

Audit results reported

Education funding in Minnesota is too complex to fully explain in an audit report, according to district auditors from MMKR & Co.

The findings of the 2009–10 audit of Centennial School District were presented by auditor Aaron Nielsen at the board's Dec. 6 meeting.

Among the results listed in the report are the following:

❖ Funding is frozen at the 2009 level, while the state formula increased by 1 percent. "In general, the moderate increases in the formula have forced districts to continually cut expenditure budgets or increase referendum revenue in order to maintain programs," the report notes.

❖ Enrollment continues to decline.

❖ Declines in the General Fund include the impact of one-time revenue received last year and reduced investment earnings due to the state's metering of aid payments (the district receives tax payments on a delayed basis). "While we have to pay 100 percent of our bills on time, the state shifted payments to 73 percent in one year and 27 percent in the next," noted Vice Chairperson Karen Lodico. "We have to borrow money to meet our obligations, which is a cost to us."

The audit report notes, "changes in funding structure and state aid payment schedules significantly affect the cash flow of Minnesota school districts. ... State aids normally paid on a 90–10 schedule were changed to a 73–27 schedule for fiscal year 2009–10 and will be 70–30 for fiscal year 2010–11.

Beginning in fiscal year 2010–11, a further delay in aid payments will occur with a change in the recognition of property tax revenue. Dan Huffman, Director of Business Affairs, said last year Centennial borrowed \$4.9 million due to the metering in payments. This year the district expects to borrow \$10.1 million due to the payment shift.

❖ The bulk of Centennial's revenue, over \$54 million of its \$63 million General Fund, come from state sources. Local property taxes contribute about \$6 million.

Audit results can be found on the district website at www.isd12.org—click on publications under Quick Links.

Learn about education funding Feb. 3

A presentation aimed at taking the mystery out of education funding is free and open to the public on Thursday, Feb. 3 in the District Office Board Room.

"Are we serious about quality education in Minnesota? Education Funding 101" will cover this complex topic in just one hour, from 7–8 p.m.

Time will be reserved at the end of the presentation for questions. Presenter Deb Griffith, a Centennial School District parent, leads the Centennial Legislative Action Committee and works for Schools for Equity in Education.

Local property tax levy set

Every owner of taxable land pays property taxes for various taxing jurisdictions (county, city/township, school district, special districts, etc.) based on location. Each taxing jurisdiction sets its own tax levy within parameters established by state law. Centennial's local levy is 12.08 percent of its total revenue. State resources contribute the largest share of district revenue at 79.66 percent.

After submitting the 2011 payable proposed property tax levy and holding a truth in taxation hearing in December, the Centennial School Board approved the final 2011 school district levy of \$18,170,062, which is a 3.68 percent (or \$644,541) increase over the 2010 assessment.

School districts are permitted to levy taxes in up to 30 different categories with limits set by state law or voter approval. The makeup of Centennial's 2011's levy included changes in three of Centennial's six categories:

General Fund (daily operating expenses for E–12 education—78.98 percent of budget). Decrease of \$102,053 overall due to decreases in voter-approved referendum (due to enrollment decline) and building leases, and an increase in health and safety.
Community Services Fund (educational/recreational programs not part of E–12 or special education programs—3.87 percent of budget). Decrease of \$20,382 due to a school age care adjustment.
Debt Service Fund (principal/interest payment on buildings, Other Post Retirement Benefits OPEB and alternative facilities bonds—11.85 percent of budget). Increase of \$734,394.

The district's financial situation is impacted by the state budget. According to Centennial's audit report, "The mix of local and state revenues vary from year to year primarily based on funding formulas and the state's financial condition... The state of Minnesota has experienced a series of major budget shortfalls and a steadily deteriorating financial condition in recent years. Local governments and other entities dependant on the state for funding have, in turn, had to deal with the resulting state aid cuts, hold backs, and unallotments... The situation has created a challenge for school boards, administrators, and management of these districts in providing the best education with the limited resources available in a climate of unknown future funding levels."

State education funding hasn't kept up with inflation since 1991, according to Schools for Equity in Education (SEE). The per pupil gap between the basic formula and inflation is estimated at \$1,903. For a district like Centennial, with about 6,500 student, that equals about \$12 million. The lack of state provided funding has forced districts to increase their reliance on local levies. For Centennial, this reliance is confounded by the fact that varying property wealth makes it harder for lower property wealth districts (like Centennial) to access voter-approved local referendum due to the impact on local property owners.



Teachers win technology awards

Sue Howell and Laurie Nyren were each recognized as a TIES Exceptional Teacher at the TIES 2010 Education Technology Conference. The award recognizes teachers who model best practices in using technology in their classroom.

Sue Howell A 27-year veteran of Centennial School District, Sue is a Centennial Early Reading Foundation teacher at Rice Lake Elementary who incorporates technology in her classroom. As part of a wireless pilot, she uses iPads and reading-related applications, web-based assessment tools, benchmark and progress monitoring reports, and a SMART Board in her classroom. Sue uses educational software to introduce, teach and apply reading skills to students based on their learning level, and she uses a variety of technology tools to enhance group work and create enthusiasm for learning. Many of the programs Sue Howell uses allow students to think and talk creatively using technology as the basis for their discussions.



Blue Heron fourth grade teacher **Laurie Nyren** is on the cutting edge of technology. The 20-year veteran was one of the first teachers to receive a SMART Board. She has become a proficient user and resource for fellow teachers. Another new technology she implemented was Senteos, an interactive response system operating in tandem with SMART Boards. Senteos tracks quiz results and lesson comprehension, which provides immediate insight into learning and helps increase retention and engagement. She was instrumental in developing related SMART Board activities for a science curricular update. As a member of the District Technology Advisory Steering Committee, Laurie serves as a conduit between school staff and the district.



Upcoming events

Kindergarten registration scheduled

Parents of incoming kindergartners have options to consider when registering for the 2011–12 school year. These options are:

Half-day option

★ The district's half-day kindergarten program. Morning and afternoon sessions are offered at each elementary.

Full day options

★ Kindergarten Plus (all-day kindergarten) This all-day, fee-based program is taught by licensed teachers and includes the same curriculum covered in the half-day program. The all-day focus allows for additional time to practice learned skills and reinforce activities while providing additional time for differentiation from a licensed teacher.

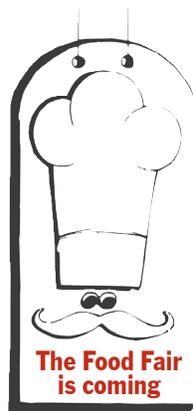
★ K-Time Kids Club (half-day kindergarten and half-day school age child care). Centennial's half day, fee-based K-Time program compliments half-day kindergarten and provides parents with a flexible all-day option. K-Time is taught by Kids Club Site Managers and the curriculum reinforces what is learned in half-day kindergarten.

The deadline for registration is Friday, March 25.

A kindergarten letter will be sent to all families in early January regarding kindergarten information packets and registration dates. Completed registration materials will be collected at individual building **kindergarten registrations:**

<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Day/Date/Time</u>
Blue Heron	Thursday, March 3, 5:30–7 p.m.
Centennial	Thursday, March 3, 5:30–7 p.m.
Centerville	Tuesday, Feb. 22, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Golden Lake	Thursday, Feb. 10, 5:30–7 p.m.
Rice Lake	Tuesday, March 1, 6 p.m.

Contact Maggie Washenberger at 763-792-6006 for more information. A kindergarten information link is available on the district's home web page at www.isd12.org. Look for the kindergarten information menu under schools.



Sample the world at Feb. 5 Food Fair

The annual **World Culture Club Food Fair and Childrens' Carnival** will be celebrated 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 5 in the high school white building. Enjoy a variety of international and American foods and a childrens' carnival.

Proceeds help support Centennial's World Culture Club.

Pow Wow set for Feb. 18w

The public is invited to Centennial Indian Education's annual **Spirit of the Earth Pow Wow**, 6–9:30 p.m. (Grand Entry at 6:30 p.m.), Friday, Feb. 18 at the high school red building lower gym. The Pow Wow features drummers from around the metro area along with native foods and crafts. All drums are welcome. There is no admission but donations are accepted.

For more information call Tricia Garvie Carlson at 763-792-5199 or pgarvie@isd12.org. Vendors please call Sharon at 763-783-7362 for a table.

Happy Year!
New

Centennial ISD 12

JANUARY 2011

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

3

NO SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK! 4

Bernardi Jumbo Cheese
Ravioli in Sauce
Warm Garlic Bread
Seasoned Green Beans
Garden Salad/Dressing
Variety of Fruit

5

Sec: Bone-in Oven
Roasted Chicken
Roasted Garlic Redskin
Mashed Potatoes
Wheat Dinner Roll
Broccoli/Cheese Sauce
Variety of Fruit

6

Ling's Mandarin Orange
Chicken
Hearty Brown Rice
Wheat Dinner Roll
Mandarin Citrus
Vegetables
Variety of Fruit

7

Jennie-O Turkey and
Gravy over Fluffy
Mashed Potatoes
Honey wheat Roll
Seasoned Green Beans
Variety of Fruit
Bag of Animal Crackers

Cold entrée choice in
elementaries. Alternate
lines available in secondary
buildings. All meals include
milk. Menu subject to
change. Products have been
made in district kitchens or
food production plants
where milk, eggs, soybeans,
tree nuts, peanuts and other
ingredients are used.
SB=School Baked

10

DINO DAY
Tyson Dino Chicken
Nuggets
Tri-Cut Sweet Potatoes
Wheat Dinner Roll
Whole Kernel Corn
Variety of Fruit

11

Pizza Party
Whole Grain Cheese or
Pepperoni Pizza
Steamed Cauliflower
Multigrain Breadstick
Garden Salad/Drsgng
Variety of Fruit

12

Tasty Tacos on Hard
or Soft Shell
Cup of Fixings
**Natural Wild Rice
Good-4-U peas
Variety of Fruit
SB Cinnamon Roll

13

Oven Warm French
Toast Sticks/Syrup
Pork or Turkey Breakfast
Sausage
Babycake Potatoes
Chilled Fruit Sauce
100% Fruit Juice

14

Campbell's Tomato
Soup
Toasty Warm Grilled
Cheese Sandwich
Smile Potatoes
Baby Carrots/Dip
Variety of Fruit

17

NO SCHOOL

18

Smuckers Snaecken Maple
Waffle/Syrup
Colby Cheese Omelet
Hashbrown Stick
Chilled Fruit Sauce
100% Fruit Juice

National Popcorn Day 19

Fun Fish Nuggets/Sticks
Mashed Sweet Potatoes
***Thick Wild Rice
Bread
Garden Salad/Dressing
Variety of Fruit

20

Cheese or Chicken
Quesadilla
Cup of Fixings
Black Beans
Whole Kernel Corn
Variety of Fruit
SB Cinnamon Roll

21

Elem: Annual Beach
Day
Land o Lakes Cheese cup
Wheat Pretzel Rod
Choice of Smuckers
Uncrustable
Fresh Baby Carrots
Great Grape Escape

Lunch Prices

Elem: \$2.20/day
\$39.60/mos
Sec: \$2.40/day
\$43.20/mos

Entrée: \$1.95

Milk: \$.45

Non-Student/Adult:

\$3.40

No cost on-line account
information and payment
options at

www.paypams.com.

23

NO SCHOOL

24

Kid's Love Them!
Legendary Italian
Dunkers
Whole Grain Spaghetti
with Thai Sauce
Steamed Broccoli
Variety of Fruit

25

It Was A Hit! 26
School Made Taco Pizza
Cup of Fixings
Black Beans
Whole Kernel Corn
Variety of Fruit
Cinnamon Churro

27

Ling's Teriyaki Chicken
Hearty Brown Rice
Wheat Dinner roll
Seasoned Green Beans
Pineapple
Tidbits/Mandarin Orange
Fruit Cup

28

Sec: Knorr's Wild Rice
and Chicken Soup
Deli Sandwich on
Croissant (choice of
Fillings)
Criss-Cut Sweet Potatoes
Fresh Apples

Free and Reduced meals available for qualifying households. Lactose free milk available
upon written request.

* Apples from Pine Tree Orchards, White Bear Lake

**Natural Cooked Wild Rice from Mille Lacs, Aitkin, MN.

***Thick Sliced Wild Rice Bread from Franklin Street, Red Lake, MN.

31

Birthday Bash
Hamburgers on a Bun
Lettuce/Tomatoes/Onions
Starz Potatoes
Malibu Blend Vegetables
Variety of Fruit
Luigi's Sherbet Cup

RESOLUTIONS