

DECEMBER 12, 2016
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, December 12, 2016 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Alice Schaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Alice Schaff, Kimberly Alcantara, Tracy Kearney,
Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, Mark Steen

Members Absent: John Flanagan

Administrators Present: Ray Lechner, Gail Buscemi, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee,
Denise Thrasher

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Regular and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

None

Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Strategy Committee – Ms. Levine stated the next meeting is January 30, 2017.

Facility Development – Mrs. Alcantara stated the committee met on December 5th. STR Architects presented plans for summer 2017 construction projects, which include roofing at McKenzie, boiler replacement at Wilmette Junior High, and learning resource center renovations at McKenzie and Romona schools. She noted bids would be collected in January and returned in February. Mrs. Alcantara also stated preliminary discussion took place regarding a Highcrest space study, future capital projects, and district-wide maintenance projects. The committee also reviewed facility rental usage along with rental agreement rates and forms. Mr. DeMonte presented a report on phone system issues noting recent hardware failures and system challenges. The next meeting is January 9th.

Insurance Advisory Committee – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is on February 27, 2017.

Community Review Committee – President Schaff stated the committee met on December 5th. She stated the CRC has divided into three different teams. The interpersonal relationships team is researching current practices in the District including diversity. Another team designated to safety reached a consensus about suggested questions for a combined survey with interpersonal relationships that will be sent to parents soon. She noted the last team is committed to the audit review. This committee chose the 2012-2013 CRC report. The members have read and reviewed the report and are applying the rubric created last year. The next meeting is on January 9th.

Educational Foundation – Mrs. Kearney stated the committee met on November 16th. The Gripp Grant committee funded \$12,924 for *Breakout EDU Boxes* and a pilot for 2nd & 3rd grade classes at Central for Google Chrome Books. She noted the Foundation is planning the 10th anniversary of the Distinguished Citizen Event for the spring. The next meeting is on December 14th.

WCSEA – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is March 20, 2017 at Marie Murphy.

School Finance – Mr. Steen stated the committee met on December 5th. The committee discussed performance contracting with a presentation from Ingersoll Rand (IR). This presentation was regarding HVAC and LED lighting installation. He reported the largest positive economic component of the proposal derives from savings and incentives payments related to the installation of LED lighting. IR estimates the proposal will have a positive net value over a 20-year period and payback time of roughly 13 years. The committee asked if various pieces of the proposal could be combined or excluded. The committee also explored implications of other options suggested by IR such as additional network related costs for smart lighting, ordering in staggered manner, and starting with learning resource centers that have a current budget planned. Mr. Steen noted one item of concern was the issue of State Master Contract that has not yet been approved. The committee spoke to legal counsel about potential implications of processes used. He noted additional consideration of the proposal would be discussed at the next meeting. The committee also reviewed the levy, student fees, and long term financial projections. The next meeting is January 9th.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Alcantara stated Governor Rauner and legislative leaders met in Springfield, yet no agreement has been reached on a stop-gap budget or more permanent compromise budget. The education budget adopted in June was for the entire fiscal year. The budget for most State services is to expire December 31st. Currently in Illinois from June 1st to the end of the calendar year it takes a 3/5 vote to pass a bill that has an immediate effective date. Starting January 1st, the vote goes back to a majority. The past week the House approved a bill to amend the State constitution to require a 3/5 vote until legislators are sworn in. The resolution passed but still requires a vote in the Senate, which could take place in January. It's not clear if the Senate will have the votes needed to pass it. Legislature is scheduled to return January 9 & 10 for lame duck sessions with new general assembly sworn in at noon on January 11.

Mrs. Alcantara noted recent bills that commanded attention. An amendment to SB1393 imposed burdensome new provisions regarding student privacy. This amendment was defeated in the House Judiciary Civil Committee. She noted SB1506 adds regional superintendents, school management, and Chicago principals to the advisory council regarding at risk students. This bill was approved by both chambers and sent to the Governor for consideration. She also noted draft #2 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was released on November 18th and is on Illinois State Board of Education website for comment through December 27th.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Written Communication

President Schaff noted the Board did not receive any written communication this month.

2. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner announced the District held a “Building a Climate of Empathy” forum on December 6th at the junior high. The forum provided an opportunity to develop empathy, instill respect, and promote acceptance of responsibility within our school communities. Panelists spoke about religious, racial, ethnic, learning, gender, and socioeconomic diversity. The forum was well attended with 80 attendees and feedback has been positive.

Dr. Lechner stated District 39 is preparing for 2017-2018 Kindergarten enrollment. Enrollment forms will be posted on the District website in January. Parents may bring enrollment and residency information to their home school Thursday, January 19th and Friday, January 20th.

Dr. Lechner reported the District began administering the 5Essentials survey. The survey is administered every other year and seeks to measure the quality of learning conditions in schools. The survey is made available to students in grades 6-8, staff, and parents. The survey is open through January 16th.

Dr. Lechner announced the Science Olympiad was formerly supported by the Educational Foundation and is now managed through the District. This transition required a stipend for the coaches. Wilmette Education Association (WEA) Letter of Agreement provides a \$3000 stipend for each of the Science Olympiad coaches, both Junior Varsity and Varsity.

The District received a FOIA request from Matthew Hoffmann of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73 requesting employees' names, employment status, weekly hours worked, salary, job title, work address, phone, email, status of position, union designation, and amount of union dues paid.

3. Strategic Plan Updates

1. Assessment Systems for Student Growth

Ms. Lee stated a successful growth model requires timely access to multiple sources of data, useful student progress reports, and supportive instructional resources. She noted PARCC reports include student achievement data and curriculum feedback, however the reports are not timely and results are not received until the start of the next school year. Performance Series (PS) provides student scores within seven to ten days following the close of each assessment window. The system also provides a database of instructional resources linked to learning objectives/skills sorted by what the student has/has not met. Like PS, Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) is a computer-adaptive grade level independent assessment. The assessment is not a mastery of grade level content but an achievement and growth measure based on predictive statistics. Scores are based on the Rasch Unit scale (RIT) which indicates goal specific performance and ties directly to instructional data.

Ms. Lee stated the District is considering adopting the NWEA MAP assessment, as an alternative to Performance Series. Like PS, Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) is a computer-adaptive grade level independent assessment. The assessment is not a mastery of grade level content but an achievement and growth measure based on predictive statistics. Scores are based on the Rasch Unit scale (RIT) which indicates goal specific performance and ties directly to instructional data. If adopted, NWEA MAP offers enhanced features such as the ability to request customized norm-based reports that compare District 39 students to other like students. NWEA MAP is taken in more than 23,500 public schools across 49 states as of the 2015 NWEA RIT Scale Norms Study. In addition, four other New Trier sender districts use this assessment, allowing a local comparison of student data, increasing the ability to construct meaningful local norms. Ms. Lee stated the District will continue to review the NWEA MAP assessment and would present a report at the next Board meeting.

Board discussion included how long the other sender districts have been using NWEA MAP, why Performance Series was chosen over NWEA MAP, benefit to having a longitudinal study and converting current data, students' scores given immediately following completion of the test.

Conversation continued regarding NWEA MAP providing a parent portal, the estimated cost difference of assessments, test compatibility with iPads, assessment time, assessment adjusts to student level of performance, targeted growth targets based on scores not grade level, and occupying the existing seasonal testing window.

4. Annual Business

1. Five-Year Financial Projections

Mrs. Buscemi stated an updated five-year projection is prepared following the annual audit. She noted changes in the assumptions for this year. The impact to District 39's revenue for Senate Bill 1 has been removed. There was a proposed shift in funding toward districts with greater financial need. The Bill was rewritten, reportedly there will be no economic redistribution. In addition, On-Behalf was removed from the Fund Balance calculation as a percentage of expenditures. The State does not include On-Behalf in its operating fund balance calculations for individual districts. She stated the fund balance to expenditure ratios would not drop lower than 30% in the combined operating funds through Fiscal Years 2020-2021.

Mr. Panzica asked about the number of certified staff retirements. Mrs. Kearney asked about on-behalf payments from the State and the pension cost shift.

2. 2017-2018 Draft Student Fees

Dr. Lechner stated the 2017-2019 student fees were reviewed at the School Finance Committee meeting. He noted the Instructional Materials costs would not change except for fifth and sixth grades where a \$10 increase for iPad insurance would be added. He stated many of the proposed fee increases are due in part to increased labor costs due to the new Wilmette Education Association contract, as well as credit card processing fees.

Mrs. Buscemi stated other than instructional material fees, the athletic program indicated a loss for FY16, so administration recommended an increase of \$10-\$30 per activity based on the number of participants and the number of coaches required. This results in an average increase of 8.9% in athletic fees. She reported the transportation fee increased slightly, and added the fees collected from parents only cover one third of the transportation cost, the remaining balance is covered by tax levy.

Mrs. Kearney questioned how credit card fees are applied and discussed other fee payment options. Mr. Steen mentioned the last raise in sport fees was four years ago so when calculating the 8.9% increase over the four years, results in a little over 2% annually. Mrs. Alcantara noted the \$4.95 credit card processing fee for instructional material fees offsets only a portion of the actual fee charged to the District.

3. 2017-2018 Draft School Calendar

Dr. Lechner stated the proposed draft calendar for 2017-2018 was presented for review. In keeping with past practice, the calendar is in line with Township holiday schedules and New Trier Summer School.

Board members requested that student attendance begin after the Labor Day holiday for the 2017-2018 school year to align with New Trier's 2017-2018 calendar.

5. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 2:125; 2:150; 5:60; 7:100; 7:110; 7:130; 7:140; 7:150; 7:160; 7:170 and 7:185

Dr. Glowacki stated eight policies have been revised from Section 7 and are related to students. Policies 2:125 and 5:60 reference expense reimbursement for Board members and employees. Policy 2:150 outlines the role of Board members on committees. She stated the proposed revisions more accurately reflect the current structure and practice of the District.

Board members had suggested edits to policies for second read.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the personnel report dated December 12, 2016, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Deidra Taylor-Cubias**, effective November 28, 2016; **Suzi Miller**, effective December 8, 2016; temporary employment of **Stephen Alfredson**, effective December 1, 2016; **Daniel Levy**, effective December 1, 2016; educational support personnel resignation of **Meagan Davis**, effective March 9, 2017; **Brooke Helpley**, , effective November 23, 2016; **Shqiye Imeri**, effective December 16, 2016; **Esther Page**, effective January 6, 2017; **Angeliki Venetos**, effective November 17, 2016; **Sarah Wenning**, effective December 2, 2016; licensed retirement of **Julie Pease**, effective the end of the 2017-18 school year; educational support personnel retirement of **Vicente Cardenas**, effective June 9, 2018; tenured leave of absence of **Kristen Essary**, from approximately June 5, 2017 to the end of the 2016-17 school year: to approve the 2016 Levy and accompanying resolutions contained in the report dated December 12, 2016 for requested amounts that can be summarized as follows: Educational \$39,317,725; Operations & Maintenance \$9,000,000; Transportation \$700,000; Working Cash \$105,437; IMRF \$279,079; Social Security \$1,180,608; Life Safety \$0; Tort Immunity \$400,000; Special Education \$295,523; total Aggregate Levy: \$51,278,372: to approve the Superintendent's 2016-2019 contract extension with aggregate increase indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI): to approve the 2016 revised exempt staff benefits: to approve the Wilmette Education Association (WEA) Letter of Agreement dated December 12, 2016 modifying the language to the 2016-2019 CBA, Appendix A of the Contract between WEA and District 39: to approve as first read revised Board of Education Policies 2:125 Board Member Expenses; 2:150 Board Committees; 5:60 Expenses; 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students; 7:110 Transfers; 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities; 7:140 Search and Seizure; 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews; 7:160 Student Dress; 7:170 Vandalism; and 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between November 15, 2016 – December 12, 2016 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$338,262.78; O & M Fund \$181,628.60; Debt Service \$715,496.25; Transportation Fund \$118,546.23; Capital Projects Fund \$123,669.00; Tort Fund \$194,255.00; total all funds: \$1,671,857.86: to approve the manual checks issued between November 15, 2016 – December 12, 2016 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$32,863.56; O & M Fund \$4,607.36; Transportation Fund \$32.40; Tort Fund \$3,570.00; total all funds: \$41,073.32.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Kimberly Alcantara, Tracy Kearney, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, Mark Steen, and Alice Schaff; voting “nay” – none; absent – John Flanagan: **Motions Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

None

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica to adjourn to executive session to review an individual student matter, student discipline, discuss specific personnel and executive session recordings for disposal in accordance to Policy 2:250.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Alice Schaff, Kimberly Alcantara, Tracy Kearney, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, and Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent – John Flanagin: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:07 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:36 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Alcantara moved, seconded by Ms. Levine, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:37 p.m. by **General Consent.**

 President

 Secretary