



Dist. 95 Addresses Financial 'Early Warning' Status

Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 was among the 40 percent of Illinois school districts who ran budget deficits for the 2004-2005 school year. As a result, the school district finds itself in the "Early Warning" category of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) financial profiles of the state's school districts.

According to the CUSD 95 annual audit for 2004-05, the school district spent approximately \$3.5 million more than it received in revenue. The deficit amount was actually lower than the \$4.2 million deficit that had been projected for that budget year, but that was little solace to the district or to its Board of Education.

According to **Jonathan Hitcho**, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services for CUSD 95, the 2004-05 deficit and subsequent early warning status can be attributed to several factors, including:

- \$2.5 million in actual salaries and benefits, which make up 80% of the district's Educational fund, and an increase in purchased services expenditures.
- A one-time \$554,000 charge when the district switched from a self-insured to full service health insurance plan.

· \$409,709 in higher than expected tuition for the placement of vocational students, and special education students in special education private placement/alternative schooling.

As a result, out of a highest possible ISBE ranking of 4, CUSD 95 scored a 2 on "Expenditures to Revenue Ratio," and a similar score of 2 in the category of "Days of Cash on Hand."

"Having an 'Early Warning' ranking from the state is a concern," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "However, we have put in place several measures to correct this in the future. Over spending our revenues and operating in a deficit has happened too regularly. We are not going to repeat that past behavior in the future."

To eliminate deficit spending and remove itself from the ISBE Early Warning category, the CUSD 95 administration and Board of Education have developed and implemented the following measures to bring about both a balanced budget, and increase the district's financial reserves:

- Switching its auditor and its accounting reporting from a cash basis to a modified accrual basis, which is more accurate in determining the actual financial health of the school district.
- The Board of Education has charged the school district administration with producing a budget for 2006-07 which would limit spending to no more than 3 percent

(Cont. on pg. 3--see *Early Warning*)

Enjoy Spring Break!

March 27-31

CQ Kids Display Their Talents at the PAC

Right: Charles Quentin students **Alisa Lederer** and **Taylor Schaeffes** made their own costumes for their Fandango skit.



Charles Quentin held their annual Talent Show, "All That Glitters Is Gold" on Friday, March 10. This year, it was held at the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School. Over 400 people came to see the 88 students perform in 32 acts.

the production, including CQ's Student Council selling roses, Cub Scouts providing refreshments, and Girl Scouts and other CQ students who assisted in the lobby, and NHS working backstage with the performers. Free talent show t-shirts were raffled at intermission as well. The evening ended with a slide show presentation of various rehearsals and a grand finale with all of the performers taking their bows.



Far Right: First and second grade CQ girls get ready to cruise on down the road.

Performances ranged from singing, dancing, magic, piano, to breaking boards in tae kwon do. In addition to the performers on stage, many student groups were involved with

Lift-Off Goes to the Farm



Students in Community Unit School District 95 elementary schools will be learning firsthand about the many positive ways farming contributes to our everyday lives, when they take an imaginary trip to a farm during an upcoming school lunch promotion called Lift-Off Goes To The Farm, April 3rd through April 10th in the school cafeteria.

Sponsored by Sodexo School Services, the schools' food service provider, this unique dining event is the fourth in a year-long series of promotions that feature *Lift-Off*, the company's nutrition and wellness champion, who promotes healthy eating and physical activity to elementary school students across the country.

During the *Lift-Off Goes To The Farm* promotion, Lift-Off will make special appearances (see schedule below) to introduce the "New" Healthy Offering Bar full of "Farm Fresh Favorites" packed with plenty of taste and nutrition, while taking part in a variety of fun games and activities.

The New Offering Bar will include item such as tossed salad, tomatoes, baby carrots, cucumber slices, olives, celery sticks, apples, orange smiles, bananas, fruit juice and more. Capitalizing on the farm theme, all of the special events will be designed to not only entertain students, but to also educate them on the many interesting facts associated with farming. In addition, the event is designed to reinforce with students the many benefits of staying active for a minimum of 60 minutes each day, as well as encourage them to make healthy food choices when they eat.

In addition to some really great food, the Lift-Off Goes To The Farm promotion will feature a number of special activities for students to enjoy including a "Farm To Flavor" True or False contest, instructions on how to grow their very own "Milk Carton Garden", fun activity handouts, and loads of other great surprises.

Each student who participates in this event will receive a Lift-Off Goes To The Farm Trading Card, the fourth card in an exciting collector's series of five healthy food/physical activity cards featuring the Lift-Off Mascot.

Information on future dining events can be obtained by contacting Kathy Taylor at 847-540-4201.

Schedule of Lift-Off appearances:

April 3rd - Sarah Adams
April 4th - May Whitney
April 5th - Seth Paine
April 6th - Charles Quentin
April 7th - Spencer Loomis
April 10th - Isaac Fox

MSN Hoops for Heart

On Thursday, Middle School North celebrated Healthy Heart Day for students and staff with activities, information, snacks and a lunch that



promote a healthy lifestyle. With heart disease being the number one killer in the U.S., you cannot be too young to start living a healthy lifestyle.

For the past six years, MSN has raised funds for the American Heart Association through the "Hoops for Heart"

program, where, during PE classes, students compete in a variety of basketball games and drills. This year, the MSN PE department got the whole



school, as well as Spencer Loomis School, involved by getting the students and staff to commit the entire day to healthy eating, exercise and the discussion of a healthy lifestyle.

One of the other school activities included walking, with students measuring the number of steps they took on pedometers. If you consider that approximately 2,000 steps equates to a mile, then our kids can really hoof it. The first place winner walked 13,235 steps, while the second grade winner wasn't far behind at 10,315.

In addition to the physical activity, Dr. Kawasaki presented educational information on the way the heart works and heart disease, while the MSN PTO provided water and healthy snacks for students.



Far Right: Two MSN Hoopsters demonstrate their ball handling skills as part of Hoops for Heart.

Dr. Kawasaki talks with students about the heart.

Right: The MSN PTO provided healthy food and water to the students at MSN and Spencer Loomis School.

A Wacky Week at MW



It was a wacky week at May Whitney Elementary School as the students and school staff celebrated Spirit Week. Each day of the week



was a special theme day for the school. Monday was P.J. Day, Tuesday was Twin Day, Wednesday was Wacky Day,

Thursday was Career Day, and today, Friday, was Sports Day.

The school annually celebrates Sprit Week on the week before Spring Break to have a little fun and show school spirit and camaraderie. It also creates a lot of laughs.



'Early Warning' cont.

above this year's 2005-2006 budget; a budget which is expected to show a small surplus. That surplus, along with future budget surpluses will be used to rebuild the district's financial reserves.

- Recently instituted "dashboard" financial reports will allow the district administration and the Board of Education to more closely track, highlight and address budget variances as they occur.
- Changing from the self-insured health plan to a fully insured plan is expected to produce lower overall future increases in medical expenses.
- A Budget Committee, composed of district staff and community members, has been meeting to make suggestions for the 2006-07 budget that meet the educational needs of students while staying within budget.
- A separate Financial Advisory Committee, made up of business and financial leaders, is expected to make recommendations to the administration and the Board of Education in May regarding how the district can reduce expenses and further improve its financial status and business practices.

"We are disappointed that we missed our mark," said Hitcho. "It is important that we show the community that a government agency can be fiscally responsible with the funds we are allocated. It's imperative to be good stewards and I think we have the tools in place to accomplish that goal."

Doc Makes a School Call

On Wednesday, March 22, 2006, **Dr. Jaime Quezada**, a bilingual family practitioner, spoke with the bilingual students in **Dara Ury's** class



at May Whitney School. Dr. Quezada practices family medicine in Lake Geneva, WI, however, he shared with the students that he grew up in

Lake Zurich, where he attended May Whitney, Middle School North, and Lake Zurich High School. In addition, at the age of 16, he worked with his dad in Bell's Apple Orchard. Dr. Quezada also shared about his stint in the U.S. Marines before enrolling in college.

Dr. Quezada spoke with the bilingual students about setting goals, going to college, and about why he chose to become a doctor.

Left: **Dr. Jaime Quezada** talks with students about his work as a physician.

SL Goes Out of This World!



Spencer Loomis third graders have been studying the solar system. Groups of students researched a particular planet and created a power point presentation to show what they learned. After that, they were able to use their creativity to make an alien that could survive on that planet!

The students had to consider temperature, surface composition, a method for travel, rings, and other features of the planet when they designed the various characteristics of the alien. The classes then formally presented their slide shows and aliens to other students and parents.

According to the audience, the shows were "Out of this World!"

Got School Spirit? Show it!



Are you planing to spend Spring Break in Hawaii, Mexico, the Bahamas, or maybe right here at home? If so, show everyone your school spirit!

The Office of Communications wants your vacation photos (from this Spring Break or any other time) **as long as** you and/or your family member(s) are wearing your favorite school spirit wear in the picture (only school spirit wear from Dist. 95 schools will count).

Please send your photo (less than 1.5 meg in total file size) to jim.jennings@lz95.org. Please identify the location and the people in the photo, as well as your school. We'll publish a virtual **D-95 Spirit Wall** web page, as well as publish some of the photos in future editions of **THRIVE in 95**. Show your school spirit here, there, and everywhere!

Please note that by sending us your photo, you are giving us permission to use your image and name on our district website (www.lz95.org) and in publications.

Do You Like to Know Stuff?

Do you like to know things before others in the community? Do others seek your opinion? If so, then you are a perfect candidate for the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network**.

Our Key Communicator (KeyCom) program is a network of community residents, leaders, opinion shapers and watchdogs whose opinions are well respected by friends, colleagues and neighbors. We are not looking for cheerleaders, but people who care about our schools and want to be kept informed and are then willing to share that information with others.

As a Key Com, you will receive timely, factual information via a regular newsletter e-mailed to you about the work we're doing and the issues affecting your school district and your schools.



Because this is designed to be a two-way communications network, we encourage you to give us your input and share your opinions. As a KeyCom member, your responsibility will be to share the information with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

To become a KeyCom member, simply call, email or fax:

**CUSD 95
Office of Communications
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-
2459**

Phone: (847) 540-5489

Fax: (847) 438-6702

**jim.jennings@lz95.org
www.lz95.org**

Far Left: Spencer Loomis third graders explain their "alien" to the audience.

Left: **Libby Reimann's** sons, **Teddy** (left-age 8) and **Andy** (age 4) showed their D-95 spirit at Disney World with **Chip and Dale**, the world's most famous chipmunks. The family was with the LZHS band at Disney World last spring break and joined with the band and other supporters—all decked out in blue and white—for the big parade down Main Street, USA.

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. Copyright (c)2004-2006

Annette Jacobsen,
Editor

Jim Jennings,

Publisher

(847) 540-5489

jim.jennings@lz95.org

www.lz95.org