



Awarded the  
INSPIRA Award  
of Excellence

Right: **Dr. Brian Knutson** presents his recommendation regarding boundary realignment to 130 people at the January 28 community forum at May Whitney School.

## 130 Turn out for Community Forum on Boundaries

More than 130 parents, staff members and other interested community members braved sub-freezing temperatures for a community forum in the gymnasium of May Whitney School on the school district's proposal to realign school boundaries. Given that realigning school boundaries—also known as redistricting—and the resulting changing of schools by some students is one of the most emotional issues parents and a school district can face, the sizeable turnout was no surprise.

"There are two subjects that really bring anxiety to parents when it comes to their children's education," said **Jim Jennings**, Communications Director for the school district, "closing a school and redrawing school boundaries. Both of these issues are occurring here in our school district."



A Boundary Study Committee (BSC) of 20 community members from across the district spent more than 150 hours and more than 20 meetings looking at 25

different options before presenting the final two options to Dr. Knutson. After reviewing the recommendations, Dr. Knutson presented the option known as number 13 to the Board of Education.

"There was no perfect solution," Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** told the audience. "If there was a perfect solution, we would've come up with it."

After Dr. Knutson's presentation of boundary recommendation 13, the forum was opened up to community questions and comments.

Continued on page 2—see *Community Forum*.

## Nation's Economic Woes Impact School District

*District targeting \$4 million in budget reductions*

School District 95 is not immune from the worldwide economic crisis. In order to avoid a projected deficit, the school district is preparing to cut up to \$4 million from a 2010 budget that was already lean.

The \$4 million in budget reductions are necessitated by an unexpected drop in the Consumer Price Index from 4.1 percent to 0.1 percent, leading to a significant shortfall in property tax revenue. In addition, the increasing number of business and home mortgage failures could cause the school district to receive less property tax revenue, and, to date, the Village of Lake Zurich has not paid the \$532,000 for tuition reimbursements associated with its Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district that is owed to the school district. Given the questionable state of the TIF, it is unclear when or

if the district will ever see any future TIF monies from the village.

"This will be the most significant one year budget reduction this district has faced in many years, if ever," stated Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "The financial situation in Illinois is the most serious I have personally witnessed since the financial crisis of the mid-1970's."

While Dr. Knutson and **Mary Kalou**, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, are not scheduled to present a list of budget reduction recommendations until the school board's February 12 Committee of the Whole (CoW) meeting, Dr. Knutson notified staff via a district-wide podcast at simultaneous school staff meetings that the district will be forced, as a precautionary measure, to release all non-tenured

Continued on page 2—see *Budget Reductions*.

Far Right: LZHS teacher **Shelly Levin** (center) receives her 'Educator of the Year' award from chamber president **Denise Schirmann** (left) and **Dr. Brian Knutson**. (photo provided by LZACC)

## Community Forum *cont.*

Past boundary realignments, transportation, socio-economics, real estate values and proximity to specific schools were some of the subjects brought up during the question and comment sections of the forum. In addition to responding to questions at the forum, the panel—made up of school district administrators and members of the BSC—is posting written responses to the district's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the school district website.

In addition to the January 28 community forum, there will be additional community forums on February 3 at Middle School South, and February 9 at Middle School North. Both forums are from 7-8:30 p.m.

The CUSD 95 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.

To learn more about the boundary realignment proposal or read the FAQ, visit [www.lz95.org/lzboe/boundary.htm](http://www.lz95.org/lzboe/boundary.htm).

## Budget Reductions *cont.*

teachers and possible some tenured teachers as well.

"Because we will not know solid revenue figures until June," said Dr. Knutson, "we must make far more conservative personnel decisions in March than we've ever done before."

In addition to the personnel decisions, educational programs could be affected and class sizes increased to contract maximums.

"What's coming is going to be extremely difficult," warned **Kathy Brown**, president of the Board of Education.

To hear Dr. Knutson's podcast about the budget, visit <http://www.lz95.org/pdcast/podcasts.htm>.

## Levin Named Educator of the Year by LZACC



The Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce (LZACC) presented the recipients of its 2008 Excellence Awards at the annual banquet on Saturday, January 24, at Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. District 95's very own **Michelle (Shelly) Levin**, PE teacher at Lake Zurich High School (LZHS), was honored

as 'Educator of the Year'.

This award goes to an individual in the education or training profession who has demonstrated a commitment to the highest standards and practices and improvement of the educational experience by encouraging creativity, giving selflessly, and aspiring others to excel while contributing to the overall educational community.

Other nominees for *Educator of the Year* were:

- **Megan Guerrero**, May Whitney
- **Sue Key**, Middle School North
- **Cindy Klebba**, LZHS

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[www.district95foundation.org](http://www.district95foundation.org)

## 8 Candidates File for 5 Seats on CUSD 95 Board of Education

While it is not surprising in such a service-oriented community, there will be eight (8) community members running for election for the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education on the April 7, 2009 ballot. In total, five of seven school board seats will be up for election.

Seeking the four four-year terms are:

- **Kathleen Wallis**
- **Jan Putbress** (incumbent)
- **Kathy Brown** (incumbent)
- **Mike Finn** (incumbent)
- **John Kropf** (incumbent)
- **Paul Pike**

Seeking to complete the remaining two years of former board member Roger Tieman's term are:

- **Joel Honegger**
- **Jim Burke**

## This School's a Rockin'!



Celebrate the 36<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.lz95.org/lzhs/fineart/rculver).

## LZHS Science Club Soars with Eagles



A hundred and eight miles away, at Starved Rock, four students, representing the Lake Zurich High School

Science Club were having a blast watching magnificent eagles swoop and soar through the air, visiting a water park and an indoor amusement park, and having Double Stuffed Oreo races. While it was all fun, the best part was the eagle watching, which included mature and juvenile Bald Eagles catching fish in the Illinois River.

At Starved Rock Lodge, they went to a raptor show sponsored by the Audubon Society, where they saw many different birds of prey, including: owls; different types of eagles, including the African

Eagle; a Turkey Vulture; and also some lesser known species. The students even had the opportunity to have their picture taken with a live Bald Eagle. Right before leaving Starved Rock, they watched the eagles from the other side of the river, where some of the eagles came quite close, as they swooped down to fish on the opposite side of the dam.



## LZHS Students Learn to Mend a Broken Heart

High school students and broken hearts are a familiar story. However, seldom is open heart-surgery a plot element. For the third time, Lake Zurich High School students will come to the University Center of Lake County to learn how to mend a broken heart by watching live open-heart surgery from Advocate Christ Medical Center via interactive video.

Teacher **Sharon Price** is enthusiastic about the participation of her honors and college preparatory human anatomy students in this Museum of Science and Industry Program.

“‘Live From the Heart’ is a learning experience that allows high school anatomy students to watch live coronary bypass surgery via videoconferencing,” said Price. “This opportunity has been a wonderful experience for all of my anatomy students at LZHS. The students love the live interaction with the surgical team. They actually get to ask questions while the surgery is taking place.”

This year’s event is taking place from 8 am to noon on Wednesday, February 4. The staff of the University Center staff will be ready for them.

“We’re glad to have a high-tech conference center that allows Lake County to take advantage of this kind of creative educational opportunity,” says **Kim Kreml**, Manager of Conference Services and Facilities Marketing.

Adds Price, “Learning is at its best in this type of situation. The students don’t forget this experience and never stop talking about it.”

## LZHS Bears Talk with Local Scouts



When Lake Zurich High School varsity baseball coach **Gary Simon** was recently asked to have some student athletes talk to a group of Webolos Cub Scouts and diehard baseball fans about sportsmanship, he knew just who to send. LZHS seniors **Ricky Erickson** and **Tanner Witt**, who play both baseball and football, were happy to talk with the scouts about the importance of true sportsmanship, and how they, as student athletes, achieve their goals.



## Kindergarten Registration Night Rescheduled for March 10

Due to the fact that a school boundary realignment proposal is currently being considered by the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education, the February 4 Kindergarten Registration Night for elementary schools within Community Unit School District 95 has been rescheduled for March 10.

*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.

**Annette Jacobsen**,  
Editor  
**Jim Jennings**,  
Publisher  
(847) 540-5489  
jim.jennings@lz95.org  
www.lz95.org  
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