

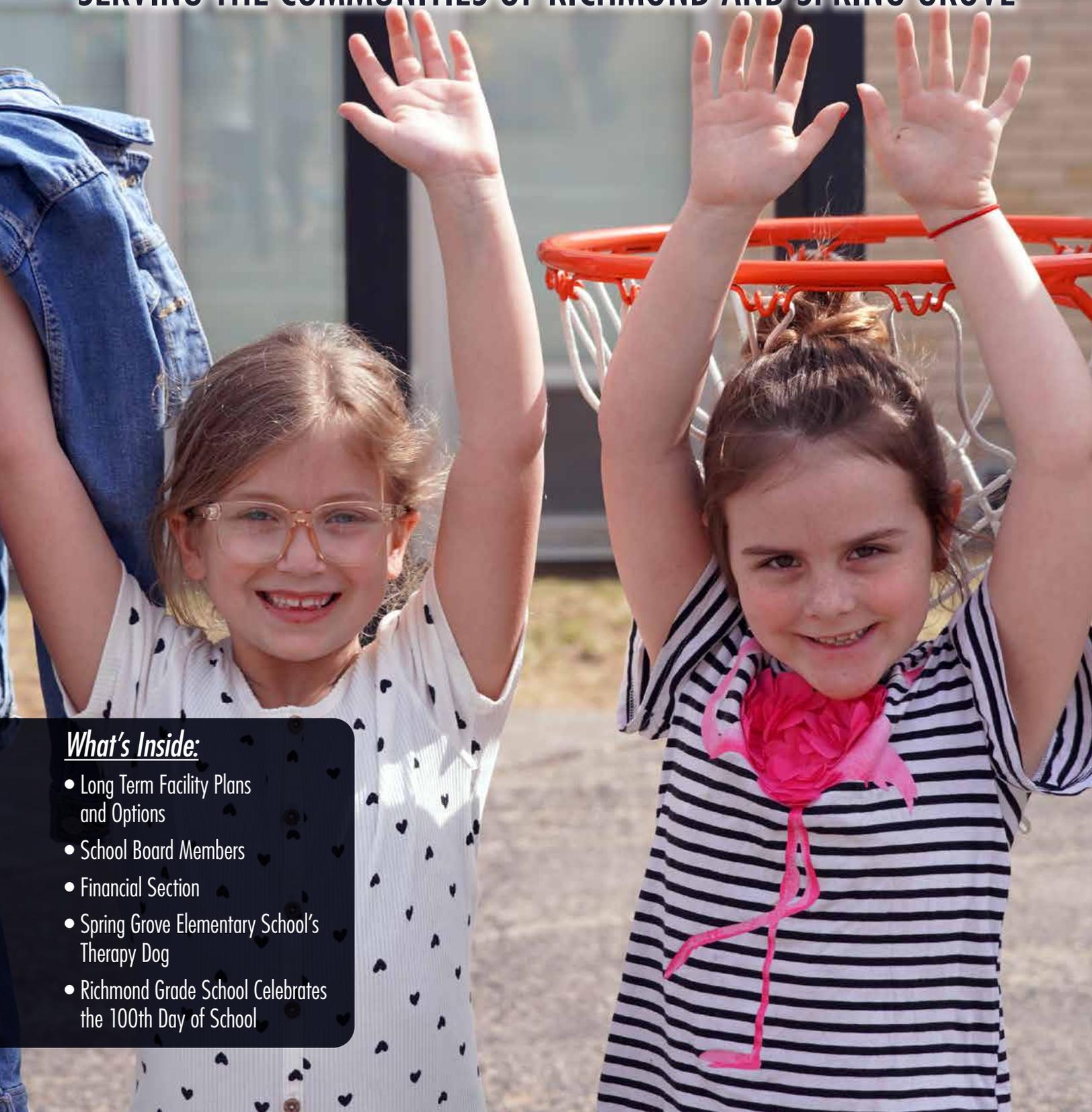


# NIPPERSINK SCHOOL DISTRICT 2

*Nippersink SD 2*

*SPRING 2022*

## GRADES PK-8 SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF RICHMOND AND SPRING GROVE



### *What's Inside:*

- Long Term Facility Plans and Options
- School Board Members
- Financial Section
- Spring Grove Elementary School's Therapy Dog
- Richmond Grade School Celebrates the 100th Day of School

## WELCOME TO NIPPERSINK SCHOOL DISTRICT 2!

There is a lot to celebrate in Nippersink SD 2 at this time. Students have remained in class throughout the year, and learning is returning to a much more normal structure once again. The after school activities and PTO events we all look forward to are once again taking place. It is wonderful to see families and community groups back in our schools, working to ensure our students are provided a world-class educational experience.

The Board of Education has also been working hard throughout the last couple years on exploring different ways to address the effects of aging buildings and the maintenance issues that come with them.

With the assistance of our District engineering and architectural firm, all three school buildings have been surveyed, and a cost analysis of the needed repairs has been developed. Every possibility for improving our aging buildings has been examined and an estimated cost analysis developed for each potential option. From short term fixes, to renovations, to complete replacement of a building the Board has been thorough in its examination of possibilities.

In this newsletter the Board has provided information on a couple options that provide long term fixes to the significant maintenance and life safety issues our school buildings face. In the coming weeks and months the District will be providing listening and feedback meetings where the various options will be presented and community feedback will be sought.

Your feedback will be important in any final decision the Board of Education makes. As of now there have been no decisions to move forward on any one plan. Your input and feedback will be crucial in the final decision as to how we as a community move forward to ensure our schools are maintained.

The District is conducting a survey, which can be accessed at [www.adgsurveys.com/SE/1/Nippersink/](http://www.adgsurveys.com/SE/1/Nippersink/) or via the District website so all residents can offer feedback on the plan options. Please take the time to share your thoughts.



# NIPPERSINK

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT 2



### MEET THE D2 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Each school board in Illinois has seven members. These are voluntary positions - no compensation is provided for serving on the board in Illinois. Here is a bit of information about each of the D2 board members.

Liz Young has lived in the community for thirteen years and has served on the board for the past five years. She is the current Board President. She enjoys reading and gardening in her spare time.

Elke Kleisch is the current Board Vice-President and has lived in the community for fourteen years. She has served on the board for the past five years, and her hobbies include reading and painting.

Marcy Garrison has lived in the community for eight years and has served the past three years on the board. Marcy is the Board Secretary. She enjoys volunteering, watching football, and traveling.

Joe Quinn has spent the past year as a member of the D2 Board. He has lived in the community for the past 5 years and enjoys camping, outdoor activities, and sports.

Joel Johnson joined the board after the past election, so he has spent one year serving as a board member. Joel has lived in the community for four years; however, his wife has been part of the working community for nearly ten years, so he is no stranger to Spring Grove and Richmond. He enjoys traveling, hiking, hunting, and spending time with his family.

Robin Taylor was also elected during the past election and has spent one year serving as a board member. She has lived in the community for seven years and enjoys running, hiking, skydiving, and anything related to dogs.

Ryan Andrus is the newest member of the D2 Board. Ryan joined in February of 2022. He has lived in the community for over three years. He enjoys volunteering in the community and spending time with his family.



# LONG TERM FACILITY PLANS AND OPTIONS



Nippersink School District 2 educates 1,160 elementary and middle school students in three aging schools:

- *Nippersink Middle School* was built in 1947; additions were completed in 1967 and 2001
- *Richmond Grade School* opened in 1962; additions were made in 1964, 1967 and 1995
- *Spring Grove Elementary* was completed in 1961; additions were made in 1969 and 1994

All three schools have safety, security and maintenance needs. The Board of Education and administrative team engaged an architecture firm to create a long-term facility plan (LTFP) and identify high priority maintenance needs that require immediate attention. Attending to plumbing, roofing and mechanical repairs sooner rather than later will prevent costly emergency repairs and increase energy efficiency resulting in lower energy bills.

***Nippersink Middle School (NMS)*** is a 75-year-old building with many structural issues including:

- **HVAC** — the entire system including four boilers, a chiller, ventilators, piping and HVAC controls needs to be replaced. The system is so out of date that repair companies are no longer able to effectively maintain the system. Replacement components must be made either in-house or through a special order. This is a costly solution and could lead to a catastrophic mechanical failure and potentially an emergency school closure.
- **Roofs** — need to be replaced. Even in a small rain, standing water collects on the roofs, and several areas require a complete tear-off since there is moisture below the shingles. Leaks lead to interior damage.
- **Electrical Systems** — these are original to the building and are not capable of supporting current needs. Lighting is insufficient and not energy efficient.
- **Safety and Security** — Relocating the main office and creating an ADA accessible entrance will allow staff to better screen visitors and improve access for students, staff and visitors. Fire suppression systems will be upgraded to meet current codes.

Mobile classrooms are being used at **Spring Grove Elementary School (SGE)** and **Richmond Grade School (RGS)**. These were intended to be a temporary solution not a permanent fixture at our schools. The existing units are aging and in need of repairs/replacement. Mobile units:

- Are not as secure as the main buildings; students must leave to use bathrooms, the library and other educational spaces. This is especially critical during weather emergencies.
- Are aging and in need of repairs
  - Do not support current teaching and learning needs due to space constraints
    - Have no plumbing
    - Lack fire suppression systems

Removing these units is a high priority for the Board and administration. The most cost-efficient way to accomplish this is to reconfigure the elementary schools since RGS has sufficient space and would not require an addition. The proposal calls for Grades PK-2 to be located at RGS while SGE would house Grades 3-5.

Both elementary schools also require repairs; an addition would be needed at SGE if the mobiles were removed.

#### ***Richmond Grade School***

- Roof Replacement
- Replace ventilation system (installed in 1962)

#### ***Spring Grove Elementary***

- Install elevator to improve accessibility
- Add classrooms to replace mobile units that house fifth grade classes and art
- Enlarge undersized library

The District is seeking community input on three potential options. The District will invest up to \$7.1 million no matter which option is approved.

**Option A** — Complete priority repairs at all three schools and remove the mobile units. This would require issuing taxpayer approved bonds and a tax increase of approximately \$250 on a home valued at \$350,000.

**Option C** — Make short-term repairs at Nippersink Middle School. Replace or renovate existing mobile units at SGE and RGS. This would only utilize existing District funds, deferring long-term repairs and a bond referendum to a later date.

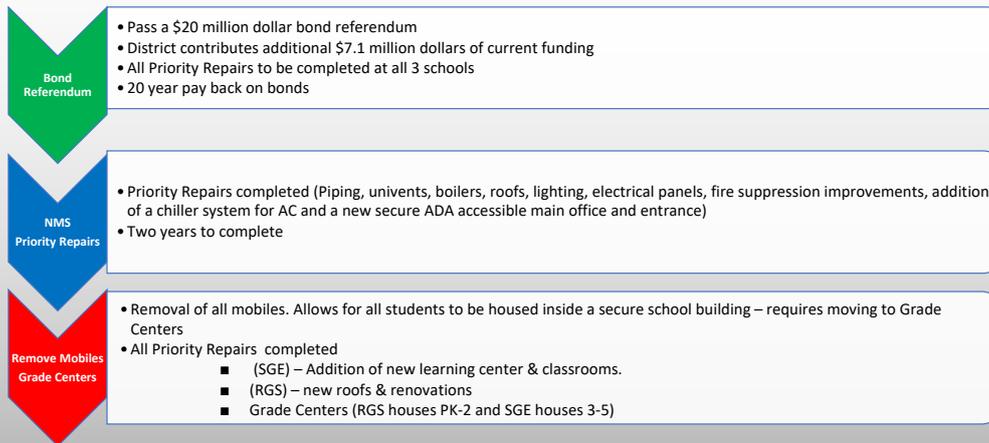
**The District will be hosting informational meetings so community members can learn more and ask questions.**

Please visit the District website to learn more.



[www.nippersinkdistrict2.org](http://www.nippersinkdistrict2.org)

# Option A—Complete all Priority Repairs



Two alternative plans have been developed. Option B focuses on the most critical needs at the middle school and repairing the elementary school mobiles. Option C does not require issuing bonds, would utilize only District funds and would defer long-term maintenance.

## Option A—Funding

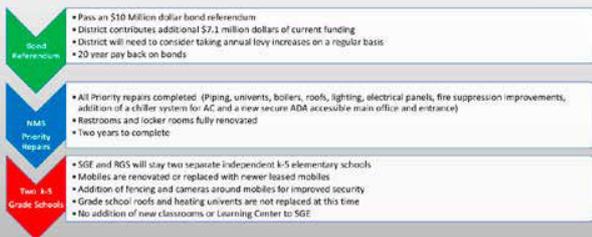


All Priority Repairs Completed



**Option B** would still require the district to pass a bond referendum in the amount of \$10 million, with the district contributing an additional \$7.1 million from current funds. Our annual levy would also need to be increased on a regular basis.

## Option B—Nippersink Middle School & Mobiles



## Option B—Funding

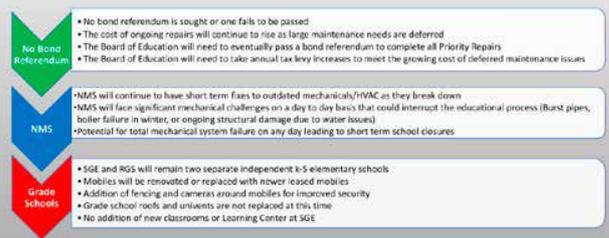


Priority Repairs Completed at Nippersink  
Mobile Units Repaired or Replaced at Elementary Schools



**Option C** would require no bond referendum, meaning the district would invest in short-term fixes and systems could fail.

## Option C—No Bond Referendum



No matter which option the community chooses there will be substantial costs—both short and long term. The challenge will be how and when we want to spend our money. District 2 will be providing opportunities through surveys and listening sessions for the community to share feedback on the options for our students.

# FINANCIAL SECTION

The Nippersink SD 2 has maintained the highest financial designation the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) can give to a school district since 2009. The Board of Education has achieved this honor for each of the last 13 years by being fiscally responsible with taxpayers' money while providing an excellent education to all its students. This year *US News and World Report* ranked Nippersink Middle School as a top middle school in the state of Illinois. District 2 is proud to be a leader among area and state schools and believe this is one of the top reasons families move into our District.

In addition, the District has maintained its high financial designation while not increasing the property tax levy five out of the last ten years. In 2013, the District also abated \$500,000 back to taxpayers. While working to be responsible to the local tax payer through flat levies and abatements, the District has been able to save significant money that will be used along with any other funds received to begin to modernize and improve our aging schools in the coming years.

## Finances—Tax Levy History



December	School Year	Tax Year	Total Levy Requested w/o Debt	Total Levy Extension w/o Debt	Levy Increase
2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	\$ 13,953,300.00	Pending	Took Levy
2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	\$ 13,536,700.00	\$ 13,296,320.00	Took Levy
2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	\$ 13,149,100.00	\$ 12,894,833.00	Took Levy
2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	\$ 12,531,560.00	\$ 12,531,560.00	FLAT LEVY
2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	\$ 12,531,543.00	\$ 12,531,543.00	FLAT LEVY
2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	\$ 12,531,533.00	\$ 12,531,533.00	FLAT LEVY
2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	\$ 12,531,518.00	\$ 12,531,518.00	FLAT LEVY
2014	2014-2018	2015-2016	\$ 12,621,000.00	\$ 12,531,518.00	Took Levy
2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	\$ 12,717,000.00	\$ 12,101,944.00	ABATED \$500,000
2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	\$ 12,327,555.00	\$ 12,327,555.00	FLAT LEVY
2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	\$ 12,426,000.00	\$ 12,327,555.00	Took Levy
2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	\$ 12,155,000.00	\$12,031,916.00	Took Levy

Flat Levy
Abatement

This chart shows the history of recent Nippersink SD 2 tax levy actions. Years highlighted in yellow indicate a flat levy, meaning no increase to the property tax levy for that year. The area highlighted in gray indicates the year property tax payers were given back, or abated, \$500,000.

## Finances—June 30, 2021 Audit Results



### NIPPERSINK SCHOOL DISTRICT 2 FUND COMPARISON REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

		JUNE 2021
FUND 10	EDUCATIONAL	\$ 8,631,825.91
FUND 20	OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 4,189,989.98
FUND 30	DEBT SERVICE	\$
FUND 40	TRANSPORTATION	\$ 2,704,550.94
FUND 50	MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT/SOCIAL SECURITY	\$ 821,875.85
FUND 60	CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 2,351,938.25
FUND 70	WORKING CASH	\$ 1,177,482.30
FUND 80	TORT	\$ 665,121.25
FUND 90	FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY	\$ 134,991.13
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$ 20,677,775.61

### D2 Available Funds for Priority Repairs

		Balance 06/30/2021	Priority Repairs Expenditures per Fund
Fund 10	EDUCATION	\$8,631,825.91	(\$1,000,000)
Fund 20	OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	\$4,189,989.98	(\$1,500,000)
Fund 40	TRANSPORTATION	\$2,704,550.94	(\$1,500,000)
Fund 60	CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$2,351,038.25	(\$2,300,000)
Fund 70	WORKING CASH	\$1,177,482.30	(\$600,000)

**TOTAL D2 MONEY AVAILABLE FOR PRIORITY REPAIRS = \$7,100,000**

\*Indicates funds that capital projects can be paid from.  
\*Fund 60 must be spent on new additions. Can not be used for renovations.

# GRADE CENTERS—BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Nippersink School District 2 was created in 2000 when Richmond-Burton High School opened and Richmond District 13 and Spring Grove District 11 merged. Students in Grades 6–8 from both districts began attending Nippersink Middle School and District 2 continued to operate the two existing Pre-K–5 buildings.

Due to population and enrollment shifts over the last two decades, this is no longer in the best interest of students. Spring Grove Elementary (SGE) is over capacity and Richmond Grade School (RGS) needs repairs. There are aging mobile classrooms at both buildings that pose security risks and educational disadvantages.

Establishing two grade centers to serve all students could provide a cost-effective

solution to these problems and offer educational advantages. The proposal calls for RSG to house Pre-K–2 students while SGE would be home to students in Grades 3–5.

If the schools are reconfigured when the mobiles are removed, additional classrooms would only have to be built at SGE, not both schools, reducing construction costs. This arrangement would also provide greater flexibility if the population and enrollment shift in the future.

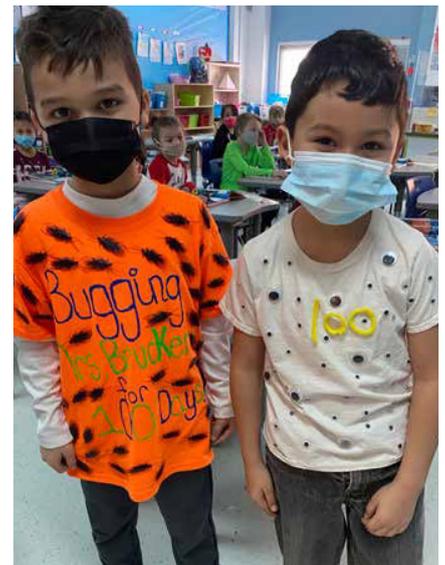
Educational benefits of grade centers include the ability to tailor learning spaces for specific age groups, improved equity, curricular alignment and staff communication.

## SPRING GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S THERAPY DOG



Spring Grove has recently begun training a therapy support dog named Loki. Loki and his brother were rescued in Alabama and fostered by SGE Speech Pathologist, Mrs. Stephanie Devine. Mrs. Amy Woods, SGE Psychologist, fell in love with Loki and adopted him. Loki is in the initial phase of his training getting used to the building and being around people. He is extremely calm and gentle around all staff and students. You can even find Mr. Pittman,

Principal of SGE, petting and cuddling with Loki. Future goals for Loki are to have him built into the school's behavior program with his "PAWsitve Pals", where students can earn time to read and have lunch with him. Students will also have the opportunity to work on their writing skills as they write, "Letters to Loki". The SGE community looks forward to having Loki finish his certification program, as I am sure they will be ready to celebrate with a party!



## RICHMOND GRADE SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

On January 31st RGS celebrated their 100th Day of School! In honor of this day, students were invited to dress like they were 100 years old or wear a shirt with 100 items on it. As a school-wide project, each class and some staff members contributed to creating our RGS 100 Acts of Kindness. These lists are hanging in each classroom and students are encouraged to check off as many acts as they can before the end of the school year.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

The Nippersink School District 2 Board of Education holds regular board meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each calendar month at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted on the posted meeting agenda. The meetings take place at the District Office at 4213 US HWY 12, Richmond IL 60071. You are invited to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

## NIPPERSINK SD 2 SCHOOL BOARD

- Liz Young ..... President
- Elke Kleisch ..... Vice-President
- Marcy Garrison ..... Secretary
- Ryan Andrus ..... Member
- Joel Johnson ..... Member
- Joe Quinn ..... Member
- Robin Taylor ..... Member

Scan the QR code to learn more about District 2 facilities.



## OUR PHONE NUMBERS

- Nippersink Middle School ..... (815) 678-7129
- Richmond Grade School ..... (815) 678-4717
- Spring Grove Elementary ..... (815) 678-6750

## OUR WEBSITE

[www.nippersinkdistrict2.org](http://www.nippersinkdistrict2.org)



## NIPPERSINK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022

- May 6 ..... Early Dismissal-Middle School (10:50 Grade Schools (11:45))
- May 23 ..... 8th Grade Graduation
- May 26 ..... Last Day Student Attendance (with no emergency days used)
- May 26 ..... Early Dismissal-Middle School (10:50 Grade Schools (11:45))
- May 27 ..... Emergency Day (Subtract one for each of five emergency days not used)
- May 30 ..... Non-Attendance Day
- May 31 ..... Emergency Day (Subtract one for each of five emergency days not used)
- June 1-3 ..... Emergency Days (Subtract one for each of five emergency days not used)



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RICHMOND-BURTON CHSD 157 WILL BE SENDING ITS OWN NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING ITS UPCOMING BUILDING PROJECTS IN MAY.