

DECEMBER 12, 2022
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING & 2022 TAX LEVY HEARING

A Public Hearing on the 2022 Tax Levy was held by the Board of Education on Monday, December 12, 2022, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Amy Poehling called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Poehling, Jon Cesaretti, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica,
 Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Members Absent: Anne Hart, Erin Stone

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki,
 Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Aaron Dubnow introduced Harper Choral Club students who sang a song called “Good Cheer” and then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

Paige Lunde’s 7th & 8th graders provided the art exhibit that included drawing, sticker design, watercolor painting, color reduction printmaking, and acrylic painting.

ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020 LEVY

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes to adjourn to the Tax Levy Hearing at 7:10 p.m. The meeting adjourned to the Public Hearing by **Unanimous Roll Call Vote**.

2022 TAX LEVY PRESENTATION

Mr. Bultemeier reported the 2022 levy is based upon several variables including the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the value of new construction, the county multiplier, and the Limiting Rate calculation. He noted the applicable CPI rate is 5%; within the levy request the larger assumption is New Property Growth is estimated at \$14.2M. The District’s Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) is unknown at this time, but is projected at \$1.8M. Recommended new growth within the levy is \$46.9M or 2.2% making CPI with New Property Growth is 7.2%. Total 2022 Tax Levy request is \$64,239,861 which includes SB508 adjustment of \$1,692,129. He noted the Cook County Clerk determines the final levy extension amount. Although it is customary for the District 39 Board of Education to hold a public hearing regardless of the levy increase amount, the public hearing is actually required this year since the levy request reflects an increase of greater than 5%, a total increase of 7.2%.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Cesaretti advised anyone interested to look for complete levy details within the agenda packet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes, to adjourn to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The levy hearing adjourned at 7:16 p.m. by **General Consent**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes, to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 Board of Education Regular Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development – Mr. Panzica

The Facility Development Committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 5. Bids for the 2023 projects were opened on December 1st. A summary of the bid results was shared with the Board along with projects and alternates recommended to be approved at this Board of Education meeting. The District received very solid bids that should enable the District to move forward with the desired air conditioning renovation projects.

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti

The School Finance Committee also met as part of the Committee of the Whole on December 5. The Board was presented with and discussed the updated five-year financial projections that included the final FY 2022 results. The FY 2023 budget, incorporates the recently settled Support Staff Union (SSU) bargaining agreement and reflects actual bid amounts for summer 2023 projects. The District continues to plan carefully to ensure that reserves are above the 40% fund balance target.

In addition, the Committee reviewed the Property Tax Refund Recapture Amount for the 2022 Tax Year. The property tax refund recapture amount for tax year 2022 is \$435,011. The 2021 tax year amount was \$517,804.

Finally, Liz Hennessey from Raymond James presented bonding scenarios to support the summer 2023 construction projects. The Board was able to review and discuss various scenarios to support these important renovations.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

As a part of the strategic planning process, the development of a communication plan was identified to help focus consistent and relevant communication to our stakeholder groups using a variety of media and methods. The District recently conducted surveys with parents and teachers and used those key takeaways to help inform next steps for the school year. Leo Krause and Tony DeMonte reviewed the newly developed D39 Communication Plan.

In addition, the Board was presented with an additional analysis of population and enrollment forecast. In partnership with all New Trier Townships schools, District 39 had a population and enrollment forecast completed by McKibben Demographics Research, LLC. While there are slight differences between this report and the report presented last month using the annual Baragar data, both forecasts align in presenting a forecast of relatively stable enrollment overall.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Ms. Lee on behalf of Erin Stone

The committee met on December 6. They are researching neurodiversity and its effect and impact on learning in schools. Most time was spent working in groups. Four subgroups worked and reported out at the end. The four subgroups are foundation information, parent and teacher perceptions and understanding, local research, and national research. Two subgroups are developing a survey to tap into parent, student, and staff understanding of neurodiversity and to send the same survey to local comparable districts.

Educational Foundation – Dr. Cremascoli on behalf of Erin Stone
The Foundation distributed Gripp Grants and is looking to review procedures to further reports for the spring. The Foundation Fund raiser is ongoing.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim/Mr. Cesaretti
Mrs. Kim stated the working group received an email regarding plans for the coming year. The group asked members to share with their respective board members the topic of mental health in the community. The group hoped to spend the four meetings of 2023 exploring mental health and try to utilize outside resources to guide the discussion.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Kim –
At the IASB conference in November, more than 694 school districts were represented, with 4,780 participants. Mrs. Kim represented D39 at the Delegate Assembly. There were three resolutions and five amendments to existing positions that were presented. Ultimately, the only resolution that came to a vote was the fund balances, Miller ratio adjustment, which was adopted by the Assembly. The Resolutions Committee recommended against the Firearm Dealer Location resolution. The D39 Board was mostly in support of the resolution. In such cases, the entire Assembly can still vote on the resolution if 2/3 of the delegates are in favor of bringing it to a vote. In this matter, there was an attempt to bring it to a vote, but there was not enough support.

Legislative Update – Mrs. Kim – no report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board had not received any written communication since its last meeting.

B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

Winter Weather Preparations

Dr. Cremascoli reminded families about the winter weather procedures and emergency closing details posted on the District website. Weather conditions (including temperature, wind chill and snow accumulation), street conditions (both in Wilmette and in surrounding municipalities), school building conditions and bus conditions are all considered when evaluating extreme weather conditions for school. If inclement weather conditions warrant canceling school, District 39 parents and guardians will receive an email, automated call, and text message by 5:30 a.m. on the morning of the school closing. Additionally, school closure notifications are posted to the District website. This school year, the first weather-related closure will function as a traditional “snow day,” with all classes canceled for the day. That day may be made up as an emergency day on Presidents Day through a remote learning day.

2023-2024 Registration Planning

Dr. Cremascoli stated plans for 2023-2024 school year registration have begun. Early registration helps the District plan for staffing needs and class sections. As in the past, registration will launch in January and all families are asked to complete registration by March. Families will begin to receive registration information in early January, and registration will be open to families on January 23.

2023-2024 Calendar Planning

A calendar planning committee was initiated last year that consists of teachers and paraprofessionals to assist in developing the annual school calendar. This committee convened again on December 6. They solicited and considered feedback from staff regarding some of the changes that occurred this year, such as, parent/teacher conferences held before Thanksgiving. This draft calendar is aligned with the New Trier High School breaks and notes the start/end of the school year, major breaks as well as some

holidays. Several holidays and institute days still need to be identified. The final calendar will be shared with the Board at the January 17 Committee of the Whole meeting and final approval at the January 23 Board of Education meeting.

Central Playground Project Update

The Central Playground Project is nearly complete a celebration ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Friday, December 16 at 3:30pm.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Cremascoli noted the administration has been highlighting various areas of goals and progress in relation to the D39 Strategic Plan during the Board's Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meetings. This month, significant areas of Goal 5 to "Ensure the effective use of resources to sustain practices that promote growth" were covered within the Committee and Board agenda. Over the past several months, the Board has spent a significant amount of time on the strategy of "long-term capital planning focused on facility maintenance," as noted in the recommendation of bid proposals for summer construction work that will provide the installation of air conditioning throughout many classrooms within schools. As directed by the Strategic Plan, administration has:

- Reviewed the 5-year capital improvement plan bi-annually, with a focus on facility maintenance and upgrades to sustain practices that promote growth,
- Reviewed, planned for, and prioritized building-based capital improvement projects to fit within the District's summer building use and construction schedule, and
- Designed and bid the prioritized projects on the 5 to 7-year construction projects list.

This work is important to ongoing efforts to provide for the most optimal learning and working environments within schools, including ongoing improvements to facility infrastructures, to ventilation systems, and to the classroom learning environments within the schools.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District did not receive any FOIA requests this month.

C. Annual Business

1. Summer 2023 Air Conditioning Renovations Bids

Mr. Bultemeier stated bids for summer 2023 projects were opened on December 1. The District received good quality bids on all of the projects. The recommendation for Board approval included projects for air conditioning at Central, Harper, Romona, and Highcrest Middle School plus a piping replacement/bathroom renovation project at the Mikaelian Education Center. Approval and completion of these projects would give five District 39 schools air conditioning in all classrooms. The total cost of the bid approval is \$13.7M.

2. Five-Year Financial Projections

Mr. Bultemeier presented the new five-year financial projections that includes the final Fiscal Year 2022 amounts, Fiscal Year 2023 budget, impact of Support Staff Union contract, the plan for capital projects over the next five years and many more updates since last December Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the capital projects funding and timeline. The operating fund balance was reviewed. The base scenario shows the District's budget reserves remaining above 40% in all years, while the alternate scenario has the fund balance right at 40% with two years falling just below 40%.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:100 and 2:300

Dr. Glowacki stated that these two policies have been reviewed and revised based upon Board discussion over the last few months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS**A. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Panzica, moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes to approve the Personnel Report dated December 12, 2022, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Ashley Mulholland**, effective December 5, 2022; **Heidi Singh**, effective November 28, 2022; educational support personnel resignation of **Symone Kutoroff**, effective December 9, 2022; **Nina Nissan**, effective December 12, 2022; **Alejandro Salazar**, effective January 2, 2023; tenured leave of absence of **Rebecca Kross**, effective February 15, 2023 to the end of the 2022-2023 school year; educational support personnel retirement of **Nancy Potisuk**, effective December 31, 2024: approve as second and final reading of Board of Education Policies 2:100 *Board Member Conflict of Interest* and 2:300 *Employment of Relatives of Members of the Board of Education*; approve the accounts payable for bills listed between November 15, 2022 – December 12, 2022 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$669,955.94; O&M Fund \$75,979.83; Debt Services \$979,914.59; Transportation Fund \$162,060.06; Capital Projects \$313,248.21; total all funds: \$2,201,158.63: to approve the manual checks issued between November 15, 2022 – December 12, 2022 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$781,074.02; O&M Fund \$33,135.04; Debt Services \$1,515,871.25; Transportation Fund \$272.34; Capital Projects \$ 197,288.00; total all funds: \$2,527,640.65.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Anne Hart, Erin Stone: **Motions Carried.**

B. Adopt the 2022 Tax Levy

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes, to approve the 2022 Tax Levy and accompanying resolutions contained herein for requested amounts that can be summarized as follows: Educational \$50,162,549; Operations & Maintenance \$8,551,292; Transportation \$482,310; Working Cash \$43,431; IMRF \$189,724; Social Security \$1,604,653; Life Safety \$0; Tort Immunity \$637,747; Special Education \$441,165; Total Aggregate Levy: \$62,112,871.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Anne Hart, Erin Stone: **Motion Carried.**

C. Approve the Summer 2023 Air Conditioning Renovations Bids

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes to award base bid package numbers 1, 2, 4, & 5 plus alternates C-1, C-2, R-1, and MEC-1 in the amount of \$13,732,720 per bid specifications for the summer 2023 air conditioning renovations at Central Elementary School, Harper Elementary School, Romona Elementary School, Highcrest Middle School, and the Mikaelian Education Center for the following amounts: RB Construction for an amount not to exceed \$887,600; Amber Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$1,208,500; Prospect Electric for an amount not to exceed \$254,050; Total Central Elementary School Project Cost: \$2,350,150; RB Construction for an amount not to exceed \$805,000; DeKalb Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$935,000; Prospect Electric for an amount not to exceed \$651,700; Total Harper Elementary School Project Cost: \$2,391,700; Monarch Construction Co. for an amount not to exceed \$1,019,800; Helm Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$2,493,900; Shoreline Electric for an amount not to exceed \$386,948; Total Romona Elementary School Project Cost: \$3,900,648; Monarch Construction Co. for an amount not to exceed \$1,175,000; Accomplished

Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$2,844,000; Shoreline Electric for an amount not to exceed \$588,222; Total Highcrest Middle School Project Cost: \$4,607,222; RB Construction for an amount not to exceed \$460,000; DeKalb Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$8,500; Shoreline Electric for an amount not to exceed \$14,500; Total Mikaelian Education Center Project Cost: \$483,000; Total All Summer 2023 Projects Cost: \$13,732,720.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Anne Hart, Erin Stone: **Motion Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes wished everyone a very happy and restful holiday season.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 7:58 p.m. by **Roll Call Vote.**

President

Secretary