Accountability and stewardship of Pendergast District funds is of critical importance to us and to the community we serve. Since funds from the state have decreased over the past decade, careful and prudent priority setting is a responsibility we take very seriously. We have worked hard to ensure that the student’s needs come first and that we make decisions in their best interest so they receive the very best educational experience in the Pendergast District’s twelve schools. This guide serves as a blueprint to success and to show you some of the important factors that go into budget setting each year.

We are here to serve you and welcome your feedback. Thank you for choosing Pendergast as your school district of choice.

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux
Pendergast Superintendent

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of our Governing Board, where I am honored to serve as Board President, I wanted to share information about the Pendergast Elementary Community Foundation. The Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization that has been in existence since 2008. Its purpose is to promote, inspire and support students and teachers. The Foundation achieves this by conducting activities including an annual golf tournament, Dress Down Fridays, grants, tax-deductible donations and an annual Christmas toy drive.

We are so grateful to everyone for supporting the Foundation goals and activities and we invite you to see our programs in action, volunteer or to make a tax-deductible donation.

Please visit the Foundation website at pendergastfoundation.org.

Jose Arenas
Pendergast Governing Board President

NEW FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR!

VILLA DE PAZ COMPUTER SCIENCE ACADEMY

Register NOW for grades Kindergarten through 8th.

For more information call Educational Services at 623-772-2329.
In 1885, the Pendergast Elementary School District was established in a farming community serving 100 students in one school. The educational philosophy was firmly rooted in the belief that the community, staff and parents must act as a “family,” providing the academic, social and emotional support necessary to nurture capable, independent young minds.

The Pendergast Elementary School District covers 20 square miles and serves the communities of Avondale, Glendale and Phoenix. District boundaries are from Glendale Avenue to the North and I-10 to the South; 83rd Avenue to the East and Agua Fria River to the West. The District serves approximately 10,200 preschool through 8th grade students on 12 campuses.

**Number of School Days:** 180

**District Enrollment (Pre-school & Elementary):** Approximately 10,205 students

**STUDENT ETHNICITY**

- Hispanic / Latino: 74.0%
- White / Caucasian: 12.2%
- Black / African American: 7.2%
- Asian / Pacific Islander: 2.2%
- American Indian: 1.2%
- Multi-Racial: 3.2%

**English Language Learners:** 11.0%

**Free & Reduced Lunch:** 79%

**Special Education:** 12.1%

**Staff Members**

- Administrators: 54
- Teachers: 498
- Educational Assistants: 137
- Secretarial & Clerical: 115
- Other Professional Staff: 47
- Custodial/Maintenance: 124
- Transportation: 41
- Food Services: 10

**Title I (Federally Funded Reading & Math Assistance):** All Pendergast schools are Title I and offer FREE full day kindergarten and additional support services for students.
AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP HISTORY

The primary factor in determining the district’s annual budget allocation is student enrollment. Average daily membership provides for the foundation of the Arizona school funding formula. Average Daily Membership (ADM) is the total enrollment of students (fractional and full time students), deducting any withdrawals; of each school day through the first 100 days of the school year (A.R.S. 15-901 (A)(2)).

Illustrated below is a historical summary of the average daily membership in Pendergast schools. PESD has continued to show growth each year, stabilizing our budget and resources.

Proposition 123 was designed to increase education funding by $3.5 billion over the course of 10 years. The allocation provides $1.4 billion from the general fund and $2 billion from the annual distribution of the state land trust permanent funds. The amendment is a settlement of the five-year lawsuit over school funding. The lawsuit stemmed from the state failing to continue the Proposition 301 ballot measure that was approved by voters in 2000 that required “automatic inflation adjustments in the state aid to the education base level or other components of a school district’s revenue control limit.” The inflation lawsuit alleged that schools were shorted the necessary funding that was required under the measure. Each school district was allocated funds based upon their student population. Pendergast utilized the Prop 123 allocation to provide raises to all staff members, as well as, a one-time payment in fiscal year 2017.
Pendergast welcomes a new Chief Financial Officer

In January, the Pendergast Elementary School District welcomed Joanne Fimbres as the new Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Fimbres’ professional background includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and she is currently working on the completion of her Masters (MBA). She also holds the Arizona Certified School Business Official Certification through the Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) organization. She is currently a member of the AASBO Board and holds the seat of Director of Member Services. Joanne comes to the district with 17 years of Arizona school district experience. Her experience includes various areas within school district management, including accounts payable, procurement, payroll, grants management, general fixed assets, and budget and finance. As a former student of the Pendergast Elementary School District, she is excited to be part of the community once again.

School Improvement Bond

What is a Bond?

Bonds are loans that are made to the school district that are used to purchase capital items and make capital improvements to existing facilities, such as renovating or adding additional classrooms or for the replacement of aging school buses and the purchase of technology.

Why did the Pendergast Elementary School District call for a Bond Election?

- The State School Facilities Board has not provided funding for building maintenance and repair to keep the facilities up to standard for over 8 years.
- The State budget for capital projects has been drastically reduced by more than an estimated $18 million to the District over the past six years.
- Bond funding is the only mechanism to begin to restore, repair and refurbish existing facilities.

Be part of the Bond Oversight Committee

With the successful passage of the $59.9 million Bond Election on November 8, 2016, the Pendergast Elementary School District has initiated a Bond Oversight Committee consisting of staff and community members. The charge of the Oversight Committee is to work in an advisory capacity with the District to oversee the Pendergast Bond Proposal. The committee had its first meeting in January and the second meeting was held in March. The committee will meet quarterly to review the status of capital projects, bond expenditures, project schedules, timelines of bond projects and how to best communicate progress and accountability.

The Bond Oversight Committee is open to any interested staff or community member. For further information and updates, please visit the bond website at pesdbond.org or to join the committee, contact Nedda Shafir at nshafir@pesd92.org or 602-684-4806.