

APRIL 23, 2018
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, April 23, 2018 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 Cindy Anderson introduced Romona Early Childhood students to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

Mr. Steen noted the artwork on display this month was from Emilie Stevenson's Romona students. First graders studied Vincent van Gogh's famous painting, The Starry Night, and created their own versions using paint blending, 3-Dimensional drawing strategies to form their own villages, and oil pastels to create swirling and sparkling night time skies.

Third graders investigated the flower paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe. They observed her style of painting objects from unique perspectives. Students created their artwork by zooming in on images of flowers and creating close-up renderings with special attention to line, shape, and blending of colors.

Second grade art students learned about the work of Henri Matisse. They created goldfish bowl collages by applying layers of painted paper, vibrant colors, and vivid patterns.

Fourth grade artists created a series of prints featuring radial symmetry. Each student drew one fourth of a unique pattern on a foam printing plate. They inked and printed their pattern multiple times while rotating their plate on a painted background which revealed a luminous radial design.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Steen reminded everyone that this is a public meeting and all are among neighbors and fellow residents. He stated appropriate conduct is expected from everyone. He asked that people speak only when called upon, that everyone treat each other kindly and with proper respect, and refrain from distracting behaviors such as such as loud conversations, cheering, clapping, or booing.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2018 Regular and Executive Session Meetings and the Minutes of the April 10, 2018 Special Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Board Reports

School Finance Committee – Mr. Panzica reported the committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole on April 9th. The committee discussed the Operating Funds Tentative Budget. The committee has begun a detailed expenditure review in each expense fund to identify areas for cost savings.

Strategy – President Steen stated the committee met as part of the April 9th Committee of the Whole. The two topics discussed were instrumental music and kindergarten enrichment. Regarding instrumental music, he stated the District recommended a different sectional structure for next year. There would be an eight-day sectional rotation to reduce the amount of times students are pulled from classes. The administration is also reviewing other instrumental music programs to offer additional musical experiences, such as introduction to keyboarding or other non-band/orchestra instruments. President Steen noted a comprehensive report on options for kindergarten enrichment would be presented later in the meeting.

Committee of the Whole: Superintendent Search – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the Board met on April 10th and interviewed three search firms. The Board unanimously decided to commission one firm and is engaged in contract discussions.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee – Mr. Cesaretti reported the CRC committee met April 9th and are finalizing their research on personalized learning.

Educational Foundation – Mr. Panzica reported the Foundation committee met April 18th. They showcased their successful April 15th showing of the Princess Bride fundraiser. A Gripp Grant recipient demonstration encouraged foundation members to try to open several lock boxes. No one succeeded, however, it was a great example of how Gripp Grants support 20th Century skills.

Mrs. Kearney attended the Educational Foundation’s March 20th Meeting where two Gripp Grants were announced. Dr. Peter Ower of Wilmette Junior High School applied for four moto-cams to attach to microscopes. The foundation was so impressed with his application, the committee granted 24 moto-cams. Mrs. Clark applied for six Raspberry Pi boards and was granted twelve. The next Ed Foundation meeting is May 16th.

Legislative Update

Mrs. Kearney reported the Senate and House has been back since April 9th. She stated many education bills have been presented but none have passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

Dr. Lechner stated the Board received written communication from Raquel Klibanoff regarding the band/orchestra survey and changes to the band/orchestra programs.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner and Principal Kelly Jackson recognized and honored students’ achievements. Jack Cummings won the IESA State Wrestling Champion. Daughters of the American Revolution essay writing champions: 7th grade winners; Annie Von Dohlen 1st place, Aleksander Acimovic 2nd place, and Olivia Babolea 3rd place; 8th grade winners; Jaya Rohit Nambiar 1st place, Saumel Roberts 2nd, place, and Casey Bertochhi 3rd place. Annie Von Dohlen was also recognized for her 3rd place essay piece for Mental Health America – North Shore.

Mrs. Shoemaker introduced the WJHS Certamen State Champions. She stated the Certamen team has 17 members, of which only four members competed. Grace Yoo, Eric Araujo, and Team Captain Isaac Downs.

Dr. Lechner introduced Susan Carlson as the new Highcrest Assistant Principal replacing Chimille Dillard. Mrs. Carlson has BA from Carroll University, Ohio, MA from Northern Illinois University in Special Education, and is completing her Masters in Educational Leadership at Northeastern University this July. Mrs. Carlson is currently an eighth grade Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS) at Wilmette Junior High. She has been in D39 for the past two years, and previously worked in Chicago Public Schools, Niles, Glenview, and North Suburban Special Education District (NSSED).

Mrs. Carlson thanked the board for the opportunity to serve and was extremely honored to join the talented Highcrest staff.

Dr. Lechner stated that due to the weather-related school closing on February 9th, the school calendar must be adjusted. Because the District meets the legally required number of student attendance days, one Emergency Day can be assigned to February 9th. The last day of the school year continues to be June 15th, an early release day.

Dr. Lechner stated the Board needs to approve its calendar of meetings for the coming year. The Board meeting calendar presented reflects the District's current practice.

Dr. Lechner stated the District received four FOIA this month: Nathan Mihelich of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association requesting names and email address for all 2018 retiring teachers and administrators; Janie Jordan of Data Search Partners requesting a list of all Wilmette Public Schools 39's employee's names, e-mail addresses, title/position, and primary campus location; Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley, Staff Attorney, Community Justice Division for Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law asking how many School Resource Officers are employed in our school district and any Memorandum of Understanding or any agreement with the police department that provides a School Resource Officer; Katie Kim of NBC 5 asking which District 39 schools have a school resource officer (SRO) assigned; and any documents showing all policies and guidelines for that school resource officer.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. Grades 5-8 Related Arts Course Progression

Dr. Lechner stated this report updated progress on the committee work for grades 5-8 Related Arts Course Progression. The report and presentation shared a draft of the philosophy statement along with current structure and course offerings.

Ms. Lee stated at the middle school students are enrolled in five of six related arts courses and choir is an optional choice held outside of the school day. At the junior high level students rank courses by preference and are placed accordingly as best as possible. The new recommendations address gaps in structure and develops strands of study that progress through grades 5-8.

Ms. Lee said the next steps include revising or creating curriculum maps for recommended course offerings and updating progress reports and report card descriptors to reflect changes in course goals, learning standards, and learning objectives.

Board discussion ensued regarding whether students would be encouraged to choose different course categories or specialize in certain areas; if math or economics would be imbedded into another area; if the recommendation for middle school students is to take all related arts offerings to have the experience at junior high; when a K-4 related arts analysis might be done; changes in choices of offerings for junior high students.

2. Kindergarten Enrichment

Dr. Lechner said this is an ongoing investigation into the feasibility of Kindergarten enrichment for District 39. The presentation included the impact on operating funds balance for two scenarios: building classrooms or building modular units. Given space and funding options, the administration would further explore building modular units which could provide a half-day Kindergarten Enrichment program as a self-sustaining program with little impact on tax dollars.

Ms. Lee stated the administration presented a kindergarten enrichment update providing detailed background for consideration. The District reviewed space and funding options and the potential impact on fund balances. Two options to address funding were that parents assume all construction and program costs or District 39 assumes construction costs and parents assume program costs. To address space administration suggested building classrooms or modular units.

Mrs. Buscemi shared graphs showing the comparisons of building two classrooms at each elementary school available for use in fall of 2020, charging either \$6,500 or \$4,145 tuition per student for half day kindergarten enrichment programming. She also presented graphs for building two modular units at each elementary school available for use by fall of 2019, charging either \$5,325 or \$4,145 tuition per student.

Ms. Lee stated the District would resurvey the same population of families using the information presented to finalize decisions regarding space and funding for the half-day kindergarten enrichment program.

Mrs. Kearney requested two additional lines be added to the third chart comparing modulars to classrooms with District 39 assuming construction costs and tuition of \$4,145 per student. Mr. Cesaretti agreed and questioned enrollment assumptions. Mr. Panzica noted the tuition could be adjusted annually based on enrollment. Discussion ensued regarding the follow-up survey.

D. Annual Business

1. Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Funds Tentative Budget

Dr. Lechner stated the Operating Funds are comprised of the Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, IMRF/SS, Tort and Working Cash Funds. These funds represent 98% of the total budget for the District.

Mrs. Buscemi stated the FY19 budgeted revenue for the Operating Funds is projected to be \$75,055,967, which is a 2.0% increase over the prior year's budget. The FY19 budgeted Operating Funds expenditures are estimated at \$77,905,197 which is an increase of 1.16% from the FY18 budget. This results in a projected overall operating funds deficit of (\$2,849,230) for FY19. This deficit is due to planned construction projects of \$4.6M for Fiscal Year 2019.

Board discussion included having a planned deficit of \$4.6M for Highcrest construction and additional fire alarm system, percentage the District pays for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund being similar to the Teachers Retirement System, new property growth and values of new property amounts, and monies spent on professional development training.

2. 2018-2019 Student/Staff Planning

Dr. Lechner stated student registration began on April 4 for the 2018-2019 school year. The number of students currently enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year have been moved to the next grade level to reflect anticipated enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. The District monitors registration numbers weekly until the start of the new school year. By reviewing the registration/enrollment numbers weekly, the District can adhere to the BOE class size guidelines for each grade level.

Dr. Glowacki stated if numbers are on track there may be a slight decrease in EC-4th grades, however, typically the District experiences increases in enrollment by August. She noted an additional Psychologist and two Learning Behavior Specialists would be hired to help with Therapeutic Intervention Program (TIP) that is expanding to the junior high.

3. After School Programming HMS/WJHS

Dr. Lechner stated since Youth Connection (YC) announced its dissolution, the District had been working on supporting its replacement. The plans are to honor Youth Connection's history in District 39 and provide a seamless transition. He said the District is excited to support this program in the Learning Commons at WJHS, giving students greater access to technology, flexible space and increased options. Students have been part of a "rebranding process" that will continue into next year.

Mrs. Jackson stated YC in Wilmette supported District 39 after school programs for almost 30 years. She thanked them for their support and volunteer hours. She said an honorary reception would be held later this spring. District 39 has been working to provide a replacement program. Students have rebranded the programs as "Hawk Nest" at Highcrest and "Wolf Den" at Wilmette Junior High School. Mrs. Jackson said the students would pay a slight fee of \$4 per day.

Board discussion included staff continuing to act as supervisors, having students develop the types of programs, program continues to include homework club, how many students Youth Connection served, how many families rely on this after school program, if families are able to afford a daily fee, and how this fee was established.

4. Cooperative 90's Health/Dental Plan Resolution

Dr. Lechner stated the District's new Cooperative 90's insurance co-op has its own governing board. Each member of the cooperative is being asked to pass a resolution indicating who our representative (and alternate) would be on the Cooperative 90's governing board. It is recommended that the Administrator for Human Resources be the representative with the Business Manager as the alternate.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 6:235, 6:240, 6:241, 6:250, 6:255, 6:260

Dr. Lechner stated the Board's suggested edits have been reflected in the second round of revised policies and have been reviewed by legal counsel and are ready for final approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to approve the personnel report dated April 23, 2018 which included licensed full-time reemployment of **Amanda Kelly**, effective August 28, 2018; **Lauren Levinson**, effective August 28, 2018; licensed part-time reemployment of **Connie Clark**, effective August 28, 2018; **Hillary Rosenthal**, effective August 28, 2018; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Jane Adler**, effective May 7, 2018; **Anthony Zamora**, effective April 10, 2018; temporary employment of **Travis Linderman**, effective March 19, 2018; administrative resignation of **Douglas Wernet**, effective June 30, 2018; licensed resignation of **Jennifer Wooldridge**, effective June 15, 2018; educational support personnel resignation of **Laura Karman**, effective April 6, 2018; **Travis Linderman**, effective May 4, 2018; **Sidney Teppis**, effective June 30, 2018; educational support personnel dismissal of **Derrick Hutchinson**, effective March 23, 2018; tenured leave of absence of **Chanel Pike**, for the 2018-19 school year; licensed request from sick leave bank for **Employee 6482**, grant 10 days from WEA sick leave bank; **Employee 15777**, grant 5 days from WEA sick leave bank; educational support personnel request from sick leave bank for **Employee 16004**, grant 10 days from SSU sick leave bank: to approve the appointment of Susan Carlson as the 2018-2019 Highcrest Middle School Assistant Principal: to approve the resolution regarding the non-reemployment of part-time/partial-year educational support personnel employees, and authorize notification according to the requirement of the *Illinois School Code*, Section 10-23.5: to approve the resolution appointing a District representative and alternate to the governing board of the Cooperative 90's Health/Dental Plan: to approve the 2017-2018 final school year calendar: to approve the 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 60091: to approve as second and final reading of revised Board of Education Policies *6:235 Access to Electronic Networks; 6:240 Field Trips; 6:241 Student Government; 6:250 Volunteers; 6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies; and 6:260 Complaints about Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs*: approve to release to the public the executive session minutes of September 25, 2017; November 13, 2017; December 18, 2017; January 22, 2018: approve to dispose of executive session audio recordings pursuant to District policy for the following dates: November 7, 2015; November 16, 2015; December 14, 2015; January 25, 2016; February 22, 2016; March 14, 2016; April 18, 2016; April 25, 2016: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between March 20, 2018 – April 23, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$647,495.48; O & M Fund \$230,255.24; Transportation Fund \$151,742.27; Capital Projects \$25,311.60; total all funds: \$1,054,804.59: to approve the manual checks issued between March 20, 2018 and April 23, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$349,677.76; O & M Fund \$4,374.81; Transportation Fund \$96.24; total all funds: \$354,148.81.

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.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

None

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to adjourn to executive session to discuss specific personnel.

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 8:40 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:39 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Cesaretti moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 9:40 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary