

**FEBRUARY 26, 2018**  
**WILMETTE, IL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, February 26, 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,  
 Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler

Members Absent: None

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Principal Becky Littmann introduced Central third graders who participated in a design challenge to develop a school on Mars. The challenge was an extension of the math and science curriculum on space. The students explained the “LAUNCH” (Look/Listen/Learn; Ask; Understand; Navigate; Create; Highlight) design steps for development of the project. Students then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ARTWORK**

Mr. Steen noted Linda Peritz’s Highcrest students created the beautiful paintings in the board room. Students learned about color theory, used a complicated color wheel, and integrated their work with art history. Students learned to think like an artist by observing the world more closely to find beauty in everyday things and use different perspectives to create a stimulating unique view.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President Steen requested a moment of silence to honor the victims of senseless school violence throughout the country. He noted several reactions occur when headlines turn to school shootings. One reaction is to question the security of their own school. He assured the community that the District consistently reviews its security infrastructure and practices. Following any incidents of school violence, the District works with the local police department to review safety procedures to improve school security.

President Steen stated another reaction is for students and parents to make their own voice heard regarding school violence. He noted the awareness of the national movement encouraging school walk outs which appears to be especially strong at the high school level. He stated District 39’s primary obligation is to the safety of its students and noted District 39 is not organizing any walk outs.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2018 Regular and Executive Session Meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Anne Stevens, Wilmette, had submitted written communication about participation in the National Walkout on March 14<sup>th</sup>. She hoped educators, administrators, and teachers encourage students to have their voices heard and be allowed to discuss their fears. She stated while the District may not participate in the walkout, people across the country are wearing orange in remembrance of the 17 victims lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facility Development Committee – Mrs. Schaff stated the committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed bids for construction at Highcrest Middle School. The District had a large turnout for the pre-bid meeting with bids coming in under budget, which allowed for three alternate bids in addition to the base bid package for the new main office and the addition of four classrooms. The alternate packages included boiler pumps, upgraded electrical panel, and renovated auditorium seating. The alternates are in addition to asbestos abatement in the auditorium and sprinkler and fire alarm upgrades. She noted construction starts in June and would be completed in August except for the four-classroom addition, which would be completed in December. The next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

School Finance Committee – Mr. Panzica stated the committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee began a deeper dive into reviewing expenditures. The primary focus was on identifying the levels of appropriate details needed and settled on a consistent format for reports. The committee also began a discussion on fund balances and reserves. The impact of various scenarios where funding may be delayed or decreased by the State or other funding bodies were analyzed. This information needs to be connected to the expenditure analysis to determine how much risk must be covered by reserves. The next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Strategy – Mrs. Schaff stated the committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed instrumental music with consultant Shannon Mitchell providing instrumental music survey results. The scope of the survey was to find out who preferred a before school program versus a related arts option during the school day and what respondents thought of the current sectionals practice where students are pulled from academic classes. Parents preferred keeping the before school program so children could participate in related arts classes. Parents and students felt sectionals were very important and agreed that interrupting academic classes was not a suitable option.

Mrs. Schaff stated the committee continued discussion on kindergarten enrichment. Recently the District reviewed space needs at the elementary schools and estimated operating costs for the program. A survey was issued to determine the level of interest for an enrichment program within the District and how much tuition parents would be willing to pay. Mrs. Schaff reported 650 parents responded to the survey with 70% stating they would participate in the enrichment program. 68.9% of those surveyed stated they would pay \$6,500 in tuition fees for the program to be offered in their home school. One-third of respondents felt the fee was too high. She stated next steps would be to survey a broader community about interest in the program. The committee suggested three reports be developed; a free kindergarten program that could be initiated as soon as possible; a tuition-based enrichment program that reverts to full day kindergarten in five years; an enrichment program that reverts to full day kindergarten in ten years. The committee would then compare these options to the current kindergarten program. The next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Insurance Advisory – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the insurance committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> and again today. The committee discussed the transition to Cooperative 90s and reviewed renewal rates and plans. She noted the HMO plans would experience a slight increase, traditional PPO plans would have a slight decrease, and there would be no changes to the high deductible PPO plans. She stated the District would continue to offer flu shots next fall but would no longer offer wellness screenings due to lack of interest. Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the committee is investigating the option to switch from a committee format to a Board Liaison format requiring two less board members.

