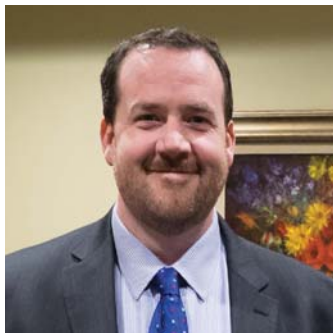




# the author

The purpose of District 21 schools is to provide a learning environment for all students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.



**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Dr. Michael Connolly

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Dear CCSD21 community member,

I am honored to be the new Superintendent of Community Consolidated School District 21. It is truly exciting to become part of a Professional Learning Community dedicated to providing an outstanding education for all students, and I look forward to continue learning about the community's priorities.

I want to thank Dr. Hyland for her years of dedicated service to and leadership of CCSD21. It is humbling to succeed her and to begin the exciting work ahead supported by the leadership of the Board of Education, the dedication of the faculty and staff, and the engagement of the entire community.

Throughout my career, I have come to be guided by a set of core professional principles. First is to collaborate with the entire community to provide each student with a safe learning environment and the resources they need to be productive members of our society. The work we do as parents, family, neighbors, and educators is most successful when we come together around a commonly held set of goals and expectations. I have a responsibility to serve the community with transparency and a deep commitment to our children, while supporting the Board of Education in being good stewards of precious community resources.

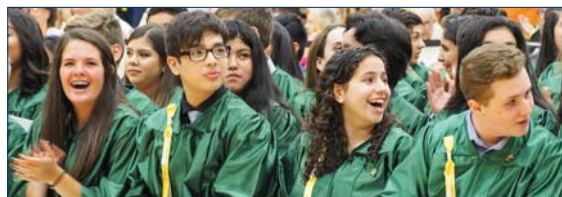
I look forward to working in collaboration with the entire community in supporting each student in being the best they can be, leading to a happy and fulfilling life in our community and country.

Respectfully,

Dr. Michael Connolly

## Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

*More than 700 eighth grade students celebrated their promotion from Cooper, Holmes, and London Middle Schools in May.*



Dear CCSD21 community,

It has been my pleasure to serve you over the past 15 years. During that time, we've seen the district take exciting steps to prepare our students for their future.

We've led the charge in our region in bringing a device to the hands of every middle school student in 2014. Through our recent community engagement process, Design21, the community reaffirmed this continued priority. As a result, this fall each student in grades 3-5 will have direct access to a Chromebook laptop.

As Dr. Connolly and I have spent time working together this spring, I know the district is in capable hands and look forward to seeing what you achieve together.



Sincerely,  
  
Dr. Kate Hyland

[www.facebook.com/ccsd21](http://www.facebook.com/ccsd21)  
[www.twitter.com/ccsd21](http://www.twitter.com/ccsd21)

# CCSD21 staff, board agree to four-year contract

A new four-year contract was unanimously approved by the CCSD21 Board of Education and with 70 percent of District 21 Education Association members voting in support.

The new contract exemplifies the dedication of the negotiating teams to forge an agreement that benefits all stakeholders in the district – staff, administrators, students, parents, and community members. The terms of the new contract represent an anticipated savings of 3.6% in operating fund expenditures as compared to the terms of the current contract.

The new contract is effective August 1, 2018.

## School Spotlight: London Middle School



After undergoing extensive remodeling, London Middle School reopened in 1996. London serves nearly 700 sixth through eighth grade students. London was recently designated an Illinois Horizon School to Watch by the Association of Illinois Middle-Grade Schools, just one of 22 schools in Illinois to receive this distinction.

Jack London's journey to literary acclaim accelerated when he left his native California to join the Klondike Gold Rush in 1897. Living in desolate northwestern Canada, London learned first hand the struggle between humans and nature, a theme he explored extensively in his classic novels *White Fang* and *The Call of the Wild*, as well as his cautionary short story "To Build a Fire."



## District 21 implements future-proof tech upgrades

CCSD21's long-term planning and budgeting process considers the technological needs of the school district. Projects are planned to ensure that proven resources are available for students and staff to learn, connect, and grow in our global society. Summer 2018 projects include:



### Chromebook Expansion

This fall, third through fifth grade students will join middle school students with one-to-one access to Chromebook laptops. More devices will be available for kindergarten through second grade students at a ratio of three devices per four students. This investment will provide students and staff regular, reliable access to greater instructional resources.



### VoIP Phone System Upgrade

A VoIP phone system will replace the district's existing, aging phone system. The update will improve the efficiency, reliability, and functionality of all voice communications district-wide. Moving forward, the district will save \$325,000 annually.



### Infrastructure Upgrades

Switches, access points, cabling and power protection components at each middle school will be replaced this summer. This is the second phase of similar upgrades that were completed at all elementary schools last year. Bandwidth and connectivity upgrades will boost connection speeds nearly 10 times over current speeds. Together, these upgrades build robust web capacity for all devices and positions the district to accommodate device expansion well into the future.

# Year-long community engagement process results in Design21 Action Plan

At its May 17 meeting, the Board of Education received the Design21 Action Plan. This report, based on input from members of the community, identifies priorities for the future of District 21.

Feedback throughout the Design21 process has been grouped into four categories. Action plan steps mirror these categories: CCSD21 Mission, Vision, and Collective Commitments; Meeting the Needs of All Students; Future-ready Facilities; and School Finance and Allocations.

A timeline has been created to complete steps in the Action Plan, spanning immediate implementation through work over the next three years. Progress on each category will be reported to the community through many vehicles, such as *The Author*, social media, e-newsletter blasts, monthly Board of Education meetings, and the website.

## ***District 21 school board considers bond issue***

Following feedback from the CCSD21 community, the Board of Education is considering the next steps to place a building bond referendum question on the November ballot.

Funding from a bond issue would be used for installation of systems to provide air conditioning districtwide, enhancements to further secure buildings, general maintenance, and preparation of physical spaces for full-day kindergarten. A building enhancement guide will be mailed to all district residents this fall, outlining improvements a bond issue could address. All information can be found at [www.ccsd21.org/bond](http://www.ccsd21.org/bond).

*A sampling of the Design21 Action Plan steps are outlined below. The comprehensive Plan, as well as all documents related to the Design21 process, can be found at [www.ccsd21.org/design21](http://www.ccsd21.org/design21).*

### **CCSD21 Mission, Vision, and Collective Commitments**

- Bring together community members regularly to review the direction of our district and recommend areas for growth, such as strengthening opportunities for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), ensuring engaging opportunities for all students, and preparing our children to be valuable members of our community.
- Continue implementation of our Professional Learning Community Areas of Focus: Literacy Throughout the Day and Positive School Climate.

### **Meeting the Needs of All Students**

- Explore opportunities to expand classroom offerings, like full-day kindergarten and dual language program expansion.
- Identify areas to incorporate more STEAM exploration into existing structures.
- Continue providing more technological devices for younger students to support learning and to connect with our global society.

### **Future-ready Facilities**

- Explore security enhancements at all buildings, such as installing improved door locks, changes to physical structures, and reviewing safety procedures.
- Develop a plan and identify funding for routine maintenance projects, some of which could lay the groundwork for installing air conditioning district-wide.
- Ensure regular technological and network infrastructure upgrades to support the variety of tools and devices used by students and staff.

### **School Finance and Allocations**

- Increase communication through budget, tax levy, and financial projection reports.
- Continue to maintain a balanced budget while improving fiscal stability, like achieving state-recommended fund balance level and improving the district's credit rating.
- Consider future options for capital projects, reflecting facility priorities identified by the community.



Community Consolidated School District 21  
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Wheeling, Illinois 60090  
[www.ccsd21.org](http://www.ccsd21.org)



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system. By signing up,  
you will receive regular  
updates, news, and  
information about  
School District 21.

