

**OCTOBER 23, 2017**  
**WILMETTE, IL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, October 23, 2017 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Mark Steen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Steen, Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica,  
 Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler

Members Absent: None

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

Dr. Lechner announced his enthusiasm for District 39's collective effort to help Pasadena ISD, a Texas school district hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. Pasadena ISD has 56,000 students, and nearly 77% are economically disadvantaged. District 39 raised \$19,700 with a combination of online donations, collection jars in school lobbies and homerooms, and lemonade and bake sales. Our students and staff sent letters and created art to help the community recover. The Pasadena superintendent shared her district's gratitude for our efforts.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Principal Becky Littmann introduced third graders from Central School who shared their efforts of encouragement for the community of Pasadena, Texas. Students constructed an "encouragement quilt" filled with kind messages and heartfelt thoughts. The students then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2017 Regular and Executive Session Meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kate Gjaja, Wilmette, regarding incomplete and inaccurate reporting of SB1947 in the September legislative update. She suggested a future legislative update that more fully addressed the scope of SB1947 that would enlighten the D39 Board and community.

Tom Scanlon, Wilmette, shared feedback from community regarding property taxes over the last two years and information obtained at a recent New Trier Township meeting from the county assessor regarding housing values and rising property taxes. He also noted new construction in Wilmette in relation to revenue for the school district.

David Ford, Wilmette, spoke regarding the per student spending having risen 37% from 2008-2016 noting CPI increased only 1.37% per year. He noted the entire village should weigh in on this important issue.

Betsy Hart, Wilmette, spoke regarding the proposed tax levy. She noted the total per student spending from 2008-2016 had an average increase of 4% while CPI increase averaged 1.3% per year for that period of time. She asked what improved student outcomes could be demonstrated, and what metric is used to demonstrate any improvements to account for the use of those revenues. If proceeding with the proposed levy, she requested an explanation for every dollar received and the impact on improved educational outcomes for District 39 students.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Strategy Committee – Mrs. Schaff stated the committee met on October 16<sup>th</sup>. She stated the focus was solely on reviewing the 2017-2018 Strategic Plan. The committee reviewed the plan by section and after much discussion offered suggestions for improvement and report layout changes. As a result of the discussion, the administration fine-tuned the plan.

Facility Development committee – Mrs. Schaff stated the committee met October 16<sup>th</sup>. She stated there were three topics of discussion. The first topic was the Highcrest construction project with a focus on Phase 1, which included the addition of four classrooms and four smaller breakout rooms, relocation of school offices, and improvements to school security. Colby Lewis of STR Architects reviewed construction plans and updated members on a few issues that surfaced, including the need for increased fire protection by adding a sprinkler system or firewalls in the addition and auditorium where asbestos removal would take place. She noted brief discussion took place regarding Phase 2 of construction, the learning commons addition, which is scheduled for summer 2019, but not presented for approval until next year. The second topic discussed was an update on the McKenzie air handler which had been tested, balanced, and modified to address a noise issue that caused neighbors to complain. The final topic discussed was the planned 2018 summer projects, which are tagged as urgent life safety projects. Mrs. Buscemi reported that the projects could be addressed “in house” with an estimated cost of \$50,000. Also noted was the need to replace the fire alarm system at Highcrest at an estimated cost of \$125,000.

School Finance Committee – Mr. Panzica stated the committee met October 16<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth Hennessy of Raymond James Financial Inc., discussed options for refinancing existing bonds. The committee reviewed the tax levy and long term financial projection assumptions. Mr. Panzica noted this process baselines projections for future revenue and expenditures. The committee discussed being fiscally conservative in assumptions while remaining realistic and avoid being too conservative in long range projections. The committee reviewed fees for Summer Enrichment, Connecting Kids, and Science Olympiad.

Insurance Advisory Committee – Ms. Schneider-Fabes stated the IAC met earlier today. The committee reviewed the status of all benefit plans, medical, dental, life, and flexible spending. She noted due to low level participation for the Wellness Program they would review the aggregate report in January and discuss how to proceed in the future. The next meeting is January 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

Community Review Committee – Dr. Lechner noted the committee continues its work with personalized learning and is seeking resources.

Ed Foundation – Mr. Panzica state the committee met October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Foundation held a successful fashion show and Bingo night. He noted Gripp Grant submissions would be open until October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Science Olympiad registrations are open until November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board Agenda Items**

### **Legislative Update**

Mrs. Kearney reported legislature not been in session since the education funding bill passed. She noted Dr. Lechner continues to lobby the State to have PARCC testing removed and utilize NWEA MAP as a replacement. She reiterated information regarding SB1947 and Chicago Public Schools.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Written Communication**

The Board received written communication from Anne Stevens and Emily & Paul Hayden supporting the Statement of Inclusion; communication from Kara Kennedy-Lesperance regarding restructuring the band and orchestra program; Allyson Haut and Kate Gjaja of League of Women Voters-Wilmette regarding a meeting at Wilmette Public Library on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for information on Illinois School Funding SB1947. Dr. Lechner noted written communication received from Beth Feeley and Lynne Abbott would be answered and posted at the November Board meeting.

### **B. Administrative Announcements**

Dr. Lechner announced the District received the official news that Romona was named a National Blue-Ribbon School for 2017. This is the second time Romona received this award, a true testament to their excellence. He noted that he along with Principal Cindy Anderson and first grade teacher Susan Imburgia would travel to Washington DC in November to receive the award.

#### *FOIA*

The District received two FOIA requests this month: Kenneth Powell of Parent's Foundation for Education requested detailed information for all District 39 employees; Kirk Allen of American Watchdogs, Inc., requested all debt and payment obligations held by District 39 and the Superintendent's compensation, contract, and minutes and agenda of contract approval.

### **C. Strategic Updates**

#### 1. 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan

Dr. Lechner said this detailed report outlines new and continuing initiatives as well as annual business for Board approval. Three new initiatives are Kindergarten Enrichment, Instrumental Music Program, and Personalized Learning. The District continues its work regarding School Climate, Student Growth, School Attendance, and the Learning Commons.

Dr. Denise Thrasher, Kelly Jackson, and Tony DeMonte presented the report. Mrs. Jackson reported the three new initiatives were kindergarten enrichment, instrumental music program, and personalized learning. She noted these new initiatives are in the development phase, which involves researching and gathering resources, exploring best practice, formulating and recommending a plan, and reporting to the Board. She explained the background details for each of the new initiatives. Mr. DeMonte reported ongoing initiatives in year two of the developing phase were school climate and student growth. He noted the District would host parent education events throughout the year and review the Second Step program. Mr. DeMonte stated the focus on measurement of student growth captures populations of significant growth within a year, by analyzing student data through the use of NWEA MAP and eduCLIMBER assessments. Dr. Thrasher reported school attendance is another continuing strategic initiative. She stated the District's goal is to improve positive school attendance from 67% to 75% by June 2018. She noted positive attendance is defined as attending 95% of school year. Mrs. Jackson reported on sustainability planning and practices noting that by spring of 2018 administration would identify strengths and areas of need to guide further curricular work. She noted administration would continue to ensure environmental practices are applied in use of materials for grant funding and construction projects. Mrs. Jackson reported that learning commons have been added to Romona and McKenzie. She noted learning commons spaces are structured to foster an environment that promotes communication, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration (4Cs).

Dr. Thrasher reported the administration would review the related arts course progression for grades 5-8 by fall 2018. She stated administration would also execute and monitor the revised curricula and progress reporting/report card implementation. She stated the administration would continue to monitor the progress of the 2017-2018 master schedules and grades 1-4 Friday early dismissals.

Board discussion ensued regarding the difference between personalized learning and differentiation; concern about relying too much on technology; how the CRC findings on student harassment are being addressed; data noting more male students reported feeling a low level of inclusion in grades 5-8. The Board discussed in great length the language regarding bullying and decided to rewrite the second sentence in paragraph two of School Climate: Creating a Culture of Empathy Year 2: Developing section of the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan.

2. 2017-2018 Superintendent/District Goals

Dr. Lechner stated the superintendent's contract requires Board approved goals. Contract states the superintendent will develop, support, and implement plans that promote educational quality in Wilmette Public Schools. The goal areas with deliverables and measures are based on the District 39 Strategic Plan.

