

# BOARD BRIEFS



Highlights of action taken by the District 200 Board of Education

October 2018

## Seniors recognized by National Merit Scholar Program

Three District 200 high school seniors were recognized Oct. 9 by the Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education for their achievement of being named Commended Students in the 2019 National Merit Scholar Program.



(L to R) Alexander Fetzner, Jeffrey Massman and Eric Canaday

**Jeffrey Massman**, from **Woodstock North High School**, and **Eric Canaday** and **Alexander Fetzner**, from **Woodstock High School** were recognized as Commended Students for their exceptional academic promise.

Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers out of more than 1.6 million high school students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

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## Land donation for Building Trades program accepted

The Board of Education accepted a generous donation of a lot at 1360 Sandpiper Lane owned by Mark and Mary Ellen Dammyer, who contacted District 200 administration about allowing their land to be used for the Building Trades program.

The Country Ridge subdivision lot is across the street from the program's current project and will likely be used for building a new home sometime between 2019 and 2023. District 200 agreed to pay the closing costs for the real estate transaction transferring the title of the 6,594 square foot lot.

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## City of Woodstock TIF proposal discussed

At its Oct. 9 meeting, the Board continued its ongoing discussion of the City of Woodstock's plans to form a tax increment financing district in a sizable portion of Woodstock, which is all within District 200 boundaries.

A TIF district is a tool municipalities use to attract development by freezing property taxes at current levels for 23 years while funds raised inside the TIF are earmarked for infrastructure improvements such as roads, sewers, lighting and other features.

While District administrators and Board members have concerns about TIF districts in general since schools rely on property taxes, they have particular concerns about Woodstock's proposal, which include plans for new residential development.

If those developments bring students into the school district, the improved property won't bring more revenue to the district's tax rolls. While District 200 has space for more students, hiring more teachers would be an additional cost to taxpayers.

District 200, along with other taxing bodies within the TIF district, has an opportunity to send a representative to vote on a TIF District joint review board. However, the ultimate decision on whether the TIF is designated belongs to the Woodstock City Council.

Board members continued to express skepticism about supporting the TIF district. Members said they would not likely support it, but Superintendent Mike Moan said he and District 200 administrators continue to negotiate possible solutions to the potential impact of new students created by residential development within the TIF district.

"We'll continue to work with them on ways we can capture funding for students who may be coming," Moan said.

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## WHS student honored as Hispanic scholar



Woodstock High School senior Luis Gomez-Diaz was honored Tuesday, Oct. 23 by the Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education for his outstanding accomplishment of being named a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.

Luis began his education as an English-language learner before transitioning into the District's dual language program.

Each year, the NHRP names scholars who scored in the top 2.5 percent of all Hispanic and Latino students who took the PSAT/NMSQT test. About 5,000 students of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who took the test are recognized as academically exceptional students.

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## Board honors Those Who Excel Award winners



(L to R) Cristina Aguilar, Ryan Logsdon, Roger Oberman, Amy Perry, Debbie Schweihs, Marti Frisbie, Courtney Heeren, Shanon Laidig and Kristen Sauber

Four individual staff members, a community volunteer, and a team from Woodstock District 200 were among those honored by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) at its annual Those Who Excel/Teacher of the Year banquet on Oct. 20. The awards program recognizes people who have made outstanding contributions to education in their schools and communities. The Board of Education recognized the achievement at its Oct. 23 meeting.

- **Cristina Aguilar**, 2nd Grade Dual Language Teacher at Mary Endres Elementary School, Early Career Educator – Award of Merit
- **Ryan Logsdon**, Head Custodian at Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center, Educational Service Personnel – Award of Merit
- **Roger Oberman**, Community Volunteer – Award of Excellence
- **Amy Perry**, School Psychologist at Creekside Middle School, Student Support Personnel – Award of Recognition
- **Debbie Schweihs**, Elementary Band Teacher, Classroom Teacher – Award of Merit
- District 200 Lit/Tech Coaches (**Marti Frisbie, Courtney Heeren, Shanon Laidig & Kristen Sauber**), Team – Award of Merit

Local school district leaders and members of school communities nominate candidates for Those Who Excel recognition. A committee of peers, organized through ISBE, chooses the award winners. Statewide education organizations are represented on the committee, which includes former award winners.

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## Northwood athlete recognized for qualifying for state



Northwood Middle School eighth-grader Mark Duenas was recognized Tuesday, Oct. 23 by the Woodstock Community Unit School District Board of Education for qualifying for the Illinois Elementary School Association State Cross Country Meet.

Mark placed 10th at the Middle School Sectional in McHenry on Oct. 6, where he ran the 2-mile race in 11:55. At the IESA State Meet in Normal, Mark finished with a time of 11:58.

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## Board votes to object to Woodstock TIF District

At its Oct. 23 meeting, Board members reopened their discussion of a potential Tax Increment Financing District proposed by the City of Woodstock.

Superintendent Mike Moan told Board members that he and administrative staff continue to meet with city representatives to discuss ways District 200's financial impact because of the TIF District could be minimized.

The Board and the administration's primary concern is that new residential development within the TIF District could generate new students while TIF Districts are designed so that no new tax revenue will be distributed to taxing bodies, which includes District 200.

Depending on the number of students generated, the District might have to hire more teachers, which would be an additional cost to taxpayers who don't live inside the TIF District.

Board President Carl Gilmore said that while discussions with the city remain ongoing, there was no formal resolution.

Board Member Bruce Farris made a motion that the District send a representative to the TIF Joint Review Board to vote against the TIF District. The Joint Review Board is an advisory board made up of representatives of taxing bodies within the TIF. That board's vote, however, will not determine whether the TIF District is designated. The creation of the TIF District is a Woodstock City Council decision.

Board Member Jacob Homuth seconded Farris's motion and the Board voted unanimously to have a representative vote against the formation of the TIF District at the City of Woodstock's Joint Review Board.