

**WILMETTE, IL**  
**APRIL 25, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 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 Cindy Anderson introduced Mrs. Karwowski, head of the Student Advisory Council at Romona School. Mrs. Karwowski introduced third and fourth graders who spoke about recent student council projects and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ARTWORK**

President Schaff noted Wilmette Junior High School's Art Teacher Eric Willson presented an array of artwork in the Boardroom this month. Mr. Willson noted photography continues to saturate the social and artistic landscape of the teenager's life. Students are improving composition, editing and communication skills through the evolution of photography at the junior high. The images displayed were a collection of works donated by former students over the past ten years. Current students displayed photographs at the New Trier Art Exhibit held April 11<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin to approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2017 Regular and Executive Session Meetings; Minutes of the April 3, 2017 Special and Executive Meetings; Minutes of the April 10, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joshua Eliscu of East Glenview, thanked the District for obtaining the Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessment program.

Ann Dronen of Wilmette, spoke on behalf of Keith Dronen who was out of town. Mr. Dronen thanked Mrs. Alcantara, Mr. Flanagin, and Ms. Levine for their eight years of service, six of which he shared, and their dedication to moving education forward.

Joan LaSonde of Wilmette, thanked outgoing Board members for their service and congratulated new members. She spoke about the politics of the election and the candidate that was not elected, Gail Szulc.

Beth Feeley of Wilmette, regarding the local election and the support group called "Wilmette Friends".

Betsy Hart, Wilmette, regarding her membership in Parents of New Trier (PONT), the recent racial seminar day held at New Trier, and the conflict with stand.org/I Support Seminar Day. She also spoke about the Wilmette Friends group.

Sarah Titterton of Wilmette, spoke as an organizer of Wilmette Friends. She stated she was proud of the election, felt the group looked out for community's interest and thanked board members for their service.

Jasmina Hauser of Wilmette, spoke about Board members of District 39 participating in stand.org.

Emily Downs of Wilmette, regarding exceptional education experiences and the reason behind the culture of empathy initiative.

Dan Fogel of Wilmette, thanked outgoing and incoming Board members for volunteering hours of their time to be good stewards of District 39 tax dollars and enhancing education for children.

Carol Anne Zordani-Enright of Wilmette, asked if the Board plans to submit a questionnaire to parents and teachers regarding the iPad program. Dr. Lechner responded that one would be issued next year.

### **Board Committee/Liaison Reports**

Committee of the Whole: Facility Development, School Finance and Strategy Committee – President Schaff reported the committees met on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Facility and Finance issues discussed included the second round of bids for learning commons projects. She noted costs were reduced by \$160,000 for McKenzie and \$105,000 for Romona. The committee also received bids for large space HVAC that came in less than projected. The bids to replace unit vents at Romona came in just above the estimate. These items are on the consent agenda for approval. President Schaff noted the space study at Highcrest is underway. STR Architect Colby Lewis discussed changes for the cafeteria and noted plans continue for kitchen and cafeteria seating. Mrs. Buscemi presented the FY18 Operating Funds Tentative budget which would be reported later in the agenda. Mr. DeMonte reviewed the presentations from three phone vendors highlighting the advantages/disadvantages for each phone system offered. The next step is to present a formal proposal and expect installation over the summer. Mrs. Schaff noted strategy items discussed were the technology vision review presented by Mr. DeMonte. He spoke about equipment and devices utilized in the District including a third-grade Chromebook pilot at Central. The committee discussed various devices and supports for specific grade levels. Conversation about K-4 technology access and options for technology in fourth grade took place. Mr. DeMonte explained that District 39 and other sender schools are studying digital citizenship so all students reach New Trier with baseline knowledge. President Schaff reported District 39 has been collecting data on learning commons usage. The committee members and administration would like to shift focus on learning commons assessments and develop a method for assessing the impact of learning commons and enhance the learning experiences for students. Proposed strategic initiatives were discussed. Principal Jackson shared a draft inclusivity statement compiled by teachers at the middle school and junior high. Ms. Lee presented initial work on a personalized learning plan for the District. Finally, a review of the instrumental music programs was discussed. The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Insurance Advisory – Ms. Kearney stated the Insurance Committee meets on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Community Review Committee – President Schaff stated the committee met Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Culture of Empathy is the CRC's topic this year. She noted the three subcommittees, Interpersonal Relationship, School Safety, and Audit. The responses from the Interpersonal Relationship and School Safety surveys are being reviewed and analyzed. Best practices of other districts are being researched. The committees plan to finalize their reports for initial presentation at the Board Strategy Committee and the final report presented at the June Board meeting. The next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Educational Foundation – President Schaff reported the committee met April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Foundation was focused on preparation for the 10 Everyday Heroes event to be held April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Kenilworth Club. The next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

WCSEA – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Parent/Teacher Behavior Advisory Committee – President Schaff noted this committee has not yet met. The first meeting is on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 a.m.

#### Legislative Update

Mrs. Alcantara updated the community regarding the school funding formula and use of an evidence based model. The lack of a State budget is still a concern. The Federal education budget has not been approved, however proposed cuts agreed upon would reduce funding by approximately \$46,000 to the District. HB4003 was introduced, this legislation provides that a public body may deny a FOIA request if it is for commercial purposes, made by the same person for the same records previously provided, or less than six months following the previous request. This bill was initiated by District 39.

Mrs. Kearney questioned what evidence based funding is based on and what percentage of the District's budget is state funded.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. Written Communication

The Board received written communication regarding school schedules and busing from Jacki Krashin, Traci Knudson, Meghan MacKinnon, Laura Hemmer, M.D., Rachel Smith Plawsky, Erika Milbratz, Carolyn Cornwell, Tara VanderKamp, Gail Thomason, Meghan Busse, Kimberly Newman, Julie Hanahan, and Bill Milbratz. The Board also received written communication from Emily Downs concerning the Locust Road pedestrian crossing, Susan Iskowich regarding an iPad study, and Hilary Harvey, Wilmette Junior High Social Worker regarding additional support personnel.

#### B. Annual Business

##### 1. Summer Construction Projects

##### a. Summer 2017 Construction Projects Bids

Dr. Lechner stated the projects were reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. The large space HVAC and learning commons projects at McKenzie and Romona Elementary Schools are presented for approval along with the 16 unit-vent replacement at Romona Elementary School. Once approved, the work will start in June and be completed in August before the beginning of the next school year.

Mrs. Kearney asked where the funding for the summer construction projects came from. Mrs. Buscemi noted funding for projects is from the District's reserves.

##### b. Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement

Dr. Lechner explained this agreement is a purchasing cooperative providing governmental units' procurement resources. By registering in U.S. Communities school districts have the advantage of selecting a manufacturer and utilizing competitive pricing.

##### c. Trane Summer 2017 Construction Contract

Dr. Lechner stated this contract provides for the 16 unit-vent replacement work at Romona Elementary School through Trane. This HVAC project is supported by the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.

2. Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Funds Tentative Budget

Dr. Lechner stated the funds were vetted at the Committee of the Whole. The FY18 budgeted revenue for the Operating Funds is projected to be \$71,566,602, which is a 2.7% increase over the prior year's budget. The FY18 budgeted Operating Funds expenditures are estimated at \$74,819,892, which is an increase of 7.4% from the FY17 budget. A projected overall operating funds deficit of (\$3,253,290) is due to planned construction projects of \$4.1M for FY18.

Mrs. Buscemi stated the Operating Funds are comprised of the Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, IMRF/SS, Tort and Working Cash Funds. These funds represent 97% of the total budget of the District. She reviewed each budget assumption individually.

3. Residential (No. 1704-01) Property Tax Assessment Appeal Resolution

Dr. Lechner noted this is a residential property located at 3 Canterbury Court appealing the assessed value for 2015. The municipal partners have all agreed to support this intervention.

Mrs. Kearney questioned the intervention process.

4. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Serious Hazard Finding Application

Dr. Lechner stated District 39 received a written petition requesting a safety hazard study be completed and the findings submitted to IDOT. Based on the District's assessment, the finding in the area is not a hazard but will move forward and submit the findings to IDOT for their review and determination along with the resident's petition.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jasmina Hauser of Wilmette questioned the District's intervention on property tax appeals.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Consent Agenda

Mrs. Kearney requested the property tax assessment appeal be pulled from the consent agenda.

Mr. Steen moved seconded by Mr. Flanagin to approve the personnel report dated April 25, 2017 which included temporary employment of **Minji Kim**, effective August 31, 2017; **Andrew Kleeman**, effective April 13, 2017; **Erin Kolba**, effective August 31, 2017; **Ling Lee**, effective April 3, 2017; **Meagan Mesirov**, effective August 31, 2017; administrative resignation of **Jonathan Valentino**, effective June 30, 2017; educational support personnel resignation of **Jennifer Stoeber**, effective April 13, 2017; **Kathleen Yagihashi**, effective April 7, 2017; denial of licensed leave of absence request for **Juliana Cremieux**, for the 2017-18 school year: to approve the resolution regarding the non-reemployment of part-time/part-year support personnel employees, and authorize notification according to the requirement of the *Illinois School Code*, Section 10-23.5: to award base bid package, per bid specifications for the McKenzie Elementary School Large Space HVAC and Library/Media/Technology Center to the following contractors for a total cost of \$1,302,500. The contract value includes base bid only. McKenzie Elementary School Library/Media/Technology Center to Monarch Construction Co., Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$622,000; American Electric Co., for an amount not to exceed \$322,700; total McKenzie Library/Media/Technology Center Project Cost: \$944,700; McKenzie Elementary School Large Space HVAC Replacement to Amber Mechanical Contractors, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$357,800; total

McKenzie Elementary School Projects Cost: \$1,302,500; to award base bid package, per bid specifications for the Romona Elementary School Large Space HVAC, and Library/Media/Technology Center to the following contractors for a total cost of \$1,317,818. The contract value includes base bid only. Romona Elementary School Library/Media/Technology Center to Monarch Construction Co., Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$667,000; Shoreline Electric Co., for an amount not to exceed \$331,018; total Romona Library/Media/Technology Center Project Cost: \$998,018; Romona Elementary School Large Space HVAC Replacement to Amber Mechanical Contractors, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$319,800; total Romona Elementary School Projects Cost: \$1,317,818: to award base bid package, per bid specifications for the Romona Elementary School Unit-Vent replacement to the following contractor for a total cost of \$461,654. The contract value includes base bid only. Romona Elementary School Large Space HVAC Replacement to Trane U.S. Inc. Ingersoll-Rand, for an amount not to exceed \$461,654; total Romona Elementary School Project Cost: \$461,654: to approve the U.S. Communities Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement and registration in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance: to approve the application of a Serious Safety Hazard Finding for submittal to Illinois Department of Transportation: to approve to Release to the Public the Executive Session minutes of September 28, 2015; October 26, 2015; December 14, 2015; January 25, 2016; February 22, 2016; March 14, 2016; April 25, 2016; May 23, 2016; June 6, 2016; June 27, 2016; August 29, 2016; September 26, 2016; October 24, 2016; November 14, 2016: approve to dispose of executive session audio recordings pursuant to District policy for the following dates: December 15, 2014; February 23, 2015; March 23, 2015: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between March 21, 2017 – April 25, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$542,619.66; O&M Fund \$270,614.89; Transportation Fund \$161,675.22; total all funds: \$974,909.77: to approve the manual checks issued between March 21, 2017 and April 25, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$449,968.74; O&M Fund \$35,685.19; Transportation Fund \$214.94; total all funds: \$485,868.87.

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

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica to approve the resolution dated April 25, 2017, to permit legal counsel to intervene in a residential (No. 1704-01) property tax assessment appeal for a property located at 3 Canterbury Court, Wilmette, PIN: 05-35-201-019-0000 for Tax Year 2015.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Kimberly Alcantara, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, Mark Steen, Alice Schaff; voting “nay” – Tracy Kearney; absent – John Flanagin: **Motions Carried.**

### **Comments by Audience Prior to Reorganization**

Erin Stone of Wilmette, spoke in tribute to each outgoing Board member noting an adjective describing each member: Mr. Flanagin ‘earnest’ in his role as Board President, Ms. Levine ‘detailed’ in regard to policies, and Mrs. Alcantara ‘thorough’ in regard to legislative reports. She noted these are the qualities and attributes that make a good board member. She thanked the members for their service to children.

### **Comments by Board Members Prior to Reorganization**

Mr. Steen thanked outgoing board members and noted appreciation for each of their individual qualities to create a board that has been high functional and professional. Mr. Panzica expressed his pleasure and gratitude having experienced members mentor and educate him as a new member.

Mrs. Alcantara thanked former and fellow colleagues for a pleasant and respectful experience. She thanked staff and administrators for making their jobs easier. She especially thanked Dr. Lechner for being

responsive and proactive. Ms. Levine reiterated Mrs. Alcantara's comments and noted Mrs. Schaff as an inspiration, Mrs. Jackson who engaged her in community service with implementation of the Spanish curriculum in grade schools, and Dr. Lechner for his stewardship. Mrs. Schaff thanked the members for their eight years of service. She was honored to serve with them the past six years. She admired each member's unique talents and strengths. She learned a lot from their insight and support.

**Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**

Dr. Lechner explained District 39's tradition of hanging student art at the MEC in honor of outgoing board members. He then introduced Romona second graders Sabeen Haque, Lindsay Ye, and Max Wang who presented their exceptional artwork to Mrs. Alcantara, Ms. Levine and Mr. Flanagin.

**Adjourn Sine Die to Reorganizational Meeting**

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica to adjourn sine die to the reorganizational meeting.

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President

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Secretary