "The kids were in awe; what a wonderful experience and opportunity."

The childhood friends had performed in numerous plays while growing up together in Deerfield, IL.

This School's a Rockin'!



Celebrate the 36th anniversary of *School House Rock Live, Jr.*

at Lake Zurich's Performing Arts Center Children's Theatre February 6 at 7 p.m., February 7 at 2

and 7 p.m., and February 8 at 2 p.m. Prices are only \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, students and children. Children's Theatre shows typically sell out, so don't delay!

Call the ticket hotline at (847) 540-4740, or order on the web at boxoffice@lz95.org and avoid the additional \$2 for tickets at the door. View the 2008-2009 season at www.lz95.org/lzhs/fineart/rculver.

THRIVE in 95 is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. Story submissions are greatly encouraged.

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