

March, 2016

Board of Education
Skokie School District 73½
8000 East Prairie Road
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Dear District Taxpayer,

As you may know, the district school board recently decided unanimously to approve a plan to build an addition to Meyer School, and to add a multipurpose room at Middleton School. We strongly believe this plan is financially responsible and in the best interests of our students, families, staff and the community as a whole.

The need is clear:

- At Meyer, where we teach our youngest and most vulnerable students, space is scarce. Staff sometimes work with youngsters in cramped rooms or hallways. In addition to serving as the cafeteria, the multipurpose room is used for testing, physical education, music, meetings, indoor recess in bad weather, and before- and after-school care.
- Important educational services such as the library and special instruction such as speech, ELL and special education are shoehorned into ill-fitting spaces not built for them.
- The district sends some children with special needs to the Molloy Education Center in Morton Grove—forcing students to travel and the district to pay tuition to the Niles Township District for Special Education—because there currently isn't room at Meyer to serve them.

The benefits are clear:

- The 24,000-square-foot addition at Meyer would double usable space and include a gym, a library, seven classrooms and a gross motor room where staff can work with special education students who need physical and occupational therapy.
- Increased special education space not only would enable the district to teach its students closer to home, it would also open slots for students from other districts, who would pay tuition to District 73½.
- The multipurpose room at Middleton, projected to be about 2,250 square feet, would be used primarily for physical education classes to accommodate the move to everyday PE for every student.

The project is expected to cost approximately \$10.3 million, which the district plans to fund with a new bond issue. Because a previous bond issue is about to be paid off, property taxes levied for debt would remain at the current level. We expect a reduction in NTDSE tuition, combined with new tuition from out-of-district students, to create \$350,000 in savings and additional revenue annually going forward.

It's important to note that we arrived at this solution after consulting with parents and community members. In fall 2015, we convened a panel of district residents to dig deeply into the issue, and this project reflects their unanimous recommendation.

If you'd like more information, visit www.sd735.org and click on the red button marked "View the Community Presentation." You can also read about the plan in the latest *Community Digest* (available online at <http://bit.ly/223Z5xC>). We will also present more details at a community meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at Meyer School, 8100 Tripp Ave. Please come and bring your questions.

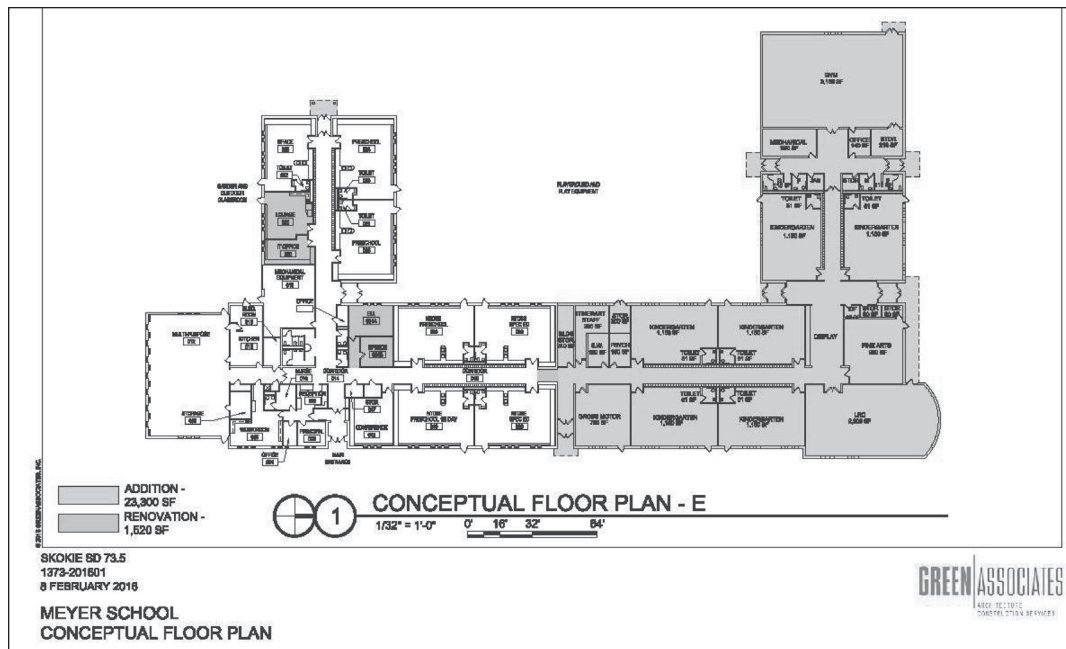
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Dolinko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Dolinko" clearly distinguishable.

Gary Dolinko
President, Skokie School District 73½ Board of Education

**Postal Patron
Local
Skokie, IL 60076-9614**

Important information for Skokie District 73½ residents



The public is invited to attend a presentation
on the proposed building additions
for Meyer and Middleton Schools.

Thursday, April 7, 2016, 7 p.m.

Meyer School, 8100 Tripp Ave., Skokie

*For more information, visit www.sd735.org and click on the red button
marked "View the Community Presentation."*