#### **D. Annual Business**

1. Highcrest Proposed Construction Update

Dr. Lechner stated Highcrest Middle School has had a long history of growth. In each of the last three years enrollment has exceeded 850 students. We have also added the Therapeutic Intervention Program (TIP) along with significant increases in students receiving special services. Teachers have been asked to share classrooms, teach on a cart and give up space for planning meetings and small group instruction. Our own principal had to surrender her office to help meet the needs of students & staff. Last year, teacher meetings were held to prioritize space needs. Based on this input, a multi-phase plan is being developed. Colby Lewis from STR Partners discussed Phase One, which includes a four-classroom addition along with small office/group work spaces, and an office addition with an enhanced security entrance.

Colby Lewis stated last spring he had three visioning sessions with teachers, who expressed overwhelming need for classroom and small group spaces. He explained the master plan includes four separate phases spanning over several years. He stated Phase 1 includes a four-classroom addition and security enhanced entrance. Phase 2 includes a learning commons addition, which would be relocated in the building to create a larger space. Phase 3 includes interior renovations caused by moving the learning commons. Phase 4 would address cafeteria issues and the music program. Dr. Lechner noted that each phase is independent from the other and would be approved separately. Mr. Lewis reviewed the classroom and front office addition plans. He noted the existing building is at maximum capacity for a fire zone. Two options offered to meet fire safety code were to add firewalls, which would diminish space, or add a sprinkler system. Mr. Lewis provided details of the classroom additions and the enhanced security entrance. He stated the schedule would proceed with bids solicited in January and presented to the Board for approval in February.

Board discussion ensued regarding the state of the existing buildings and investing in renovating older buildings compared to replacing buildings; Highcrest being a newer building in the District; Highcrest having absorbed two grammar schools; projections for enrollment and the possible need for another addition or if this addition be sufficient; enrollments being on a decline; Highcrest being disproportionate with other schools; TIP students included in enrollments and anticipation of TIP program growth; addition bringing the building up to par to handle student populations. Dr. Lechner noted Highcrest was originally built to be an elementary school having a smaller overall footprint.

## 2. Review the Tax Year 2017 Estimate of Levy and Approve the Public Hearing

Dr. Lechner noted this approval is to allow a public hearing and not the approval of the actual levy. He explained the proposed levy is tied to the tax cap. The formula begins with CPI at 2.1%. Any additional increase is tied to new construction in Wilmette. He noted while some tax payers are concerned about a greater increase, Cook County looks at all home values, some values increase and some decrease. Dr. Lechner stated there continues to be a significant uptick of new construction in Wilmette. He added that voters approved a referendum in 2011 and suggested that be a baseline to review growth. He also noted the significant capital improvements provided for schools without seeking a referendum for construction. Mr. Cesaretti requested information about building reserves since 2008 be part of the report.

Mrs. Buscemi presented the timeline for the levy process, noting the hearing would be held prior to the regular Board of Education meeting on December 18, 2017. She stated the estimate of levy is requested by a governmental entity based on property taxes. She noted the amount requested is not the amount the governmental entities receive. She explained it is an estimate based on several variables. The County Clerk determines the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) in June and is not available at this time. Last year the increase in EAV was 25.3% based on triennial reassessment. The year prior was a decrease of 2.64% in EAV. She noted the District is calculating no increase in EAV for the 2017 estimate of levy. The next variable, she noted, was Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is known to be 2.1%. She added that new property growth has not yet been released. She stated a twelve-year historical average was used to estimate this amount plus the impact of Mather Place of approximately \$16.5M. Mather Place had extensive renovations and reopened in 2016 and would no longer be a tax-exempt property. Mrs. Buscemi added that new property within the community is estimated at \$8M. Total new property growth is estimated at \$40.1M, actual assessed value for new property would be disclosed in spring. She noted the aggregate levy includes debt service levy of \$1.2M, which increased 4.57% from last year and reflects \$200,000 abatement to taxpayers for 2011 debt service fund. She stated the total aggregate levy request is \$53,858,546 and is a total overall increase of 4.36% from last year.

Mrs. Kearney had extensive comments about the state of the economy, home values, property taxes, referendum, and the proposed levy. Mr. Cesaretti had suggestions for changing the levy presentation to encompass the whole calculation. Mrs. Schaff noted the decrease of 100 students didn't account to \$1.4M less in per pupil funding. Mr. Panzica suggested reviewing the State and federal funding levels for a total picture. Mr. Cesaretti asked for the District policy on fund balance reserves. Dr. Lechner stated the District policy voted by the Board requires a minimum 30% reserve balance. State requirement is 25% and the rest of the township is at 50%-75%.

### 3. Fall Housing Report

Dr. Lechner stated annually the District reports the number of students attending District 39's schools (Fall Housing) as of enrollment on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This year, there are 3,594 students being educated in District 39 buildings. This is a slight decrease from last year, mostly seen in grades K-4.

In addition, administration examines the number of students District 39 is responsible to educate. This number is higher than Fall Housing as it includes Early Childhood students receiving itinerant speech, students outplaced at therapeutic settings, and students receiving special education services at St. Francis and St. Joseph's. The total fall enrollment is 3,627 students.

Dr. Thrasher noted historically when estimating enrollment projections for first grade, administration expects more students as families opt for full day kindergarten programs. She also noted the enrollments for 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are the biggest classes as all elementary schools feed into the middle school and junior high.

Mr. Panzica asked if there was any change in full time staff since last year. Dr. Lechner stated staffing remained the same.

### 4. Transportation Update

Dr. Lechner noted bus routes at the beginning of the school year had some issues. The later start times encountered more congested traffic in neighborhoods compared to earlier start times last year. In addition to congestion, there were several construction projects throughout the Village impacting bus routes. Routes have now settled down and school arrival and drop off times are improving.

Mrs. Buscemi reported in addition to congestion and construction, the routes were impacted by the number of late registrations causing scheduling conflicts. She noted 19% signed up after cutoff date which amounted to 266 additional students causing routes to be modified. She reported there is a nationwide shortage of bus drivers, which North Shore Transit was very responsive to by assigning permanent drivers to District 39s routes. Mrs. Buscemi stated the administration is reviewing alternatives to late fees for late bus registrations. She noted while the late registrations decreased from 25% to 19%, the influx of late registrations was difficult to reroute. She stated the buses are still monitored for arrival and departure times and noted upcoming winter weather would also impact arrival times.

Mrs. Schaff questioned the number of riders this year compared to last year; 39 less students. Mrs. Sternweiler asked how New Trier handles late bus registrations. Mrs. Buscemi explained that after the cutoff date, New Trier places students on buses with available seating. If there isn't available seating the students are placed on a waitlist and may or may not get a seat on the bus. Mrs. Sternweiler asked Mrs. Buscemi to find out how many riders were not placed on buses at New Trier to weigh the pros and cons of their process.

### 5. Select Student Fees

Dr. Lechner reported the administration is recommending fees remain the same for FY19 for Connecting Kids Tuition, 2018 Summer Enrichment Program fees, and FY19 Science Olympiad.

## **E. Board Policy Review**

### 1. Third and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 6:10, 6:50, 6:60

Dr. Lechner stated the policies had been revised based on discussion and input from Board members at the September meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bethanee Deliduka, Wilmette, thanked the Board and Mrs. Buscemi for their responsiveness regarding transportation issues. She asked if bus routes would be modified again for second semester bus registrations, and how much extra time to expect in the case of inclement weather. She supported the deadline consequences and suggested routes not be established until you have a majority of the population registered. She also questioned the justification for the difference in orchestra fees between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Beth Feeley, Wilmette, asked how school board and administration would address results of the 2017 School Climate survey that teachers, children, parents all reported that children with conservative views were not respected and sometimes harassed. She also requested administration address the findings that boys in grades 5 and 6 felt the most excluded of any group.

Betsy Hart spoke for Kathy Myalls of Wilmette, who said referencing the 2011 referendum would not be meaningful six years later due to the economic upheaval in Illinois. She said taxes out strip mortgage payments, this is a liability playing out across the State. Ms. Myalls requested to not extend the levy. She also noted the irony of having a request for quiet when the audience applauded the issue of conservative students being harassed. Ms. Myalls noted that on parent, teacher, and student inclusion survey comments political ideology was the second highest basis for harassment in schools. She asked for a plan to address these types of harassment.

Carol Lesperance, Wilmette, spoke regarding restructuring band/orchestra program, and felt it should be offered during the day as an elective. She noted District 39 orchestra students have difficulty with early morning practices and missing core class time for sectionals, which is contrary to positive school attendance policy. She stated other school districts that offer band/orchestra as an elective have 60% participation of eighth graders.

Sylvie Légère, Wilmette, noted the strategic plan does not include operational excellence and measurable goals toward improving/reducing administrative costs and efficiencies. She also invited CRC to look at Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, an online tool available to implement personalized learning.

Emily Downs, Wilmette, spoke about the Superintendent/District goals, specifically #2 under Continuing Strategic Initiatives for School Climate: Identifying areas of difference in the student body and develop ways to promote how these differences can be respected and celebrated by students, parents, and teachers. She noted what motivates an environment of culture of empathy, is a sense of belonging and connectedness. She asked that ‘a focus of belonging’ be added to this sentence. She added focusing on similarities creates a sense of unity for students.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Kearney requested the Tax Year 2017 Estimate of Levy and the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to approve the personnel report dated October 23, 2017, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Cesar Arroyo**, effective October 16, 2017; **Julia Johnson**, effective October 2, 2017; **Todd Neuhauser**, effective September 26, 2017; **Pawel Skrzypek**, effective October 5, 2017; **Claudia Villa**, effective October 30, 2017; educational support personnel part-time employment of **Janet Sullivan**, effective October 9, 2017; temporary employment of **Iracema Huerta**, effective October 20, 2017; **Shalla Lakhani**, effective October 2, 2017; **Samuel Rukin**, effective October 9, 2017; **Santina Tomassetti**, effective September 26, 2017; licensed resignation of **Samantha Johnson**, effective November 20, 2017; educational support personnel resignation of **Jessica Alvarez**, effective October 13, 2017; **Daniel Fogal**, effective September 22, 2017; **John Jacobs**, effective October 10, 2017; educational support personnel dismissal of **Mary Perry**, effective October 19, 2017; educational support personnel retirement of **Moshe Anwaya**, effective February 17, 2019; **Ana Hernandez**, effective October 20, 2019: approve the 2017-2018 Superintendent/District Goals: approve the student fees schedule dated October 23, 2017: approve as third and final reading revised Board of Education Policies 6:10 *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*; 6:50 *School Wellness*; and 6:60 *Curriculum*: approve to release to the public the executive session minutes of December 12, 2016; February 13, 2017, February 27, 2017; March 20, 2017; April 3, 2017; April 25, 2017; May 22, 2017: approve to dispose of executive session audio recordings pursuant to District policy for the following dates: May 18, 2015; September 28, 2015; October 26, 2015: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between September 26, 2017–October 23, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$450,109.90; O&M Fund \$164,088.30; Transportation Fund \$157,897.07; Capital Projects Fund \$94,740.00; total all funds: \$866,835.27: to approve the manual checks issued between September 26, 2017 – October 23, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$638,571.20; O&M Fund \$4,814.10; Transportation Fund \$94.78; Tort Fund \$800.00: total all funds: \$644,280.08.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent –none:

#### **Motions Carried.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the Review the Tax Year 2017 Estimate of Levy as per “Exhibit A” dated October 23, 2017; and, approve a public hearing on the proposed levy scheduled to immediately precede the regular December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Education: approve the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Kearney requested explanations about the hearing process, if the levy would be discussed at the November Board meeting, and if the public can request a hearing before the Board or ways for the public to voice their opinions. Mrs. Kearney also requested clarification on whether this vote was for the hearing or for the levy. Mr. Steen explained while the District is not required to hold a hearing, District 39’s practice is to hold a hearing prior to a vote. He reiterated this motion was to vote on holding a levy hearing.

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes noted as there has been much discussion on taxes she suggested a report be presented either in November or December explaining the request for the levy and the short/long-term results if the levy monies were not obtained.



On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent –none:  
**Motion Carried.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan.

Board discussed amendments to the School Climate: Creating a Culture of Empathy, second sentence of the second paragraph under Year 2: Developing.

Mrs. Sternweiler commented for the record regarding the CRC report, that by singling out one group of students over others misses the totality of the report. She stated the goal is for all groups to be included and safe. The CRC report was based on actual incidents, racial, religious, disabled, all groups are important, all of those children are affected, and saying one is more important than other is just wrong. She noted the District did an excellent job of including all groups in the Statement of Inclusion. She wanted her exception to identifying one group over another to be noted and that all groups should be included.

Mrs. Kearney agreed with Mrs. Sternweiler noting students with disabilities and sexual orientation were not included in the language on the strategic plan. She agreed all groups of students should be named or not referenced at all.

Mr. Panzica stated he is uncomfortable editing reports “on the fly” during Board meetings when the reports were presented for review at committee meetings. He added this is the second time this has occurred in a Board meeting. He noted it’s a procedural issue and would vote against the modification. Mr. Cesaretti concurred and while he agreed with the amended statement, he noted the need to take processes seriously. Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated she agreed with the amended statement Mr. Steen recommended and agreed that going forward this is not the best process but felt it should be addressed and voted on at this time.

Mrs. Schaff requested Mr. Steen reread the amended statement. “Bullying incidences may occur before, during and after school and take place in person or online through social media.”

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to amend the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – Frank Panzica; absent –none:  
**Motion Carried.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to adopt the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan as amended.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent – none:  
**Motion Carried.**

## CONFERENCE ITEMS

### Old Business

Mrs. Kearney mentioned the law taxes residences at a 10% rate and businesses at 25% rate. Tax extensions affect businesses as well.

### New Business

Mrs. Kearney stated she had been attending village meetings and Glenview Public School board meetings. She noticed how they conduct business at board meetings and felt District 39 is off trend in the limited amount of time for public comments. She stated at the Village of Wilmette meetings audience members are able to speak for a certain amount of time and then board members discuss what the comments presented. She stated in District 39 when a community member presents a question the response is that the superintendent would respond within 24 hours. Mrs. Kearney stated that sometimes the community wants to hear comments from their elected board and not the superintendent.

Mr. Steen noted he had two separate items for new business relating to band/instrumental music. He stated as mentioned earlier there has been much discussion about sectional pullouts for music instruction and reducing curricular instruction for extra-curricular instruction. Jazz band students this week will have 3.5 times as many minutes in band instruction than in regular class instruction if pulled to go to two sectionals each week. He hoped to continue to address the ramifications for the board to endorse pulling students out of curricular activities for extra-curricular activities.

The second item of new business is the fact that students in instructional music/band receive grades on report cards and transcripts though band/instructional music are extra-curricular activities. Mr. Steen sought a motion to approve a statement. He stated that is it not board policy to decide what grades are put on report cards or transcripts, that is administrative practice not board policy. Therefore, Mr. Steen requested a motion to recommend a different practice, noted this would just be a statement of the sense of the board.

“The Board believes it should no longer be the practice of the district that grades for extra-curricular activities including band be a part of school report cards or transcripts.”

Mrs. Kearney questioned whether other extra-curricular activities such as wrestling, basketball, volleyball received grades.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the following statement: “The Board believes it should no longer be the practice of the district that grades for extra-curricular activities including band be a part of school report cards or transcripts.”

By voice vote, the statement was approved by **General Consent**.

Members of the Board requested a decision on this issue be completed this year rather than a two-year cycle. Dr. Lechner stated as part of the strategic plan this would be completed this year with a recommendation for the fall. Mrs. Kearney requested the statistics from Mr. Steen, which he provided.

Mrs. Kearney had questions about the statistics and noted orchestra students are also pulled from academic classes. Mr. Steen clarified that orchestra students only have three morning practices per week, while band has five. Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated as this is a significant issue would it be possible to have this segment of the strategic plan be expedited for completion by the end of the calendar year. Dr. Lechner stated with the few weeks remaining in the calendar year that would not be possible. Mrs. Schaff noted this discussion has been ongoing, which is why it was prioritized in the strategic plan that was just approved.

**Good and Welfare**

None

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation and specific personnel.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent –none: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:48 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 10:12 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 10:14 p.m. by **General Consent.**

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President

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Secretary