



Dear D204 Parents and Taxpayers,

Thank you for taking time to be involved in our school district and for all the support so many of you have given me the past few weeks. This is my second message to let you know why I am running for school board. In [my last email](#) we started a very positive conversation regarding finances in the district. The school board and administration have done a good job working through the economic issues our district has recently faced. Now, we need to look forward to what our budget will look like in the next few years.

As I mentioned above, the administration and school board worked hard getting us through this economic crisis. Unfortunately, some of the decisions they made to balance this year's budget still resulted in a \$5.6 million deficit, largely due to late funding by the State of Illinois. Going forward, the administration's proposed budget for 2013 still shows a \$1.9 million deficit. However, this deficit is based on assumptions that may not stand up to the test of time, including the assumption that state funding will increase over the next two years. You can see the details behind the administration's assumptions and a breakdown of district finances on my website, <http://www.rising204.com/finances.html>.

Each year we are faced with decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures. We must change how we manage our finances and avoid trying to "plug the hole" year after year - and we need to make these changes quickly in order to avoid the need to ask the public to pay more taxes or to fund a referendum (**I am the only candidate currently running for school board to go on record saying that I would not support a tax increase or a referendum**). We have built positive momentum in the district and we cannot afford to let this positive momentum slide.

Recently, I have been accused of being the candidate of "doom and gloom." I am proud of our district, our children and parents, our administrators and teachers, our accomplishments and achievements, all of our schools, and I believe we have a bright future ahead. I would not be involved in 6 parent organizations, attend 90% of school board meetings, and devote time serving in executive positions if I did not believe in our district (**see some of my endorsements below**). However, I also believe the job of the school board is to ask questions and hold the people spending our tax dollars accountable. Sometimes the toughest questions are difficult or uncomfortable to answer. However, this does not mean these questions should not be asked. I have invested over six years learning about our district and I will always ask the tough questions on your behalf to guarantee that Indian Prairie School District is the best it can be.

I believe business as usual needs to change and I believe I am the right person to help maintain the district's positive momentum through these difficult financial times. I am a passionate advocate for our kids, our parents, our teachers and administrators, and our taxpayers. I would be honored to receive your support on Tuesday, April 5th. Please remind your friends and neighbors to vote as well.

well.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Spring Break!

Mark W. Rising
IPSD 204 School Board Candidate

www.rising204.com

[Mark's Campaign Flyer](#)

Endorsements (Mark is the only non-incumbant candidate endorsed by NACPAC & Daily Herald)

"Mark Rising has been engaged and studying issues since he ran (for school board) in 2009 and would hit the ground running." - [Naperville Area Chamber Political Action Committee \(NACPAC\)](#)

"Rising is a regular at school board meetings and is well-versed in all issues." - [Daily Herald](#)

One more item. There seems to be a rumor going around that I said we only spend 7% of our budget to educate our children. Let me be clear; I never said this. The district confirmed at the March 7th, 2011 school board meeting that 7% of our budget is spent on operations and maintenance of our schools. This is in line with what I have said and believed when I read the D204 newsletter where this information was first published ([see attachment, bottom of second page](#)). I have stated the situation the same way the administration has stated things. We do spend 7% in operations and maintenance on our schools vs. 12% spent on paying off our debt of over \$300 million. What is unfortunate, and what is being lost in the conversation, is the amount of bond debt and interest we are paying is substantially higher than what we currently spend to operate and maintain our schools.