

NOVEMBER 14, 2016
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, November 14, 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, John Flanagin, Tracy Kearney,
 Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, Mark Steen (7:25 p.m.)

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Becky Littmann introduced fourth grade students from Central School who recently participated in the “You Can Make a Difference” program, an interactive exhibit at the Holocaust Museum that teaches respect for diversity. The students then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

Central School’s Selfie Mural was displayed in the Board room. The first through fourth grade students created special monochromatic self-portraits. Students learned a range of values for each color. Together they became all the colors of the rainbow. Per Maya Angelou, “Be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud”. Ms. Bergnard also shared second graders sky murals in tribute to Georgia O’Keefe’s *Sky Above*, an enormous painting on display at the Chicago Art Institute.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Flanagin moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to accept the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Regular and executive session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

Erin Stone, Wilmette resident, regarding School Board Members Day, thanking the Board for their self-less service to the students of District 39.

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 November 7th. The committee reviewed floor plans for the future library commons at McKenzie and Romona, as well as preliminary cost estimates for both spaces, including HVAC systems, ductwork and LED lighting. The committee asked Ingersoll Rand representatives to consult with the District’s architects to provide estimated costs of energy-efficient HVAC systems, including short and long term cost savings. Ingersoll Rand presented information on a possible district-wide LED lighting retrofit proposal with projected grant funding and energy savings. STR Architects presented very early ideas in preparation for a Highcrest space study. The committee reviewed current floor plans and discussed problem areas and re-configuration possibilities. The next meeting is December 5th.

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

Community Review Committee – Mrs. Schaff stated the committee met on November 7th. She noted the three main subcommittees reported on their work to date, researching current practices and conducting surveys. She noted a district-wide forum on school climate would be conducted in December. Last year’s CRC recommended conducting an audit on a previous report. The audit committee chose to review the 2012-2013 Technology and Learning Environments report. The next meeting is on December 5th.

Educational Foundation – President Schaff stated the next meeting is on November 16th.

WCSEA – Mrs. Kearney stated the committee met today and approved the Fiscal Year to Date Activity through October 31, 2016. They also accepted the FY16 Annual Financial Report. The next meeting is March 20, 2017 at Marie Murphy.

School Finance – Mr. Flanagin stated the committee met on November 7th. The committee met with Scott Duenser of Klein Hall and Associates. The firm issued an unmodified opinion letter to D39 for the year ending June 30, 2016. The District received an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) financial recognition score of 4.0 out of 4.0. The committee discussed student fees and a draft plan for FY18. Mr. Flanagin noted the District received a very positive response to the removal of the \$4.95 credit cards processing fee. The administration is examining the possibility of waiving the credit card fee for 2017-2018 registration. The committee reviewed the iPad 1:1 program fee structure and agreed to combing iPad and technology amounts. They also agreed to incorporate the \$10 insurance charge into the instructional material fee. Finally, the committee reviewed a draft of long term projections and assumptions, with a focus on a potential tax freeze and expected pension cost shift. They reviewed educational fund changes in the levy amount due to reallocation of funds to Operations and Maintenance to cover planned projects. He noted the Transportation, IMRF, and Tort funds are being spent down. The next meeting is December 5th.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Alcantara reported the “Safe Roads Amendment” was on the ballot as a proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution. She noted the amendment passed, which means billions of State dollars would be set aside for transportation projects, possibly causing financial strain in the future. She stated time would tell if the amendment has any effect on transportation budgets within public school districts and on the ability to transfer funds out of the transportation budget.

Mrs. Alcantara stated the Veto Session begins November 15th in Springfield. One of the bills on the table is Senate Bill 2912, which includes provisions that could help ease the shortage of substitute teachers and streamline license reciprocity for educators trained outside of Illinois. The bill passed in the Senate last spring but was not yet called for a vote in the House.

Good and Welfare

President Schaff requested Good and Welfare be moved to this portion of the meeting. She congratulated the Chicago Cubs on winning the World Series and asked Dr. Lechner to share his recent Friday Minute that highlighted District 39 staff and students celebrating the Cubs World Series victory.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received written communication from Michael Min of Yes Class & RoboThink Wilmette regarding a robotics education program for students.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner announced School Board Members Day is November 15th. This is the eighth annual “School Board Members Day” in Illinois. This day provides the District and community the opportunity to thank local board of education members for their commitment in providing a local governance voice for public schools. He noted the leadership for our community, for our schools, and for our future begins with the tireless work of our locally-elected school board members.

Dr. Lechner stated parent teacher conferences took place November 10th and 11th. Ms. Katie Lee stated conferences provide an opportunity for families and teachers to discuss student progress and provide guidance for students on how to reflect and set goals. She stated the annual parent teacher conferences were successful with 90-96% of attendance in all schools. Parents unable to attend face-to-face conferences were updated via phone/email.

Dr. Lechner reported the Illinois School Report Card is now available online. This announcement meets the annual requirement of presenting the report card to the school board and posting it on the District website. Parents or community members without access to a printer are able to request a hard copy of the school report card by contacting the district office.

The District received a FOIA request from Lindsey Lyman of Winnetka requesting 2014-2016 eighth grade ERB scores for New Trier Placement, 2015-2016 PARCC scores, and 2014-2016 Performance series scores.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. Response to Board Questions

a. Freshman Survey

Principal Kelly Jackson stated each fall the results from the New Trier High School (NTHS) Freshman Survey are presented to the Board. This past September the survey revealed a decrease in the number of students feeling prepared in the area of science. She noted the science department at Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) spent time investigating why students felt less prepared for science classes at the high school. Her report focused on the potential reasons for the decline and shared a plan developed by the WJHS science department that provided support to students in the transition to high school.

Mr. Steen noted his appreciation for how the information was obtained, measured, and then processed in a way that informed New Trier teachers, allowing science teachers to open up a new dialogue and collaboration. Ms. Levine requested feedback from New Trier on how students were performing. Mrs. Kearney asked if the high school science curriculum is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards.

b. 2016 Fall Assessment Report

Katie Lee provided responses to Board questions proposed following the 2016 Fall Assessment Report presented in October. She reported on how Illinois’ performance closely aligns with other states results for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). She provided information on gender differences for PARCC results stating significant differences were noted in grades 4 and 8 in English Language Arts (ELA). However, no differences were present in mathematics at any grade level.

Regarding Performance Series questions, she noted the District defined growth/gains ranges based on historical data. The last row of the data table reflected the quantity of students having met expected gains. The growth model goal would be to maintain the

patterns of prior years at approximately 75% or higher. The variance in the pattern established is +/-5% from 75%. Ms. Lee also noted area districts had not participated in Performance Series. Therefore, local comparison pools were not available.

Mr. Panzica asked if there was a plan to address the statistically significant variance between the gender comparison scores along all grades levels for PARCC ELA scores. Ms. Lee stated the curriculum review is currently ongoing and would be addressed with teachers during professional development. In addition, beyond reviewing test score data, the teacher representatives could incorporate strategies to meet the needs of male students in ELA.

D. Annual Business

1. Fiscal Year 2016 Financial Audit

Mrs. Buscemi stated the auditors of Klein Hall and Associates found the District's records to be in full compliance with standard accounting practices and materially accurate in all respects. She introduced Scott Duenser of Klein Hall Associates to present the District's financial report. Mr. Duenser reviewed the regulatory filing process. He stated Klein Hall issued District 39 an unmodified opinion for the year ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Duenser reviewed the Government-wide Financial Statement, bond statements, and debt certificates. He then updated the Board on governmental accounting language changes.

2. Long Term Enrollment Projections

Dr. Lechner presented the report stating the District's move-in rate continues to be strong, which balances lower birth rates. The District continues to have the largest enrollment increase from Kindergarten to first grade, then a steady 2-4% increase for each successive grade. He stated the "net" outcome overall is that enrollments remain relatively stable.

3. 2017-2018 Solicitation of Bids for Recommended Summer Projects

Dr. Lechner stated the Facility Development Committee and administration recommended approval to solicit bids for the FY 2017-2018 summer projects. The estimated cost of the projects is \$3,093,337 and would be paid out of Capital Outlay and reserves in the Operations and Maintenance Fund. Mrs. Buscemi stated projects included library commons at Romona and McKenzie, and both commons areas would require HVAC replacement. Also, partial roof replacement at McKenzie and boiler replacement at the junior high.

4. 2016-2019 Wilmette Education Association (WEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement

Dr. Lechner announced the WEA ratified the tentative contract on Monday, November 7th. The contract would be posted online following approval by the Board of Education. Dr. Lechner thanked the Board and the WEA for the continuous collaboration and teamwork during the negotiating process. President Schaff congratulated WEA and negotiating team for their hard work and contributions in this process. She added both teams worked earnestly, honestly, and respectfully.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 7:190; 7:210; 7:220; 7:230

Dr. Lechner stated recommended Board revisions to Policies have been made and are presented for approval as second read.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to approve the personnel report dated November 14, 2016, which included licensed full-time employment of **Jennifer Gooze**, effective December 14, 2016; **Brittany Voss**, effective November 15, 2016; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Mary Van Valkenburgh**, effective November 28, 2016; temporary employment of **Hiba Abbasi**, effective October 24, 2016; licensed resignation of **Julie Calcagno**, effective November 15, 2016; to accept the fiscal year 2016 annual financial audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Wilmette Public Schools as presented by Klein Hall CPAs, of Aurora, Illinois; approve the fiscal year 2018 solicitation of bids for construction projects dated November 14, 2016 with expenditures estimated at \$3,093,337 for non-life safety projects; approve the 2016-2019 contractual agreement between the District 39 Board of Education and Wilmette Education Association (WEA); approve the Support Staff Union (SSU) Letters of Agreement dated November 14, 2016. The first Letter of Agreement provides for a cell phone stipend for building based technicians; the second Letter of Agreement provides for a stipend for a technician to support the management of the Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) auditorium; approve as second and final reading revised Board of Education Policies 7:190 Student Discipline (renamed Student Behavior); 7:210 Expulsion Procedures; 7:220 Bus Conduct; and 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities; to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between October 25, 2016 – November 14, 2016 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$264,365.46; O & M Fund \$110,375.47; Debt Service \$1,021,631.50; Transportation Fund \$146,534.26; total all funds: \$1,542,906.69; to approve the manual checks issued between October 25, 2016 – November 14, 2016 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$439,066.51; O & M Fund \$31,260.49; Transportation Fund \$28.74; Capital Project Fund \$(16,016.80); total all funds: \$454,338.94.

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

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

President Schaff read the press release announcing the Wilmette Education Association contract approval.

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to adjourn to executive session to discuss specific personnel.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:15 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:48 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Flanagin moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary