

**WILMETTE, IL
APRIL 25, 2017**

A Reorganizational 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 8:25 p.m.

Members Present: Alice Schaff, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Mark Steen

Members Absent: None

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

Appoint President Pro Tem

Mr. Steen moved to appoint Dr. Lechner President Pro Tem, for purposes of swearing in new officers and presiding over the election of the President. President Schaff stated, having no objections from the Board, Dr. Lechner is appointed President Pro Tem by **Acclamation**.

Administer Oath of Office and Seating of Newly Elected Members of the Board of Education

Dr. Lechner administered the oath of office to Jonathan Cesaretti, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Mark Steen and Ellen Sternweiler.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Nomination for and Election of President

Dr. Lechner requested nominations for the office of President. Mrs. Schaff nominated Mr. Steen for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mr. Steen was elected President by **Acclamation**.

Nominations for and Election of Vice President

President Steen requested nominations for the office of Vice President. Mrs. Schaff nominated Mr. Panzica for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Panzica was elected Vice President by **Acclamation**.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER

According to Board practice President Steen presented Dr. Lechner as Secretary and Mrs. Buscemi as Treasurer of the Board of Education. Dr. Lechner was appointed Secretary and Mrs. Buscemi Treasurer by **Acclamation**.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Administrative Announcements from Superintendent and Staff

Annual Student Registration

Dr. Lechner stated the District's registration process has begun for the 2017-18 school year. Parents were sent log-in information and instructions the first week of April.

Board Policy Approval

Dr. Lechner noted the newly seated Board of Education needs to approve the Districts' policies. In so doing, the Board reaffirms the establishment of policies and procedures that govern the District.

FOIA

The District received a FOIA from Greg Polan of Alltown Bus Service, Inc. requesting all materials, correspondence, emails, notes and scoring matrix for contractors who submitted transportation bids for the District 39 regular transportation contract.

B. Strategic Updates

1. One Campus. Connected Community.

Dr. Lechner stated the 5-8 campus administration has been working with staff to develop more consistency in cross-campus programs and practices. The goal is to improve connections with parents, students, and staff in new and better ways at Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High.

Principal Kelly Jackson highlighted consistencies in programming, support, and improved transitions across the campus. She noted one transition included aligning the junior high report card cycle with the other schools in the District. She stated all students across the 5-8 campus are now equipped with iPads as a tool for classroom learning and homework. iPads are used by students to collaborate, communicate, and participate in learning anytime, anywhere. She noted the staff worked to build consistency with shared supportive programs such as homework assistance, student accountability, and Response to Intervention (RtI). A School-Wide Behavior Team (SWBT) was implemented to create a behavior expectation matrix. Mrs. Jackson stated extra-curricular opportunities have been shared between Highcrest and the junior high for years.

Mrs. Kearney requested an example and criteria for restorative practices and criteria used for selecting professional development on character training. Mr. Cesaretti requested an explanation of the Second Step program.

2. School Attendance Data - Revised

Dr. Lechner reported during the 2014-15 school year, District 39 identified concerns about attendance patterns and started taking steps to increase rates of positive attendance. District 39's attendance efforts coincide with the State of Illinois' plan, under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), for using chronic absenteeism and attendance as indicators for measuring school success.

Dr. Thrasher and Dr. DeCristofaro noted during 2014-15 school year, chronic absences were high at 7.1% compared to 4% in 2003. The District developed a goal of increasing the rate of positive attendance through a best practice approach of utilizing attendance data to create a multi-tiered system of support and prevention. They explained the definition of positive attendance being students attending school 95% of the time. They reported on the attendance rates by school and across the District. Percentages were calculated using the number of students enrolled as of June 1st of each school year. They explained chronic absence as missing 10% of school (18 or more days per year). Dr. DeCristofaro and Dr. Thrasher noted chronic absence data from 2013-2016 was analyzed by grade level. They explained a School Refusal Assessment tool was utilized to categorize reasons for chronic absences. They stated further attendance data would be collected and analyzed at the end of each school year. An updated report would be presented in June.

Board questions included clarifications of the four primary functions of the assessment tool, how to account for half days, the number of minutes constituting a half day, percentage rates compared to other New Trier feeder schools, accounting for medical absences separately, determination of chronic absence reasons and next steps, if 80% as a two-year target goal is realistic, positive attendance trends, comparing data locally and longitudinally.

C. Annual Business

1. Enrollment Projections

Dr. Glowacki stated this is an annual process to monitor enrollment now that registration has begun. Monitoring enrollment numbers establishes the staffing needs for the coming school year.

2. 2017-2018 Board Calendar

Dr. Lechner noted the new Board would approve calendar of meeting dates for the coming year.

D. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 7:60, 7:305, 7:310, 7:340; Delete Policies 2:115 and 2:116; Proposed New Policies 7:300 and 8:20

Dr. Lechner stated nine policies were presented for first read. It was recommended Policies 2:115 and 2:116 be deleted as the content of those policies are now contained in Policy 2:110. Policies 7:300 and 8:20 are two new policies recommended for adoption. The remaining policies were updated based on current laws and legal recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beth Feeley, Wilmette, provided information regarding the National Seed Project.

Josh Eliscue, new resident in Glenview suggested establishing a technology committee and requested listing descriptions of the committees on the website.

Emily Downs, Wilmette, regarding the National Seed Project and equity, and where the climate of empathy falls on curriculum spectrum.

Jasmina Hauser, Wilmette, regarding the culture of empathy and equity curriculum, if any, and resources references.

David Hyser, Wilmette, commended the District for pursuing empathy based programs. He stated acknowledging white privilege and creating awareness of race, gender, sexual orientation, diverse viewpoints should be validated and affirmed. He said the focus should be on student awareness and to build-up and acknowledge the legitimate experiential and background differences in the community.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Board Policies

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the adoption of the Wilmette Public School District 39 Board of Education Policies and Administrative Guidelines and Procedures.

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

Motion Carried.

B. Approve 2017-2018 Board Calendar

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the 2017-2018 calendar of dates for regular meetings of the Board of Education and to set the location of the regular meetings as the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, IL.

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

Motion Carried.

C. Approve as First Reading Revised Board of Education Policies 7:60, 7:305, 7:310, 7:340; Delete Policies 2:115 and 2:116; Proposed New Policies 7:300 and 8:20

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve as first reading revised Board of Education Policies 7:60, 7:305, 7:310, 7:3340; Delete Policies 2:115 and 2:116; Proposed New Policies 7:300 and 8:20

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

Motion Carried.

CONFERENCE ITEMS**Old Business**

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mr. Steen thanked the three new members for volunteering to serve on the Board. He also said he looked forward to continued work with Mr. Panzica and Mrs. Kearney. Finally, he thanked Mrs. Schaff for her leadership as Board President these past two years.

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

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to adjourn the Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. by **General Consent.**

 President

 Secretary