



# GURNEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 56

*Education that Inspires Opportunities for All*

DR. JOHN HUTTON, SUPERINTENDENT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

## Let's Talk!

This week, I had an opportunity to see many parents at our annual Curriculum Nights. Prairie Trail and Viking Schools opened their doors on Wednesday and Thursday nights respectively to begin the conversation with parents on how to make this a successful year for their children. We are very excited about the attendance on both nights but want to do more to encourage all parents to be actively engaged in the education of their children. To underscore our commitment in meeting this goal, we have identified parental engagement as one of the pillars of our new strategic plan.

An executive summary of the District's new strategic plan has been placed on the D56 website, and I would like to encourage the community to review the document. The Board and I are very anxious to hear your comments about the plan and have provided you a mechanism, called "Let's Talk," to react to it. Let's Talk will allow the community to talk to us about the strategic plan or any other item that the community would like to discuss with us and can be easily accessed from a link on the website. It is very intuitive and should provide the community, particularly those traditionally underserved, another means to become engaged in the D56 experience.

I want to emphasize that Let's Talk is not designed to replace face-to-face conversations, but it is another mechanism to supplement our current communication mediums. As I stated earlier, the Board and I want to eliminate underserved populations and individuals, and we are very hopeful that this new initiative will allow us to take a giant step forward in meeting that goal. So Let's Talk!

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Go To Main Calendar

9.2.15 2:30pm Cross Country Practice  
9.2.15 2:30pm Soccer Tryouts  
9.2.15 6:00pm Prairie Trail - Curriculum Night - Technology Training  
9.3.15 2:30pm Cross Country Practice  
9.3.15 2:30pm Soccer Practice

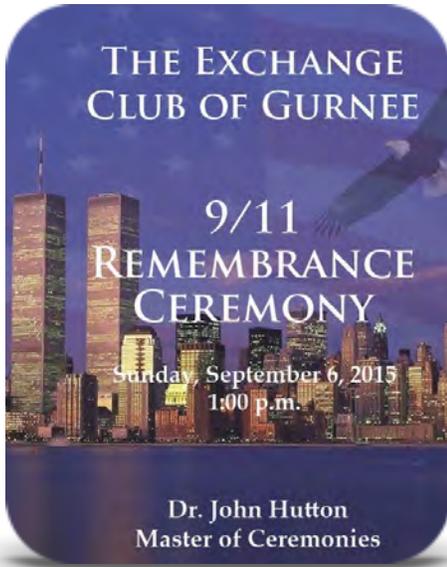
**QUICKLINKS**

District 56 eBook  
District 56 Strategic Plan  
Let's Talk

[www.d56.org](http://www.d56.org)

### DISTRICT 56 BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Jim Blockinger    Becky Kotsinis    Odie Pahl    Mark Pos    Lynn Schroetter    Helen Scott    Brian Weir



## 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

The Exchange Club of Gurnee will hold the 9/11 Community Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, September 6th at 1:00pm. This event provides the community the opportunity to recognize the many instances of heroism, bravery, and generosity which have reflected back so strongly on all Americans since that day. It will be a salute to our firefighters, law enforcement and military personnel, public works departments, park districts, community leaders, civic officials, and citizens alike.

The Exchange Club of Gurnee sponsors a variety of local fundraising activities such as the annual Salad in the Park and RibFest held in conjunction with Gurnee Days. Money raised from these and other events help fund the Club's support and commitment to youth, community service, Americanism, and the prevention of child abuse - the National Exchange Club's nationwide project.

Please plan to join us for this great civic event.

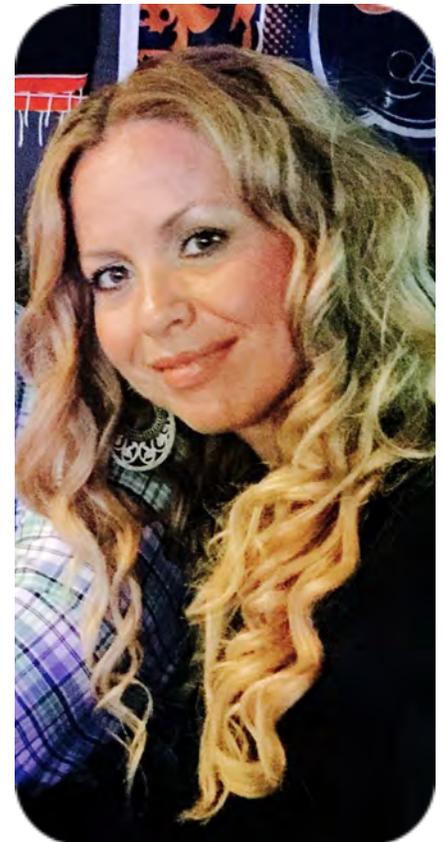
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## Getting to Know Ms. Yolanda Vega

Ms. Yolanda Vega is the District Registrar and is beginning her eleventh school year as a District employee. It is the registrar's responsibility to register children for school and most importantly, to confirm their Gurnee District 56 residence. As I speak to residents, this is a high expectation they have for me and my staff. Ensuring that tax dollars are spent only on District students is very important to this community.

Ms. Vega speaks Spanish fluently and has helped us provide quality service to a traditionally underserved population. She is usually the first friendly face you will see when you enter the District Office. In 2010-2011, she was awarded the Verna Rocheleau award for her service to the Gurnee School District 56 community.

Ms. Vega was born and raised in Waukegan with her family originating from Puerto Rico. She has two boys, Damian (20) and Frankie (17). Both boys are D56 alumni, and Ms. Vega states that raising her boys is a great lifetime accomplishment. In her free time, she enjoys watching sports, shopping, spending time with family and friends, and walking with her dog, Nahla. Ms. Vega is a great advocate for Gurnee District 56 and is committed to its success.



# “Here Comes the Bus”

As I mentioned last week, a new program, “Here Comes the Bus,” will be made available to parents soon.

This program will give parents the ability to track the location of their children's bus and can be used to determine the location of their children as well. This new tool is a further commitment by the Board to protect the safety of children and to work more closely with parents in supervising them. We are looking forward to the installation

of this program in the next few weeks. Click [here](#) for more information on “Here Comes the Bus.”



# Viking “V.I.P. Funk”



Viking Middle School welcomed students back on the first day of school with grade-level assemblies. They were immediately immersed in “Viking Basic Training” during all classes. The building expectations were introduced/reintroduced to all students and the “Viking VIP” video that was created at the end of last school year by staff was shown to students to welcome them back to school. Click on the link below to view the video. I am certain you will enjoy it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtYuf-uY0Ts>

## Third Annual Job Fair

The Office of State Senator Melinda Bush will be hosting the Third Annual Zion Area Job Fair in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Employment Security on Thursday, September 10th from 9:30am-1:00pm. The event will be held at the Zion Park District Leisure Center, 2400 Dowie Memorial Drive, Zion, IL 60099.

To register as an employer or a job seeker, please visit [www.SenatorMelindaBush.com](http://www.SenatorMelindaBush.com) and follow the link in the sidebar. Visit [www.illinoisjoblink.com](http://www.illinoisjoblink.com) to create a profile and connect to thousands of jobs throughout Chicagoland. Visit [www.lakecountyjobcenter.com](http://www.lakecountyjobcenter.com) to get resume help and tips.

**OUR** Lake County Senator *Melinda Bush* Community Event

**THIRD ANNUAL ZION AREA JOB FAIR**

Hosted by Senator Melinda Bush

Thursday, September 10th  
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Zion Park District Leisure Center  
2400 Dowie Memorial Drive  
Zion, IL 60099

To register as an employer or a job-seeker, please visit [www.SenatorMelindaBush.com](http://www.SenatorMelindaBush.com) and follow the link in the sidebar.

- ✓ Visit [www.illinoisjoblink.com](http://www.illinoisjoblink.com) to create a profile and connect to thousands of jobs throughout Chicagoland.
- ✓ Visit [www.lakecountyjobcenter.com](http://www.lakecountyjobcenter.com) to get resume help & tips.
- ✓ Contact my office to request a list of employers at the fair.

Please direct all questions to:  
(847) 548-5651 | [info@SenatorMelindaBush.com](mailto:info@SenatorMelindaBush.com)  
10 N. Lake Street, Suite 112, Grayslake, IL  
[www.SenatorMelindaBush.com](http://www.SenatorMelindaBush.com)

Lake County Senator *Melinda Bush*

## Upcoming Curriculum Nights

River Trail School: September 9th at 6:00pm

Spaulding School: September 17th at 6:30pm

# Are You Bilingual?



How many languages do you speak? Watch Spaulding School's Physical Education teacher, Mr. Wojo, and Kindergarten Bilingual teacher, Mrs. Torres, teach a lesson on being bilingual.

<https://vimeo.com/137627507>

# PTO News

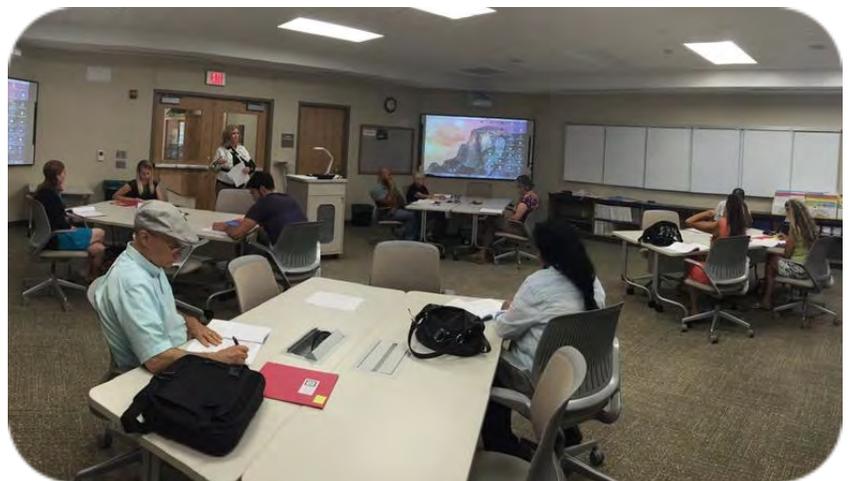
Hot lunches are back! Ordering is now open for Kiddos hot lunches at [kiddoscatering.com](http://kiddoscatering.com). There are many delicious menu options available from Momcorn, Big Norms, Jimano's, Potbelly, and Dairy Queen. New vendors added this year are Unos Pizzeria and Suzy Swirl. Lunches are delivered to the schools daily and labeled with the student's name. Order once a month, once a week, or every day. New order deadline is 9:00am on Mondays for the following week. Please help support the Band, Drama, and PTO Programs by purchasing a hot lunch.

The Market Day program has been retired, but we have a fantastic alternative. D56 PTO has partnered with Schwan's Home Delivery. Yes, you read that right... home delivery! Schwan's conveniently offers many great quality choices including ice cream. Support D56 PTO and give Schwan's a try this month. <https://www.schwans-cares.com/campaigns/21536-gurnee-d56-pto/fundraisers/54386-gurnee-d56-pto>

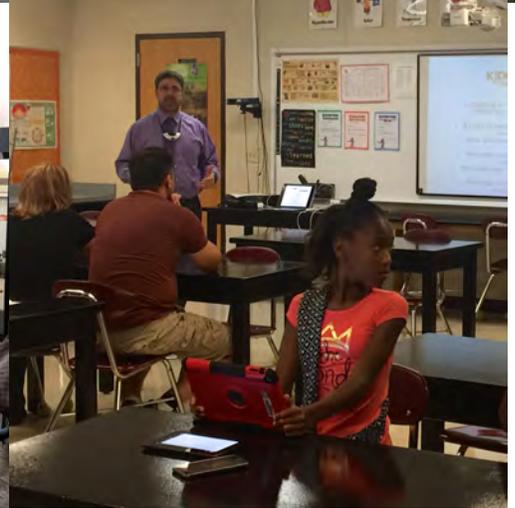
The PTO is excited to introduce a new and improved Facebook page. Stay up-to-date with all the latest information on PTO programs and news. Like us today at <https://www.facebook.com/d56pto>

## Substitute Teacher Training at D56

Teachers are human too. They get sick and have personal matters to handle. When those occasions occur, it is important for us to train and hire quality substitute teachers who are able to maintain an environment conducive for learning. This week, District personnel worked with prospective substitute teachers to ensure the D56 experience will be maintained when teachers are unable to attend school. The Board and I would like to thank our substitute teachers for attending these meetings and for their commitment to student learning.



# Curriculum Nights at Prairie Trail and Viking School



# A Message from Officer Baker

## HARD QUESTIONS; HARD ANSWERS



Why will people who read this, interpret it differently? The words are simple. The meaning is simple. The reason we interpret them differently is due to the complexity of our lives. What and who shaped you as a child might be the key to answering these questions. If you can answer the question, you may have a better chance to guide your life in a direction that can be meaningful.

Where are you going? How are you going to get there? Is it the journey? Is it the goal? Is the destination the end or just another beginning? Is there a point? If so, is it correct?

Can you truly be satisfied or is satisfaction just temporary? If it is just temporary, can it ever be permanent? Do we want satisfaction to be permanent, or are we built to be constantly moving, changing, seeking, and wanting what we do not have? Do we seek because that is what calls us, or do we seek to get away from permanence?

Can people be truly happy? How many fight to get a career they will hate? How can people marry for love and divorce for hate, sometimes only days or months apart? Why do people say, “trust your instincts” even after their instincts have been wrong over and over again?

What contributes to progress, our failures, successes, or the lack of drive needed to succeed? Is success dependent on skill, drive, personality, connections, or timing? Why do we want, pursue, then get, only to be bored and search for another chase before finishing the chase? Why do people allow themselves to get caught, and then fight to get loose? Are we just hunters, prey, or both? Why do people invite others into their problems and then refuse to accept the solutions for them? When hurt becomes an identity, does pain and sadness always follow.

Why can a parent love their kids unconditionally but not their spouse? Why is it that the first time a car is not running right, it is taken in to get fixed; but when a marriage is not running right, people wait until it breaks?

How do we raise children to be good? Can we be seriously flawed and have children who are not? How do I teach my kids to listen and to succeed; or is there ever a time where it is too late to try? Can I teach I not have?

Over this next year, I hope to have the opportunity to answer some of these questions and more. If you have an answer or wish to share a story, please feel free to provide it to me at [dbaker@d56.org](mailto:dbaker@d56.org). I will leave you with this: **The truth is not dependent on acceptance. The truth is the truth, even when it is hard to accept or agree with it. Acceptance of the truth may be the first step towards clarity, happiness, or peace. Until next week ...**



## Did You Know?

- Ordering is now open for KIDDOS hot lunch?
- Order by 9AM Monday for the following week!
- \$1.00 of each meal is a **donation** to the band, drama and PTO programs.
- New vendors this year are Unos and Suzy's Swirl
- You can pay with cash by purchasing a gift card on the PTO website.
- You can pay with check or credit through the KIDDOS website.
- You can order one week at a time or all the way through January 29th