

JANUARY 23, 2023

WILMETTE, IL

REGULAR MEETING & HEARING ON WORKING CASH FUND BONDS

A Public Hearing on the Working Cash Fund Bonds was held by the Board of Education on Monday, January 23, 2023, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Amy Poehling called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Kate Dominique introduced Wilmette Junior High School Student Council officers who introduced themselves, shared their reasons for participating in Student Council, and then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

Highcrest Middle School students created ancient atmospheric landscapes using origami paper and colored pencils. Japanese landscapes typically include mountains, flowing water, and have a unique style that focuses on beauty rather than realism.

ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARING ON WORKING CASH FUND BONDS

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica to adjourn to the Working Cash Fund Bonds Hearing at 7:05 p.m. The meeting adjourned to the Public Hearing by **General Consent**.

WORKING CASH FUND BONDS PRESENTATION

Mr. Bultemeier noted the bond hearing to issue bonds to cover the construction for installation of air conditioning renovations at Central, Harper, Romona and Highcrest Middle School and for an alternate project to replace piping at the District office. The hearing is a procedural event to declare the intent to sell bonds not to exceed \$11,250,000. Parameters of the issuance will be presented in February. The bond resolution will be presented for approval at the February Board of Education meeting with the sale to be held in the immediate future following Board approval.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Erin Stone noted she has been vocal about working in unairconditioned classrooms. She stated she had worked in an air-conditioned classroom this year and the difference was night and day. She stated it is so impactful to have the opportunity to provide air conditioning to additional classrooms.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The hearing adjourned at 7:11 p.m. by **General Consent**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 Board of Education Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jamie Dennis and Neal Nenadovak, both spoke about their comprehensive needs children who attend McKenzie Elementary School. Each parent shared concerns about the changes in comprehensive needs program schedule, the effects on their individual students, and the lack of advance notice regarding these program changes.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development – Mr. Panzica

There were no Facility Development items presented for discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 17.

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti

The School Finance Committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole on January 17 to discuss Select Student Fees for 2023-2024, the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar and Resolution, and the 2023 Bond Issuance. In discussion of select student fees, the Board considered the recommendation not to increase fees for KEEP39 for the upcoming school year. The Board also reviewed proposed fees for 2023 Summer Enrichment programming. Only a small increase in transportation fees was recommended. Regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar and Resolution, the Board reviewed a budget calendar for the development of the next fiscal year's budget. In addition, the Board discussed the 2023 Bond Issuance in preparation for the hearing held earlier.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

The Strategy Committee also met on Tuesday, January 17 as part of the Committee of the Whole. The Board received two progress reports related to the Strategic Plan. The first provided a review of progress relative to Goal 3 Action Steps, which support efforts to foster a professional community that values, supports, develops, and retains highly effective staff. The second provided a review of progress relative to Action Steps within Goal 4. This report specifically provided an update regarding the District's work in support of 4th-5th grade transitions designed to strengthen partnerships by connecting, collaborating, and communicating with families and communities to advance teaching and learning. Finally, the Board reviewed and discussed the proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar, which is recommended for approval later on the Consent Agenda.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Erin Stone

The committee met on January 10. Each of the four subgroups has the goal of finalizing draft conclusions and draft recommendations for the February 7 meeting. The timeline they proposed would be having Year 1 focus on making neurodivergent students feeling connected and accepted in their buildings; and improving upon district climate. Year 2 (for the next CRC committee) would focus more on academic aspects.

Educational Foundation – Dr. Cremascoli

The Foundation met on January 18. The committee reported on Gripp Grants applications. The Foundation is also actively engaged in board member recruitment and replacement. The committee continues plans for fundraising events. Bingo night will be held at Highcrest on February 10 and Paddle Night will be held on January 28.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim/Mr. Cesaretti – The Sustainability Coordinator was hired and the agreement will be presented for D39 approval in February.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Kim – no report

Legislative Update – Mrs. Kim

During the lame duck session earlier this month, the Illinois General Assembly considered a number of bills, including a late amendment to a house bill that would have mandated a statewide sex education curriculum. That bill was never called for a vote. House Bill 5471 was passed banning assault weapons in Illinois.

The new General Assembly was sworn in and, on its first day, the Illinois House introduced 1,124 bills. Updates on these bills will be provided as they mature.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board received several written communications from Carl Hopman regarding the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Task Force being formed to assess and recommend initiatives pertaining to recruitment, hiring, development, and retention of employees.

Two additional communications were received today. Neal Nenadovak and Ralph Newman issued communication along with communication from Jamie Dennis; both communications were regarding the student comprehensive needs program and integration into the regular education program at McKenzie Elementary School.

B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

Strategic Plan Updates

Dr. Cremascoli provided progress reports and Action Step updates on Strategic Plan efforts during recent Strategy Committee Meetings as part of the Committee of the Whole. The District Strategic Advisory Team (DSAT) will meet on February 16 to review mid-year progress. A mid-year report on the Strategic Plan progress will be presented at the Board's February 27 Regular Board meeting.

Registration and Planning for the 2023-2024 School Year

Dr. Cremascoli noted registration for the 2023-24 school year opens on Monday, January 21. Parents of returning students should register the PowerSchool parent portal; parents of new students to D39, need to go to D39 website under 'enroll' to obtain instructions on the registration process for new students. Parents with new kindergarten students are requested to enroll as soon as possible to allow staffing for the coming school year to begin. Registration for KEEP39 is open. Interested families are encouraged to register their child for KEEP39 at the same time that they register for kindergarten. Registration for the Lechner Early Education Program (LEEP) preschool program is open for the for three-, four-, and five-year-old students. More information about each of these programs can be found on school websites or by contacting schools directly.

Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Sustainability Coordinator

Dr. Cremascoli reported the agreement for the Village wide shared Sustainability Coordinator position is being finalized and expect the agreement to be recommended for final Board approval at the February Board meeting.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Park School

Park School, within the Evanston School District 65, provides a self-contained therapeutic school that serves students with significant needs. At times, there are students with disabilities that require support beyond what can be provided within D39 programming, and have therefore accessed programming available at Park School. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is required in order to proceed with placement of a student with an IEP at Park School and, thus, is recommended for approval by the Board as part of the Consent Agenda.

League of Women Voters Student Government Kick-Off Event

Dr. Cremascoli noted the League of Women Voters Student Leadership Program held its kick-off event on Wednesday, January 11. Over the next several months, students will learn about local government and the importance of an informed, engaged citizenry.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District received a FOIA request from Jeff Axelrod requesting residency documents for a specific family, and/or their children from June 1, 2021-January 6, 2023.

C. Strategic Plan Update

1. 2023-2024 School Calendar

Dr. Cremascoli stated the style of the calendar document has been updated as a result of feedback received at Committee of the Whole, however, the content remains the same. The calendar committee, consisting of teachers and support staff, helped to create this calendar. The committee continues to create a calendar that provides for as many uninterrupted weeks for learning and teaching as possible. The 2023-2024 school calendar is presented for Board approval as part of the Consent Agenda.

D. Annual Business

1. Support Staff Union (SSU) Letter of Agreement

Dr. Cremascoli noted as part of the new contract with the Support Staff Union, the SSU leadership and administrator of Technology, Information and Safety shall meet annually to review available training and stipends available to technology staff. Having met earlier this month, it was recommended to have at least one staff member receive the JAMF 300 level training proposed as a benefit to students, staff, and the District as a whole.

E. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policies 5:10; 5:35; 5:40; 5:50; 5:60; 5:70; 5:150; 5:240; 5:260; 5:270; and 7:180

Dr. Glowacki stated this is the first reading of these revised policies. Because many of the policies in section 5 are subject to collective bargaining, the union leaders have also reviewed these policies prior to bring to the Board for a first reading.

Board members proposed several edits to policies for second reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Ms. Stone, moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the Personnel Report dated January 23, 2023, which included licensed full-time employment of **Katherine Black**, effective January 10, 2023; employed for one school term to replace a teacher on leave; **Bridget Oleksy**, effective January 10, 2023; employed for one school term to replace a teacher on leave; **Marina Peri**, effective January 23, 2023; employed for one school term to replace a teacher on leave; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Anthony Brown**, effective December 28, 2022; educational support personnel part-time employment of **Nor Dawood**, effective January 10, 2023; temporary employment of **Gayle Garrou**, effective January 17, 2023; educational support personnel resignation of **Rogelio Heredia**, effective December 22, 2022; **Margot Peterson**, effective January 27, 2023; release of a probationary employee **Victoria Zahrobsky**, effective January 17, 2023; tenured leave of absence for **Margaret Donner**, for the 2023-2024 school year; licensed retirement of **Jodi Macauley**, effective the end of the 2027-2028 school year; licensed request from sick leave bank for **Employee 14527**, grant 83 days from WEA sick leave bank: to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Evanston Skokie School District No. 65: to adopt the resolution dated January 23, 2023 establishing the school district 2024 fiscal year and direct the Superintendent to prepare a tentative budget; and, approve the attached budget-planning calendar as written: to approve the select student fees for the 2023-2024 school year as contained in “Exhibit A” of the report dated January 23, 2023: to approve the fiscal year 2023 student fees for the courses scheduled during the Summer Enrichment Program. These courses include Enrichment classes and Review and Reinforcement: to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar: to approve the Support Staff Union (SSU) Letter of Agreement dated January 23, 2023 indicating changes to technology stipends: to approve as first reading of Board of Education Policies 5:10 *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*; 5:35 *Compliance With Fair Labor Standards Act*; 5:40 *Communicable and Chronic Infectious Diseases*; 5:50 *Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*; 5:60 *Expenses*; 5:70 *Religious Holidays*; 5:150 *Personnel Records*; 5:240 *Suspension*; 5:260 *Student Teachers*; 7:180 *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between December 13, 2022 – January 23, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$346,362.16; O&M Fund \$32,810.87; Transportation \$44,971.96; Capital Projects \$301,246.00; total all funds: \$725,390.99: to approve the manual checks issued between December 13, 2022 – January 23, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$1,302,234.76; O&M Fund \$199,152.68; Transportation \$143,142.65; Capital Projects \$547.50; Tort Fund \$285,779.00; total all funds: \$1,930,856.59.

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

B. Approve the Resolution Declaring the Intention to Issue \$11,250,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the Purpose of Increasing the District’s Working Cash Fund, and Directing that Notice of Such Intention be Published in the Manner Provided by Law

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the Resolution Declaring the Intention to Issue \$11,250,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the Purpose of Increasing the District’s Working Cash Fund, and Directing that Notice of Such Intention be Published in the Manner Provided by Law.

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

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

Dr. Cremascoli stated the February Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13 at 8:00 a.m., however, Superintendent Cremascoli and Board member Erin Stone have schedule conflicts. Two alternative dates/times were proposed and following group discussion it was agreed to continue to hold the meeting on Monday, February 13, but to change the meeting time to 3:00 p.m.

Good and Welfare

Member Erin Stone shared a story about a walk she took over winter break where she came upon a man she recognized from so many zoom calls with the Reopening Task Force during the pandemic. She noted he was a physician who had volunteered his time to attend these meetings. She thanked all the physicians and community members who volunteered their time and expertise during the pandemic all while continuing to see their patients and conduct their daily work. She noted it really does ‘take a village’ and expressed her appreciation for the many contributions bestowed by the community.

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective negotiations, specific personnel, and individual student matters.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:52 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:24 p.m.

Being no further business, Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary