



## Prospect Heights School District 23 Board Memorandum Information Item

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**Date:** May 9, 2024

**Subject:** Summer Programming Update

**From:** Dr. Craig Curtis, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning  
Dr. Chrys Sroka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services  
Mr. Chris Alms, Director of Technology and Information Services

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This update is provided to inform the Board of the student engagement offerings and professional development opportunities over the summer.

### **Academic Student Programming**

- **Extended School Year (ESY):**
  - Prospect Heights School District 23 is required by federal and state regulations to offer an extension program for those students who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and qualify for an extension of their services outside of the regular school day/year. District 23 has offered those extension services through a summer Extended School Year (ESY) program. Typically, students who qualify for the program make slow progress during the regular school year, have trouble regaining skills after a long break from school/learning, and have more significant special education needs.
  - We will be offering the program in person at Eisenhower Elementary School this summer for those students who qualify through their IEPs in grades Early Childhood through 7th grade. We anticipate approximately 40 students with IEPs to participate in the ESY program this summer. We also anticipate needing approximately 30 staff members, including special education teachers, educational support professionals, and related service providers, to provide all services required for the program. We have completed hiring all staff for the ESY program and thank the District 23 employees who are willing to work in the ESY program as it is always more beneficial for students to have familiar staff members to work with over the summer. Hiring for more specialized services can be challenging; however, this year we will only need to contract for one position.
- **Bilingual Summer Reading Program at John Muir Park:**
  - Prospect Heights District 23 has sponsored the Summer Reading Program for approximately a decade. This year is no exception! Our Bilingual teachers and students have a long tradition of sharing books, participating in activities, and enjoying some snacks under a canopy of trees twice per week. We do this in partnership with the Prospect Heights Public Library. The program will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from June 3rd to July 31st at John Muir Park, from 1:00-2:00 PM.

- **Other Student Engagement Opportunities:**

- Even if students are not involved in any programs, we are working on ways to keep students curious throughout the summer. Each school will send home and post a list of ways to keep our students engaged in learning and fun activities throughout the summer.
- We continue our strong partnership with the Prospect Heights Public Library District (PHPLD) to offer engaging activities throughout the school year and continue into the summer. We kick off this partnership with walking field trips to the library during May. The PHPLD works with our teachers, Library Media Specialists, and Bilingual Summer Reading Program to provide incentives and resources to keep our students motivated to read during the summer months.

## **Teacher Planning and Professional Development**

- **Poolside PD**

- We are proud to offer "Poolside PD" professional development sessions again this summer to our staff members. Mr. Alms, Dr. Sroka, Dr. Curtis, and our Instructional Coaching Team have worked hard to create asynchronous professional development modules that support teachers' learning needs. This year's courses include an introduction to artificial intelligence (AI) in education and supporting multilingual students, among various other opportunities. We hope many teachers take advantage of these asynchronous learning opportunities over the summer.

- **Summer Curriculum Work**

- Each year, we provide opportunities for summer curriculum work to get a jump start on making a positive impact on our teachers and students next school year. To make this work effective, it must:
  - be aligned with the District's Strategic Plan
  - have approval from the building principal
- The Administrative Team reviews proposals and prioritizes the opportunities that best align with the District's Strategic Plan.

- **NSSEO Summer Professional Learning**

- NSSEO is offering a variety of professional learning opportunities (many are multi-day sessions) over the summer. This is the third year that they have offered multiple professional learning opportunities during the summer break. Some of the opportunities include Key 2 Ed Facilitated IEP Training, NVCI Initial/Refresher Training, Creating Trauma Responsive Classrooms, and many others. Registration is open, and all District 23 Student Services staff are encouraged to attend over the summer.