Community Review Committee – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the meeting was cancelled due to a snow day. The next meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Educational Foundation – Mr. Cesaretti stated the committee met Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. The Foundation had a very successful Trivia Night raising \$15,000. He noted next events included a showing of the Princess Bride at the Wilmette Theatre tentatively scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> and a Pub Crawl tentatively scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. He said the next round of Gripp Grants are due March 9<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board Agenda Items**

### **Legislative Update**

Mrs. Kearney reported Governor Rauner gave his budget address on February 14<sup>th</sup> and proposed to shift all normal costs of Teachers Retirement System (TRS) from the State to local districts. She noted his plan would be to phase in a shift of 25% each year over four years saving the State \$490M in the first year. She reported the Governor would give schools and local governments the tools they need to offset the costs but was not specific on what those tools might be. She noted neither side was supportive of the budget.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Written Communication**

Dr. Lechner noted the Board received written communication from Kristen Dean of Youth Connection regarding the potential dissolution of Youth Connection, Julie Hanahan regarding the school calendar and Friday early dismissal child care, Julie Adrianopoli regarding kindergarten programming and kindergarten enrichment, and Jeff Axelrod regarding age appropriate actions against gun violence.

### **B. Administrative Announcements**

Dr. Lechner stated District 39, in conjunction with other Wilmette government bodies, participated in a community survey conducted by Fallon Research. He said the District is proud of the high marks received and the results are posted on the District website. He noted 89% of community members surveyed rate the education provided by District 39 as excellent or good, including those who do not have children enrolled.

Dr. Lechner stated registration for the 2018 Summer Enrichment Program would be open until March 9<sup>th</sup>. He noted some of the popular classes are reaching maximum limits so parents should register their children soon.

Dr. Lechner explained Angel Fund is a District 39 resource that offers assistance to families in need. Angel Fund is supported entirely through local donations and 100% of every donation goes directly to District 39 students. He announced The Valley Lodge Tavern would support District 39's Angel Fund by donating 15% of every identified purchase (dine in or take-out) on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – midnight.

Dr. Lechner announced New Trier Township schools would host an Innovation & Tech Expo for parents and teachers Saturday, April 28, 2018 at New Trier Winnetka Campus from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. The expo would be a conference style experience where attendees have the opportunity to sign up for three breakout sessions.

Dr. Lechner stated the District received two FOIA this month; Paul Traynor of Hay Moon Media requested all correspondence for the past two years relating to school funding levies or district taxes, suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti-bullying measures, empathy training, or LGBTQ issues, along with any related FOIA requests; Kaylin Rhoads of Wheaton requested the 2017-2018 Teachers Salary Schedule for District 39.

Dr. Lechner announced he had informed the Board of his intention to retire June 30, 2019. He stated after being in District 39 for 20 years, it would be difficult to leave. He said the most rewarding part of his 33-year career was serving as superintendent for the last 12 years. He expressed his pleasure having served a community dedicated to the betterment of education for students, which included working with numerous Boards, committed staff, top-notch administrators, and exceptional parents.

President Steen stated District 39 and the entire community were fortunate to have Dr. Lechner as their leader since 2007. He noted the initiatives and improvements he spearheaded would continue to benefit students and staff long after his departure and that he leaves a strong foundation for his successor. Mr. Steen stated in the search for a successor, the Board would be committed to a nationwide, thorough, broad, and inclusive search that would include many stakeholders. He stated in the coming weeks the Board would seek out firms to assist with this search process.

### **C. Strategic Plan Updates**

#### **1. Personalized Learning**

Dr. Lechner stated this report is a brief update about research progress on Personalized Learning.

Ms. Lee stated Personalized Learning is in Year 1, the developing stage of the Strategic Plan. She said the administrative team meets twice a month to share and discuss research gathered through literature and conferences or workshops. The start of the team's discussion was to understand the difference between personalized learning, differentiation, and individualized learning and identifying who designs the instruction. Initial research showed different interpretations of personalized learning resulting in varied delivery models based on how each school defined it. The team compiled a list of schools for site visits and/or phone interviews to determine models and levels of implementation that would best fit District 39.

Ms. Lee stated one distinguishing characteristic of personalized learning focuses on the role of the learner who drives their own learning experience, which is referred to as "student agency". Student agency allows students a level of control, autonomy, and power that they may experience in an educational situation such as having a choice in their learning environment, selection of subject matter, learning approach, and pace.

#### **2. Student Growth**

Dr. Lechner stated this report provides an update on District 39's progress in developing a student growth model.

Ms. Lee stated Student Growth is in Year 2 of the developing phase of the Strategic Plan. She defined Response to Growth Intervention (RtGI). She stated District 39 has a strong, well developed multi-tiered approach to identifying and supporting students with learning and behavior needs called Response to Intervention (RtI). She stated the District has worked to develop a similar model of supports for high achieving students and their growth as learners. Ms. Lee stated while achievement data is meaningful, reflecting on and factoring in the amount of growth students make over time provides insights into student learning. Response to Growth Intervention (RtGI) captures the relationship between achievement and growth.

Ms. Lee stated NWEA MAP data would be used to measure student growth using percentiles for level of achievement and growth. The data would be divided into four quadrants; low achievement/high growth; low achievement/low growth; high achievement/high growth; high achievement/low growth. She presented charts created by the data warehouse tool and noted the data can be aggregated by grade, school or district. Along with the data, a learner profile needs to be created identifying students' personal traits, academic indicators, learning skills, and non-cognitive factors. Ms. Lee presented ways to support and monitor student growth for all levels of achievement.

Board discussion included anticipation and excitement for the student growth model, NWEA MAP being the right tool to view data in different ways, how often students would be assessed, and being able to support all students to grow at an appropriate level.

#### **D. Annual Business**

##### **1. Summer 2018 Construction Project Bids**

Dr. Lechner stated the planned construction project for the four-classroom addition and secure entrance at Highcrest Middle School are presented for Board approval. He noted a lot of time, energy, and research went into these projects.

Mrs. Buscemi stated the work would begin in June and the secure front entrance and office would be completed before school starts. She noted the District received 36 bidders for the project. She stated several contractors have a history of work in District 39 and the District has been pleased with their work.

#### **E. Board Policy Review**

##### **1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 6:150,6:160, 6:170, 6:180, 6:190, 6:200, 6:220 and 7:180**

Dr. Lechner stated updates and revisions were made to policies based upon feedback received at the first reading and throughout the last month.

President Steen had submitted comments specifically on Policy 6:190. He stated he would pull Policy 6:190 from consent agenda to approve as second read and present it again next month for third and final reading.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Erin Stone, Wilmette, spoke regarding Dr. Lechner's retirement. She commended his tireless efforts on behalf of District 39 children.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Consent Agenda**

President Steen pulled Policy 6:190 from the Consent Agenda to be approved as second read but not final read.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to approve the personnel report dated February 26, 2018 which included licensed full-time employment of **Amanda Kelly**, effective March 5, 2018; licensed part-time employment of **Aida Matezic**, effective February 27, 2018; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Brandon Schmidt**, effective February 21, 2018; **Eric Zamora**, effective February 9, 2018; educational support personnel part-time employment of **Daniela Maravilla**, effective January 23, 2018; **Neal Siegellak**, effective January 29, 2018; temporary employment of **Cynthia Anderson**, effective February 19, 2018; **Mark Austin**, effective February 22, 2018; **Eric Anderson**, effective January 26, 2018; **Shalla Lakhani**, effective February 14, 2018; **Keith Montcalm**, effective February 12, 2018; **Timothy Stillman**, effective February 16, 2018; administrative resignation of **Chimille Dillard**, effective June 30, 2018; licensed resignation of **Kristina Long**, effective the end of the 2017-18 school year; **Emily Vaughn**, (LOA) effective February 15, 2018; educational support personnel resignation of **Hebah Abu Obaid**, effective February 13, 2018; **Daniela Maravilla**, effective February 9, 2018; **Neal Siegellak**, effective February 13, 2018; **Susan Toussaint**, effective March 9, 2018; **Daniel Trejo**, effective February 19, 2018; licensed request from sick leave bank for **Employee 15777**, grant 5 days from WEA sick leave bank; **Employee 14031**, grant 5 days from WEA sick leave bank: award base bid package with alternates, per bid specifications for the Highcrest Middle School four classroom addition with air conditioning, a secure entry and office relocation with large space HVAC to the following contractors for a total cost of \$4,469,265. The contract value includes base bid with alternates for Highcrest Middle School Classroom Addition and Secure Entry and Office Relocation: Riemer Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$625,014; MPZ Masonry for an amount not to exceed \$398,000; McKinney Steel for an amount not to exceed \$146,000; RB Construction for an amount not to exceed \$718,000; Elens and Malchin Roofing for an amount not to exceed \$107,900; Olsson Roofing for an amount not to exceed \$67,125; Krull Window Company, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$149,340; Monarch Construction for an amount not to exceed \$726,000; Nelson Fire Protection for an amount not to exceed \$128,838; Hartwig Plumbing & Heating for an amount not to exceed \$119,157; DeKalb Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$604,000; Shoreline Electric Company for an amount not to exceed \$679,891; total Highcrest Middle School Project Cost: \$4,469,265: to approve as second and final reading revised Board of Education Policies 6:150 *Home and Hospital Instruction*; 6:160 *English Learners*; 6:170 *Title I Programs*; 6:180 *Extended Instructional Programs-Summer School*; 6:200 *Emergency Drills*; 6:210 *Instructional Materials*; and 7:180 *Preventing Bullying and Other Aggressive Behaviors*: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between January 23, 2018 – February 26, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$572,529.65; O&M Fund \$187,970.27; Debt Service Fund \$9,308.00; Transportation Fund \$153,603.27; Capital Projects \$38,985.00; total all funds: \$962,396.19; to approve the manual checks issued between January 23, 2018 – February 26, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$509,013.83; O&M Fund \$3,716.95; Transportation Fund \$121.38; Capital Projects \$-1,550.00 ; total all funds: \$511,302.16.

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

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to approve Policy 6:190 *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities* as second read.

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

**CONFERENCE ITEMS****Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Good and Welfare**

None

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff 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, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent – none: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:48 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:45 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:46 p.m. by **General Consent.**

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 President

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 Secretary