

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 26, 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

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Sue Kick introduced new students from Harper School to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to accept the minutes of the August 29, 2016 Regular and executive session meetings. The minutes were approved as amended by **General Consent**.

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to accept the minutes of the August 29, 2016 Budget Hearing. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PRESENTATIONS BY AUDIENCE

None

Board Committee Reports

Strategy Committee – Mr. Steen stated the committee met on September 19th and identified three different groups of strategy initiatives at varying levels of development.

Facility Development – Mrs. Alcantara stated the next meeting is on October 17th.

Insurance Advisory Committee – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is on October 17th.

Community Review Committee – Mr. Steen stated the committee met on September 12th. The committee divided into groups, assigned topics, and defined work streams for each group. He noted the next meeting is on November 7th.

Educational Foundation – Mrs. Alcantara stated the committee met September 14th. The Attire to Inspire Fashion show held on September 22nd was a big success. The foundation also discussed Science Olympiad classes, the Gripp Grant program, and the Bingo and Trivia night fundraisers. The next meeting is on October 19th.

WCSEA – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is on November 14th at MEC.

School Finance – Mr. Flanagin stated the next meeting is on October 17th.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Alcantara reported in Springfield an evidence based school funding model has taken hold, with a bipartisan funding commission meeting every two weeks. The goal appears to be for funding to follow students with low income students first, and lost revenue to school systems ensues only when enrollment drops. She noted rumblings the commission may consider a tax increase and tax freeze occurring simultaneously. Constitutional changes for pension reform are under review with some form of cost shift to school districts being a likely outcome after a new school funding formula is established. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. The new accountability model includes four factors; proficiency, student growth, ELL growth, and a flexible fourth measure, for which Illinois is contemplating student attendance and a single eighth grade “on track” measure. Mrs. Alcantara stated the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced the Standard Achievement Test (SAT) would be used in high schools in lieu of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). She noted Dr. Lechner along with area superintendents are advocating for an alternate assessment in elementary districts as well.

Mrs. Kearney had questions regarding the evidence based model, prevailing wage and collective bargaining practices, pension reform and reverse cost shift, proficiency scores for ESSA, and the percentage of federal funding received.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received written communication from Keith Dronen of Wilmette regarding former District 39 alumni David Fahnbulleh, who came from a Liberian refugee camp. David Fahnbulleh received the Evans Scholarship and is now the Evans Scholar Chapter House President at Purdue University.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner stated the Department of Curriculum and Instruction along with teachers worked on several writing projects over the summer. Highcrest staff aligned grade level curriculum maps to the Next Generation State Science Standards (NGSS). Teachers from all grade levels adopted writing curriculum materials to the English Language Arts curriculum maps.

Dr. Lechner reported ISBE will administer the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey this year. Teachers, students and parents will complete the survey from November 16, 2016 through January 16, 2017. The survey provides school districts with information on school culture and climate in the five leading areas of school improvement: Effective Leadership, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment and Ambitious Instruction. The data is published on the Illinois State Report card the following year.

Dr. Lechner stated District 39 is proud to host Mindset Revolution parent night on September 29th. He announced Stanford University’s Dr. Jo Boaler and Cathy Williams would speak to parents about teaching math for a growth mindset and the implications for children. Parents would learn ideas grounded in research that can be reinforced so all children can grow confidently as mathematical thinkers. The event would be held at the Wilmette Junior High auditorium with 585 parents registered to attend.

The District received two FOIA requests: Jared Rutecki of Better Government Association requesting collective bargaining agreements, administrator contracts, 2016-17 budgets, payroll and legal settlements from August 1, 2015 to present; Gabrielle Lauricella of SmartProcure for all purchasing records from June 16, 2016 to present.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. 2016-2017 District 39 Strategic Plan

Ms. Lee, accompanied by building administrators, presented the Strategic Plan report. Ms. Lee outlined new initiatives such as school climate, student school day schedules, attendance, and student growth. She reviewed continuing initiatives such as sustainability planning and practices, and the learning commons. Ms. Lee explained the administration's commitment to the work of respective departments in various annual business goals.

Board questions included amount of out-of-school student incidents possibly being connected to technology and social media, amount of racial or religious tension incidents, addressing the attendance wave trend due to social anxiety, observe cohort levels to understand what drives attendance issues, the student growth model for all students not just lower performers, parent feedback and education regarding absences due to anxiety, use of learning commons after school in junior high, reaction response for growth initiatives, and school schedules.

D. Annual Business

1. New Trier High School Freshman Survey

Principal Kelly Jackson presented data from the New Trier High School annual freshman survey. The results are a validation of great work in eighth grade and throughout the District. The numbers provide awareness of recent improvements in curriculum and staff collaboration that continues to prepare students for the rigors of high school. Mrs. Jackson reviewed the academic preparedness data.

Board discussion took place about students' study skill levels; District 39's lower percentage in science; the percentage of students taking physics increased by 8% this past year; implementation in NGSS along with new science labs, new curriculum, and articulation process attributing to the rise in physics students; maturity level of students for inquiry based study and peer assessments; recommendation levels for high school; and if Physics>Chemistry>Biology (PCB) offerings were always at levels three and four. Mr. Steen requested a follow up on science data prior to the end of the year. President Schaff requested the PCB students preparedness be studied further.

2. Application for the Recognition of Schools

Dr. Lechner stated in the fall of each year ISBE asks Districts to apply for Recognition of Schools. He explained the District is "certifying" that certain required practices are being completed at our schools (e.g. indicating that individuals are qualified/certified to perform the duties of their assigned position). He noted this a mandated annual approval.

3. Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) 2016

Dr. Thrasher reported the Summer Enrichment Program was housed at Romona and Wilmette Junior High schools. She noted 551 students attended and 132 classes were offered. Parent feedback was positive. Dr. Thrasher noted two changes for the program. A new online enrollment system and fee payment program proved to be efficient. The second change was eliminating the tuition cost for BASIC classes, which resulted in no significant enrollment changes. She added that the SEP program is cost neutral, except for transportation which had a loss of \$16,401.

Mrs. Kearney noted enrollment seemed to increase when it was hosted at Highcrest Middle School. She also noted an increase in Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Mr. Panzica noted parent evaluations were all positive, however the amount of surveys received was minimal. Ms. Levine asked if repeat families participating are tracked annually.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Students Policies 7:15; 7:20; 7:30; 7:35; 7:40; 7:50; 7:70 and 7:90

Dr. Lechner stated the second read policies containing revisions and suggested edits proposed at first reading. Legal counsel provided proposed suggestions for revisions. The proposed policies reflect all of these suggested edits.

Mrs. Kearney requested clarification for Policy 7:50 regarding students eligible for admission at 3 years of age, which pertains to students eligible for special education services. She also asked if Policy 7:70 could be rewritten to note the age for compulsory school attendance to be 15 as opposed to 17 as they are no longer District 39 students after eighth grade. The Board recommended tabling Policy 7:70 for third read at the next Board meeting.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jasmina Hauser of Wilmette, regarding District 39 residents serving as delegates on the New Trier school board caucus.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to approve the Personnel Report dated September 26, 2016, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Donna Buss**, effective September 15, 2016; **Erin Kelp**, effective September 7, 2016; **Peter Lenz**, effective September 16, 2016; **Benjamin Lipman**, effective September 15, 2016; **Maureen Quinn**, effective September 27, 2016; **Samuel Scherer**, effective August 30, 2016; educational support personnel part-time employment of **Charvis Peoples**, effective September 19, 2016; **Lisa Zagorin**, effective September 6, 2016; temporary employment of **Courtney Rich**, effective September 16, 2016; certified resignation of **Stephanie Dorsey**, effective September 30, 2016; educational support personnel resignation of **Tami Zylka**, effective September 29, 2016 (revised date); release of a probationary employee, **Ingrid Ippach**, effective September 7, 2016; tenured leave of absence of **Emily Vaughn**, effective approximately March 27, 2017 to the end of the 2016-17 school year: to approve the implementation of the 2016-2017 District 39 Strategic Plan: to approve the 2016-2017 Application for Recognition of Schools: to approve as second and final reading revised Board of Education Policies 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights; 7:20 Harassment of Students; 7:30 Areas of Attendance; 7:35 Assignment to Teachers and Classes; 7:40 Promotion/Retention/Acceleration renamed Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students; 7:50 School Admissions; and 7:90 Attendance Excuses renamed Release During School Hours: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between August 30, 2016 – September 26, 2016 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$315,084.80; O & M Fund \$154,776.08; Transportation Fund \$47,478.00; Capital Projects Fund \$522,862.50; total all funds: \$1,040,201.38: to approve the manual checks issued between August 30, 2016 – September 26, 2016 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$420,524.22; O & M Fund \$28,174.79; Transportation Fund \$12.54; total all funds: \$448,711.55.

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.**

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to table Policy 7:70 Registration.

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: **Motion Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

Mrs. Kearney noted that some committee minutes aren’t posted on the website. She also noted that WCSEA and IAC meeting dates are missing from the online District calendar. She also requested a committee description for each committee be listed on the website along with Board members’ committee assignments.

New Business

Mrs. Schaff asked to have administration review Board of Education Policy 2:150 Committees to reflect current practices.

Good and Welfare

None

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to adjourn to executive session to review executive session minutes, review executive session recordings for disposal in accordance to Policy 2:250, discuss collective bargaining and 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 8:38 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:58 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 10:00 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary