

JUNE 12, 2023
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, June 12, 2023 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Erin Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Harper Principal Aaron Dubnow introduced the End-of-Year Writing Contest winners who shared their writing topics and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Wilmette Junior High School Bands traveled to Cleveland and Sandusky, Ohio for performances by the combined WJHS Jazz Ensembles at the Great Lakes Science Center followed by the Concert and Symphonic Bands at the Music in the Parks Festival at Sandusky High School. It was a wonderful weekend that also featured visits to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Cedar Point.

Following the festival performances, the WJHS Bands were recognized for their musical excellence with both the Concert and Symphonic Bands receiving Superior ratings. The Symphonic Band also received 1st place overall for their performance. As a collective, the Wilmette Bands were awarded the very prestigious Esprit de Corps Award for the entire festival, which featured several other performing ensembles. Band students were also recognized for how they carried themselves away from the instrument. Staff members at various locations throughout the trip stopped to comment on how well behaved the students were. The WJHS Band students truly represented both this program and the school with great pride and integrity.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2023 Board of Education Regular and Executive Session Meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ally Frazier of Wilmette spoke regarding sixth grade accelerated math program and students considered 'on the cusp'.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development – Mrs. Kim

The McKenzie PTA raised a significant amount of money (over \$300,000) to entirely fund the cost of a new playground. Besides the new equipment, the playground will include a poured in place surface that is accessible to a wider range of students. There is also a piece of equipment designed to accommodate students in wheelchairs. The Board will enter into a donation agreement with the McKenzie PTA for the new playground.

The committee reviewed the Five-Year Capital Projects Summary which is reviewed twice each year. As the project(s) targeted for summer 2024 have been identified, the committee briefly reviewed the one - page document. Progress continues to be made on the projects identified in the capital projects plan from last spring.

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti

Fiscal Year 2023 Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) Tentative Budget

District 39 serves as the fiscal agent on behalf of the special education cooperative that includes District 39 and Avoca School District 37. The Illinois State Board of Education requires WCSEA to keep separate accounting records and to follow the same Illinois State budget guidelines required of all Illinois school districts. The WCSEA budget is a flow through entity with equal revenues and expenditures. The public hearing will be held in August for final approval of the WCSEA budget.

Fiscal Year 2023 District 39 Tentative Budget

Mr. Bultemeier presented the initial review of the FY2023 tentative budget and calendar. The tentative budget will be approved in June. The final Fiscal Year 2023 Budget will be approved at the public hearing to be held in August prior to the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Annual Resolutions and Renewals

The annual budget resolutions which included the Treasurers' Bond Resolution, along with inter-fund transfers to and from the O&M Fund, Educational Fund, and Capital Projects Fund were reviewed. These short-term transfers permit timely payments of construction related expenses. The District tax levy receipts generally are received twice a year, in July/August and February/March. The 2023 payment schedule is questionable due to county issues. Due to the timing of cash flow, short-term loans may be necessary to maintain adequate fund balances.

Mr. Bultemeier stated the Board will be obligated to make payment of various recurring bills and previously approved construction-related services and materials during the month of July. Since there is no board meeting scheduled for July, this resolution enables the treasurer to fulfill the payment of necessary financial obligations between the June and August Board meetings.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

Assessments of Social Emotional Learning are administered in the fall and the spring every year to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. Principal Kelly Jackson reviewed growth that has been made since the fall, and highlighted continued areas for improvement with actions currently being taken to address these areas. She also shared information about the growth teachers have made throughout the year in their confidence and preparedness with teaching social-emotional skills.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – President Stone

The committee introduced new members and elected officers for the coming year. Discussed topics for next year which will not be finalized until next fall, however the committee is considering the topic, Understanding and supporting the learning needs of neurodivergent students, which would focus on academic supports and learning strategies for neurodivergent students.

Educational Foundation – No meeting

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim

The group had their second meeting of the year on June 1st. The committee focused on mental health challenges facing the community. The meeting was led by local facilitators who specialize in helping groups such as the Intergovernmental committee define challenges, identify possible solutions, and formulate concrete actions. The group brainstormed on where to focus efforts and what success would look like. Over the coming months the facilitators will compile the data and provide an accessible action plan. The group meets again in September.

Wilmette Community Special Education Cooperative – Mrs. Poehling

WCSEA met earlier today. The members approved meeting dates for 2023-2024; they also reviewed and approved the tentative budget and the budget hearing to be held in August.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Paflas

The D39 Board of Education submitted their proposed resolution related to School Safety and Security on Election Days to the IASB last week which would amend the Illinois Election Code 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1 to allow schools to have an option of whether to be a polling place. Registration for 2023 Joint Annual Conference for IASB is now open and will be hosted in Chicago November 17-19.

Legislative Update – Mrs. Paflas

In the early morning hours of May 27, 2023, the Illinois General Assembly passed a Fiscal Year 2024 budget and adjourned. (effective June 7, 2023). The General Assembly is not scheduled to be back in session until late October.

After months of legislative action, 75 education related bills passed the General Assembly this session. Some have already passed and been previously mentioned and some are headed to the Governor's desk for approval. Mrs. Paflas highlighted several House Bills; HB2396 regarding full day kindergarten; HB 3428 Opioid Antagonist; HB 3559 School Safety–Rapid Entry; HB3425 Bullying Notification. The U.S. Department of Education updated guidance on school prayer and religious expression in public schools affirms the generally recognized principle prohibiting public school employees from acting in their official capacities, from directing or favoring prayer. When teachers, coaches, and other school officials are speaking in their official capacities, they may not engage in prayer or promote religious views.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

The Board received written communication from Kimberly Newman, Amanda Ault, Kathy and Kevin Rubash regarding the D39 choir director position; Kelly Gruner regarding the outdoor education program; Allison Frazier regarding the Accelerated Math program and students on the cusp of eligibility.

B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

End-of-Year Celebrations

Students, faculty and staff enjoyed several wonderful end-of-year celebrations some of which included fourth grade ‘clap-outs’, Highcrest lawn concert, and kindergarten “graduations” to eighth grade promotion.

New Trier Township Equity Summit: June 22

On June 22, District 39 and Township partner districts will host a collaborative learning summit. This year's summit is focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and nurturing a sense of belonging. New Trier Township district leaders share a goal to create and sustain a culture where every community member, family member, teacher, staff member and student feels that they belong. The focus of this gathering will be to learn together with Township colleagues and collaborate to create equitable systems, inclusive environments, and to foster a sense of belonging for all members of the learning community.

Planning and Staffing for 2023-2024 School Year

As of June 8, the District has five certified positions to fill. Administration has made significant hiring progress over the last several weeks. Hiring will continue to be a focus throughout early summer.

New Principal Announcement

Dr. Cremascoli announced Nicole Ryan will be joining D39 as the next Grade Level Administrator at Wilmette Junior High School. Ms. Ryan will primarily be working with eighth grade students. Ms. Ryan comes to D39 from Stevenson High School, where she served as Principal Intern/Instructional Team Lead while also working in the classroom as an English teacher.

Curriculum Committee Updates

Grades K-4 Math Resource Review Committee completed their work this year. The District will be adopting *Bridges in Mathematics* as its curricular resource. In addition, K-2 teachers identified the need for decodable texts to support phonics instruction. The “Short Term” K-2 ELA Review Committee met, reviewed, and identified quality text sets from a variety of vendors. The narrowed selections were voted on by all K-2 teachers who engaged in collaborative decision making. These resources will be implemented in fall 2023.

McKenzie Playground Donation Agreement

The McKenzie PTA raised funds to replace one of the playgrounds at McKenzie Elementary. The project is scheduled to occur this summer and be ready for the start of school in August. This project is being entirely funded by the McKenzie PTA. As is with past practice, the Board approves and enters into a donation agreement with the McKenzie PTA for the playground equipment.

Property Tax Assessment Appeals

The District received two PTAB notices from Cook County. Information regarding the assessment appeals and potential financial impact to D39 has been provided to the Board.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District did not receive any FOIA requests this month.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. 2023 Spring Assessment Report

AimswEBPlus and NWEA MAP assessments in reading and mathematics were administered throughout the year. This report shared the spring achievement and growth results for 2022-2023 school year.

Members inquired about fourth and eighth graders not meeting/exceeding projected growth targets in reading and math. Members also discussed the possible use of an outside assessor or consultant to review the data. Additional information will be provided in a follow-up report after the fall 2023 assessment results are attained.

2. Review of 2021-2026 Strategic Plan | 2022-2023 Action Steps End of Year Report

On September 27, 2021, the D39 administration submitted the goals and strategies of the 2021-2026 District 39 Strategic Plan for Board of Education approval. Having received approval, the work continues each year and actions steps are identified for each of the five (5) years. This is the second year of a multi-year strategic plan. The report is a comprehensive executive summary that included much detail for all goal areas: Student Achievement + Growth, Supportive Community, Professional Community, Family Partnerships, and Stewardship of Resources.

D. Annual Business

1. Annual Bullying Report

Dr. Swanson reported each year the District compiles and reviews data related to incidences of bullying within D39 schools. Bullying has a specific and statutory definition, and the official count of reports and investigations must be consistent with the definition. As a District, a number of proactive interventions have been implemented, and administration continues to increase the focus on identification and prevention of bullying every year through Social Emotional Learning initiatives and attention to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. However, students do still engage in inappropriate behaviors which are, at times, identified as bullying. Incidences of bullying have been variable across the last five years, but administrations' commitment to taking all reports seriously and investigating them thoroughly has not changed. This year there have been an increase in bullying reports, and while this is concerning, it also reflects that students may be better able to identify and more willing to report instances of suspected bullying.

2. Fiscal Year 2023 District 39 Tentative Budget

The Fiscal Year 2023 Tentative Budget and budget calendar were reviewed. The final Fiscal Year 2023 Budget will be approved at the public hearing to be held August 28 prior to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The June 30, 2023 Operating Funds balance is estimated to have a small surplus of approximately \$280K with a fund balance near 42%.

3. Fiscal Year 2023 Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) Tentative Budget

WCSEA is a joint agreement between District 39 and Avoca School District 37. District 39 is the fiscal agent for the agreement and therefore requires D39 Board approval. Each year the Board is required to approve the WCSEA tentative budget for the next fiscal year as well as approve a public budget hearing to be held prior to the August 28 Board of Education meeting. The WCSEA budget has equal revenues and expenditures, with no fund balance.

4. Illinois School Treasurer Bond Renewal

Annually, the Board is required to approve the treasurer's bond for District 39. The bond requirement is 25% of the highest cash balance throughout the fiscal year, which is \$16M.

5. Budget Resolutions

- a. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund
- b. Resolution Authorizing an Interfund Loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund

Each year the Board approves a resolution to transfer money from O&M fund to the Capital Projects fund. Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) accounting rules require money spent for summer construction projects be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund, however, the Capital Projects fund has no source of revenue, so money needs to be transferred from the O&M fund to cover the construction expenditures.

At times, the O&M fund could potentially run negative due to the timing of revenue in that fund. To prevent a negative balance in the O&M fund, the Educational Fund can loan the O&M fund money on a temporary basis.

6. Consolidated District Plan

In order to be compliant with Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) rules and regulations, administration informed the Board of Education that ISBE has consolidated all grant information into one location. District practices regarding use of grant funds has not changed. A high-level summary of the plan was presented for Board approval.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20; 2:30; 2:50; 2:105; 2:110; 2:210; 2:250; 2:265; 3:10; 3:40; 3:50; 3:60; 4:60; 5:30; 5:90; 5:150; 5:260; 5:290; 6:20; 6:50; 6:60; 6:65; 6:135; 6:160; 6:280; 6:340; 7:10; 7:20; 7:100; 8:20

Policies were revised based on suggested edits and presented for second and final reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to approve the Personnel Report dated June 12, 2023, which included licensed full-time employment of administrative full-time employment of **Nicole Ryan**, effective July 1, 2023; licensed full-time employment of **David Hauser**, effective August 21, 2023; **Carrienne Goodrich**, effective August 21, 2023; **Maureen Madden**, effective August 21, 2023, employed for one school term to replace a teacher on leave; **Elizabeth Snow**, effective August 21, 2023; **Shahina Virani**, effective August 21, 2023; licensed part-time employment of **Meaghan Moriarty**, effective August 21, 2023; temporary employment of **Michael Glowacki**, effective June 12, 2023; **Faith Hincapie**, effective June 28, 2023; **Sarah Jividen**, effective June 28, 2023; **Bridget Johnson**, effective July 5, 2023; **Brian Maisel**, effective June 28, 2023; **Veronica Mellado**, effective June 28, 2023; **Perri Munic**, effective August 21, 2023; **William Nelson**, effective June 12, 2023; **Stuart Nicholas**, effective June 20, 2023; **Grant Olson**, effective June 14, 2023; **Patrick Patino**, effective June 12, 2023; **Jeaninne Salm**, effective June 28, 2023; **Annie Sheehan**, effective June 28, 2023; **Michael Southard**, effective June 12, 2023; **Benjamin Varkey**, effective June 12, 2023; **Julie Weiss**, effective June 28, 2023; **Sam Wiegold**, effective June 9, 2023; licensed resignation of **Sana Anwer**, effective June 9, 2023; educational support personnel resignation of **Diana Bogota**, effective June 2, 2023; **Christopher Glattard**, effective May 23, 2023 ; **Yudit Krupinski**, effective June 9, 2023; **Ashley Mulholland**, effective June 9, 2023; **Heidi Salgado**, effective June 9, 2023; **Kimberly Vander Yacht**, effective June 9, 2023; educational support personnel dismissal of **Lamin Fahnbulleh**, effective June 1, 2023; release of a probationary employee **Janice Gancarz**, effective June 5, 2023; licensed retirement of **Katherine Cummings**, effective the end of the 2027-28 school year; **Ann Norton**, effective the end of the 2027-28 school year: approve the resolution dated June 12, 2023 authorizing payment for goods and services between June 12, 2023 and the next board meeting scheduled for August 28, 2023: approve the renewal of the State of Illinois School Treasurer Bond in the amount of \$16,000,000 dated June 12, 2023: approve the Fiscal Year 2024 District 39 Tentative Budget as contained in the report dated June 12, 2023 for immediate public display; and further, approve the publication of notice of a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023: approve the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement FY24 Tentative Budget as contained in the report dated June 12, 2023, for immediate public display; and further, approve the announcement of a public hearing on the tentative budget to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023: approve the resolutions dated June 12, 2023 authorizing accounting transfers from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; and, approve the resolution dated June 12, 2023, authorizing an interfund loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund: approve the Donation Agreement between McKenzie Elementary School PTA and the Wilmette Public Schools District 39 Board of Education: approve as second and final reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20

Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification; 2:30 Board of Education Elections; 2:50 Board Member Term of Office; 2:105 Ethics And Gift Ban; 2:110 Board Officers; 2:210 Organizational School Board Meeting; 2:250 Access To District Public Records; 2:265 Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; 3:10 General School Administration; 3:40 Superintendent; 3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than The Superintendent; 3:60 Responsibility of the Building Principal and Assistant Principal; 4:60 Purchases and Contracts; 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; 5:90 Abused and Child Neglected Child Reporting; 5:150 Personnel Records; 5:260 Student Teachers; 5:290 Educational Support Personnel Employment, Termination and Suspension; 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day; 6:50 School Wellness; 6:60 Curriculum Content; 6:65 Student Social Emotional Development; 6:135 Accelerated Placement; 6:160 English Language Learners; 6:280 Grading and Promotion; 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program; 7:10 Equal Education Opportunities; 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 8:20 Community Use of School Facilities: approve the resolution dated June 12, 2023 authorizing payment for goods and services between now and the next board meeting scheduled for August 28, 2023: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between May 23, 2023 – June 12, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$248,874.77; O&M Fund \$42,084.29; Debt Services \$167,846.25; Transportation Fund \$220,579.14; Capital Projects \$606,947.00; total all funds: \$1,286,331.45: to approve the manual checks issued between May 23, 2023 – June 12, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$455,733.16; O&M Fund \$82,188.54; Debt Services \$475.00; Transportation Fund \$56.44; total all funds: \$538,453.14.

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

Motions Carried.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Dr. Cremascoli thanked Board members for their support of graduation ceremonies there although held inside this year, had a beautiful day and wonderful celebration.

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn to executive session to discuss, collective negotiations, specific personnel and special education/individual student matters.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:04 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:55 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 9:55 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary