

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 25, 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,
 Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler

Members Absent: Alice Schaff

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Rachel Filippi introduced students from McKenzie School. Each student mentioned what excited them about the new learning commons and then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2017 Budget Hearing, August 28, 2017 Permanent Interfund Transfer Hearing, and August 28, 2017 Regular Board of Education Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bethanee Deliduka, Wilmette, spoke about timeliness and safety issues regarding Bus Route E for Highcrest Middle School.

Catherine Evans, Wilmette, reiterated the comments of the previous community member regarding Bus Route E. She requested a plan of action to address transportation misinformation and noted the inability to track the bus had created significant issues for parents finding alternate transportation.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Educational Foundation – Mrs. Sternweiler stated the Ed Foundation met on September 13th and discussed fundraising ideas. The committee thanked volunteers and donations for the upcoming fashion show, “Attire to Inspire” which would be held Thursday, September 28th. The committee had a lengthy discussion on Gripp Grants. She noted grant proposals were being accepted at this time.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Kearney reported the education funding bill was passed by legislature on August 28th and signed by Governor Rauner. She noted highlights of the new funding bill contains portions of the Senate Bill 1 language. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) removed pension language from school funding formula and put it into the pension school code, which means the State will pay for teacher pensions. CPS will still receive \$250M in block grants. The bill also allows an additional \$75 million in private donations toward scholarship funds. The bill did not include a property tax freeze, but if a district has more than 110% of the funds necessary to meet its adequate funding target, voters can reduce the educational fund tax levy by 10% of voter pool petitioning to allow a tax reduction on the ballot. Mrs. Kearney also noted mandate relief for programs offered for high school districts for driver education and physical education programs.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received written communication from Beth Feeley requesting an amendment to the May 22, 2017 Board of Education Meeting minutes. She also had questions regarding the CRC School Climate report, New Trier's Beyond Diversity event, and the Pacific Educational Group (PEG) organization. She also questioned use of materials from National SEED Project and Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

Additional written communication was submitted from Cindy Levine, Jennifer Manning & Steve Feldman, Susan Gallagher, and Susan Landwer supporting the Statement of Inclusion.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner stated the District conducted a space study at Highcrest Middle School. The primary need identified was additional classroom space. A multi-phase plan was drafted to add classrooms, small group spaces, and a learning commons. Phase one of proposed construction adds four classrooms and an enhanced secure entrance. The draft phase one proposal would be presented at the October Board meeting.

Dr. Lechner announced as part of ongoing efforts toward promoting a culture of empathy, District 39 would host two parent education events. The first meeting on November 7th for parents of early childhood – fourth graders with Dr. Renee Z. Dominguez, Executive Director and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist of Family Service Center of Wilmette, Glenview, Northbrook, and Kenilworth who would present on the topic of “Navigating Social Conflicts”. She would return on November 14th to present the concepts of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Growth Mindset used in the classroom, and provide “best practices” for home use. Dr. Lechner added the District, in partnership with WJHS PTO, would provide two parent events for grades 5-8, one during the day on November 7th and another in the evening on March 1st. Dr. Dominguez will address the same topics adjusted for the middle school age group.

Dr. Lechner announced September 11, 2001 is a day that teachers and students recognize annually. He reported several examples of activities at Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High are: September 11th interviews displayed for students to read on a “gallery walk”; listened to “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” performed by U.S. Army Soldier’s Chorus followed by discussion of how patriotic music brings people together in times of crisis; viewed Nickelodeon’s “What happened? The Story of September 11, 2001”; wrote letters and thank you notes to veterans and heroes in the community and New York.

Dr. Lechner stated District 39 initiated a community-wide fundraising campaign to help one Texas school district, Pasadena Independent School District, that was very hard hit by Hurricane Harvey. Dr. Lechner stated he has been in touch with the Superintendent of that district and noted they have 56,000 students and 77% are economically disadvantaged. They were so grateful for assistance. He stated each school building accepted cash, checks or could pay online through September 29th.

FOIA

The District received an amended FOIA request from Taryn Phaneuf of LocalLabs Media Services requesting various parent, student, teacher results of the CRC School Climate surveys. A FOIA was received from Nathan Mihelich of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) requesting email addresses for all teachers and administrators in the District. A Commercial FOIA was received from Brian F. O’Grady requesting a current copy of the school board’s legal liability insurance policy effective January 1, 2017 – January 1, 2018.

Mr. Steen noted while the planning process began for Highcrest construction, the final vote on funding would be held in February. Dr. Lechner clarified that the permission to accept bids does not commit actual funds for construction. President Steen noted updates on construction would continue through February.

D. Annual Business

1. Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) 2017

Dr. Lechner or Dr. Thrasher stated District 39's 2017 Summer Enrichment Program provided opportunities for 477 students to participate in 106 different sessions offered either at Wilmette Junior High and Central School. He noted through careful monitoring of enrollment, the program remained self-sufficient.

Dr. Thrasher stated the success of the program was due to the collaboration of many people. She noted the District employed 92 people to instruct and support the summer enrichment program. She reported the Basic Academic Skills Improvement Course (BASIC) program for reading and mathematics benefits students performing at or below the 10th percentile. She noted a total of 83 students took advantage of the BASIC program. Dr. Thrasher stated academic camps for reading, writing, and mathematics are offered for students who skill level is above the BASIC program level. She noted 374 students participated in camps. Dr. Thrasher stated the District is required by law to provide an Extended School Year (ESY) program for special education students who are recommended through the Individualized Education Program (IEP). She noted 130 students participated in ESY.

Dr. Thrasher stated no changes are being recommended to the fee structure for 2018 SEP and classes would be held at Romona Elementary School and Wilmette Junior High School.

Board discussion ensued regarding enrollment for BASIC classes; surveying families to identify reasons for not participating; possible reduction of course offerings; comparison of neighboring districts summer enrollment; offering full day classes as opposed to half day; condensing the schedule and offer SEP toward the end of summer; analyzing educational goals of students enrolled in BASIC classes; engaging in an external evaluation of the program.

2. New Trier Freshman Survey

Dr. Lechner reported each fall the results from the New Trier High School Freshman Survey are presented to the Board. He noted the results this year went up in some areas, and decreased in others.

Mrs. Jackson stated the survey is presented to freshman during the second semester, noting this year the students received the survey during finals week. She reported 1,030 students participated representing all the sender and private schools in the area. The survey provides information on perceived preparedness in core academic areas, elective classes chosen, physical education, musical and theatrical performances, and participation in extra-curricular athletic activities. She noted on average 77% of former District 39 students reported their experiences prepared them for high school. Of that percentage, 10% participated in a level other than recommended by New Trier. The majority of these level changes (61%) resulted in participation in higher levels than recommended. Mrs. Jackson reviewed the results in the areas of literature, writing, math, social studies, science, and world languages. Results were also provided for community service opportunities, availability of an adult advocate, homework, study skills, and technology. She then reported on next steps for each category, which included district review of data, collaboration with New Trier staff, and a review of the implementation of curriculum and feedback.

Board discussion ensued regarding reasons students take higher class levels than recommended; gender breakdown for analysis; revisions to the survey; how curriculum changes affect the responses; science labs and note taking; differences between social studies and world history; how to discern that instruction not aligning with New Trier results in better preparedness or should instruction be better aligned for higher achievement in preparedness; not distributing the assessment during finals.

President Steen reiterated requests for a breakdown separating genders, a breakdown separating averages of District 39 students versus non-District 39 students, and highlighting differences in instruction - what works and where changes might be needed.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 6:10, 6:15, 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, 6:50, 6:60, 6:65, 7:40; Delete Policies 6:21 and 6:22

Dr. Lechner stated the policies had been revised from first reading based on discussion and input from Board members at the August meeting. Revisions were reviewed by legal counsel.

Mrs. Sternweiler had edits for Policies 6:10 and 6:60 that she wished to submit for review. Mr. Cesaretti had edits for Policy 6:50. President Steen stated these policies would be pulled from the Consent Agenda and tabled for presentation as third read at the October Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bethanee Diladuka, Wilmette, questioned how many cycles of buses are being utilized for Highcrest and the junior high and if they were separate or overlapping.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Board members pulled Policies 6:10, 6:50, and 6:60 from consent agenda.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to approve the personnel report dated September 25, 2017 which included licensed full-time employment of **Margaret Mroczkowski**, effective September 5, 2017; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Davina Avilez**, effective September 26, 2017; **Elizabeth Ceisel**, effective August 30, 2017; **Michael Egan**, effective August 30, 2017; **Dale Laackman**, effective August 30, 2017; **John Lee**, effective September 1, 2017; **Oriana Kacha-Ochana**, effective September 5, 2017; **Clare Kelly**, effective September 15, 2017; **Patricia Kelly**, effective September 15, 2017; **Jesenia Murphy**, effective September 18, 2017; **Jared Prost**, effective August 30, 2017; **Jacquelyn Russo**, effective August 30, 2017; **Catherine Schmittou**, effective September 5, 2017; **Mary Sparks Schramm**, effective August 30, 2017; **Catherine Stevens**, effective August 30, 2017; **Andrea Valkanas**, effective August 30, 2017; **Danielle Walovitch**, effective August 30, 2017; **Trent Weyermuller**, effective September 5, 2017; educational support personnel part-time employment of **Judy O'Malley**, effective September 8, 2017; temporary employment of **Christina Meti**, effective September 5, 2017; **Sarah Rankin**, effective September 5, 2017; **Aneta Szyba**, effective September 5, 2017; educational support personnel resignation of **Eduardo Cedillo**, effective September 15, 2017; **Eileen Molitor**, effective September 15, 2017; **Dale Swanson**, effective August 29, 2017: to approve as second and final reading of revised Board of Education Policies 6:15 *School Accountability*; 6:20 *School Year Calendar*; 6:21 *School Day*; 6:22 *Released Time- Inservice Training*; 6:30 *General Objectives of the Instructional Program*; 6:40 *Curriculum Guides*; 6:65 *Student Social Emotional Development*; and 7:40 *Nonpublic School*

Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between August 29, 2017 – September 25, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$240,001.11; O&M Fund \$255,185.70; Transportation Fund \$14,083.99; Capital Projects Fund \$952,933.00; total all funds: \$1,462,203.80: to approve the manual checks issued between August 29, 2017 – September 25, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$370,148.04; O&M Fund \$3,634.08; Transportation Fund \$903.35; total all funds: \$374,685.47.

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

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to present Policies 6:10, 6:50 and 6:60 as third read at the October Board meeting.

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

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

President Steen requested a motion to amend the minutes of the May 22nd, 2017 Board of Education meeting in the following manner: in the third paragraph of the "Public Comments" section, change the word "concerned" to "concern", add the words "the materials for employee training on" between the words "about" and "empathy", and add the words "or the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)" to the end of the sentence.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler amend the minutes of the May 22, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

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

Mrs. Kearney asked, based on public comments at this meeting, what the issues were with Bus E and requested follow up information regarding busing issues at Romona.

Dr. Lechner stated he was made aware of the timeliness issues with Bus E on Friday, September 22nd and would have to investigate before responding. He noted the Romona bus issues had been resolved.

Mrs. Buscemi noted routes had to be changed at Romona due to construction in the area. She noted students are arriving on schedule.

Dr. Lechner also noted this year many parents registered for busing late and were not concerned about the late fees. The administration is reviewing the registration process.

Mrs. Kearney had questions regarding the Romona bus routes and stops in Glenview. Discussion ensued about the number of buses, late additions, and increased stops. Mrs. Kearney inquired as to what the catalyst was for express buses at Central and McKenzie. Mr. Cesaretti asked if there was flexibility to add a bus. Dr. Lechner noted a bus would cost \$56,000. Mrs. Schneider-Fabes suggested an update on busing be presented at the October Board meeting.

Good and Welfare

None

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler to adjourn to executive session to review executive session minutes for release and executive session recordings for disposal in accordance to Policy 2:220.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:39 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:50 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Cesaretti moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:52 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary