



Glen Ellyn School District 41

October 2011

Message from Board President Erica Nelson

Welcome to the first in a series of periodic messages from the board to our community.

In this message, I'll be talking a bit about district efforts to eliminate bullying. I'll also talk about the goals that the board is focusing on this year, and how they fit with our role and responsibilities. In future messages, I'll talk about how the board is supporting the district's Long Range Plan and evolution to a 21st Century learning community, and our progress against the goals we have set for ourselves this year.

October is National Anti-Bullying month and this past year District 41 has developed a clear statement and set of practices to eliminate bullying in our schools. These are based on The Culture of Care task force recommendation. There is more work ahead, but among the resources the district has developed is a continuum of bullying behavior that helps parents, teachers and students to "better recognize the spectrum of behaviors" associated with bullying. Parents are the first models of behavior that children see, and parents are our strong partners in this work. I hope you've had a chance to review the [bully-prevention resources](#) posted on our Web site. Our goal is to establish a strong Culture of Care that extends to all students the right to be safe in their learning environment so they can be at their best each day.

In addition to supporting initiatives that are underway, like bully-prevention, the board's main jobs are oversight of the district and its finances, providing direction to the superintendent, and planning for the future. The three goals we've identified for 2011-2012 will help us accomplish this.

1. By the spring 2012, determine our facilities strategy for constructing a new school.
2. Develop and enact a community engagement plan which will include several specific actions during 2011-2012 school year.
3. Maintain a fiscal philosophy to help guide the financial priorities that are annually reviewed for alignment with state guidelines and district priorities.

As the board develops goals and pursues our work, we always keep the community in mind. Our families come to us from parts of Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Lombard and Wheaton, and represent a wide range of opinions, talents, ethnicities and family circumstances. Together they reflect the complex global community that our children will be working and living in as they go through life. In all that we do, we recognize the importance of the community's desires for its children—we welcome hearing from you and have tried to make that easy and convenient. We always hope you'll attend board meetings, but realize that's not always possible. The [meeting schedule](#) is posted on our website and each [board member has a district email account](#) you can access online to share your kudos, concerns and ideas.

Enjoy these fall days...winter will be here soon.

My best regards,

Erica Nelson President, District 41 Board of Education