

AUGUST 28, 2017
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, August 28, 2017 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Mark Steen called the meeting to order at 7:17 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,

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2017 Special meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole meeting SFC/FDC – President Steen noted the Committee met at 5:00 p.m. today and reviewed FY18 District 39 and Wilmette Community Special Education Association (WCSEA) budgets. The committee also discussed the possible pension cost shift. The District continues to include .5% cumulatively per year in the five-year projections in case of a possible cost shift. Other topics discussed were the permanent interfund transfer, tax compliant notification, and bond renewal. The committee reviewed summer construction projects and a new ten-year health/life safety plan. The committee continued to discuss Highcrest construction to address the over-crowding and space issues. He noted the current projections for Phase 1 construction costs are approximately \$4M. He added continued reports would be provided.

Insurance Advisory Committee – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the next meeting is October 23rd.

Community Review Committee – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the CRC is discussing topics for consideration.

Educational Foundation – Mrs. Sternweiler stated the next meeting is September 13th.

WCSEA – Mrs. Sternweiler stated the next meeting is November 6th.

Parent Teacher Behavior Advisory – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the next meeting is spring 2018.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Kearney reported the House and Senate continue to focus on education funding and passed a bill that was vetoed by Governor Rauner. The Senate overrode the veto. A new compromised bill was presented but had not passed in the House.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board didn't have written communication to post this month.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner announced opening day events included new teacher orientation and paraprofessional training that included cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, technology integration and much more. Institute days begin August 31st with focus on staff trainings. September 1st all staff are welcomed at the District wide opening day. The first school day for students is September 5th.

Dr. Lechner stated construction projects completed over the summer were Learning Commons at Romona and McKenzie. Other projects included boiler replacement at the junior high and 16 unit-vent replacement at Romona.

Dr. Lechner stated the District replaced its antiquated phone system over the summer and with that change new phone numbers were assigned to the schools.

FOIA

The District received a FOIA request from Kate Scullion requesting Administrator's Summary Report for the 2016 ERB/CTP4 student testing administered by New Trier High School. Another FOIA from Gabriella Lauricella of SmartProcure requesting any and all purchasing records from April 19th to the present.

The District received five separate emails from Taryn Phaneuf of LocalLabs Media. The email included thirty-five (35) categories of FOIA requests concerning the CRC Climate Survey, staff training/development days; Building a Climate of Empathy; Teaching Tolerance; Beyond Diversity Seminar; SEED/National SEED Project; Pacific Educational Group (PEG); Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC); Trump/election; social justice; systemic racism; adaptive leadership and anything related to Corrie Wallace, Patricia Savage-Williams and Victor Pacini. The detailed FOIA request and the District response is available on line.

The last FOIA received was from Michael Day requesting all amounts rendered to Illinois Teacher Retirement System for substitutes between June 2012-October 2014.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. Response to Community Review Committee (CRC) Report

Dr. Lechner stated this report is the Superintendent's response to the CRC Report, "School Climate" that was presented to the Board of Education in June. He noted District 39 is grateful for CRC's research and strategic direction. He stated there are seven recommendations to embed in the plan, including embracing a statement of inclusion, respecting and celebrating differences in students, reviewing social emotional learning programs, and providing training on the differences between social conflict and bullying. The draft plan would be presented at the September Board meeting.

Mr. Cesaretti noted the CRC included a greater effort to include parent involvement in the initiative and suggested this be a priority for the district. Mrs. Sternweiler noted assessing the effectiveness of current social emotional practices and researching other programs was a wonderful outcome resulting from community feedback. Mrs. Kearney questioned the assessment process. Dr Lechner stated an outside consultant would develop the criteria to assess students. The draft would be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting and at the Board of Education meeting.

2. Statement of Inclusion Approval

Dr. Lechner stated the first public draft of the Statement of Inclusion was presented at the June 19th Board meeting. The intent of the statement is to enhance communication of District beliefs in support of the District's mission to nurture, guide, and challenge students to be more productive citizens of a global society and to be proactive in areas of empathy, diversity and inclusiveness. He stated upon approval, the statement would be placed on the District webpage below the Mission Statement.

Mrs. Kearney questioned why the language "sexualities" had not been changed to "sexual orientation" as suggested in committee meeting. Mr. Steen stated Mrs. Kearney could pull the statement from the Consent Agenda and present the statement for a vote "as amended".

D. Annual Business

1. Enrollment Update

Each August the District provides an update on student enrollment. The report details the current status of students registered and enrolled at each grade level at each school. There have been slight shifts in the number of sections at various grade levels due to cohorts of students moving to the next grade level. However, the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of homeroom teachers is the same as last year (146).

Dr. Glowacki stated the elementary grades remain stable at three to five sections at each grade level. Highcrest sixth grade sections increased from 16 to 18 sections as the cohort of fifth graders moved to sixth grade. Both seventh and eighth grades have a 2-teacher (AA) team due to the number of students in each grade level.

Mr. Panzica questioned the cause for most schools' grade levels being 100% complete but some were not. Dr. Glowacki explained the difference between enrollment and registered students.

2. Annual Tax Compliance Notification

Dr. Lechner stated annually, the Business Manager reviews the District's contracts and expenditure records to assure the Tax Advantaged Obligations comply with federal requirements. This is an annual public notice indicating the District is compliant.

3. Annual State of Illinois School Treasurer Bond Renewal

Dr. Lechner stated this is an annual insurance renewal. ISBE requires 25% of our highest cash balance throughout the fiscal year. The insurance bond is for \$13Million in order to meet this requirement.

4. FY16 Administrator and Teacher Salary & Benefits Report (ATSB)

Dr. Lechner stated each year the District presents and posts administrator and teacher salaries and benefits.

E. Board Policy Review

1. First 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 Section 6, Instruction, would be the focus for revisions this year. These policies are presented for first read. Dr. Glowacki noted the revisions and renaming of specific policies have been revised to reflect current laws and practices.

The Board offered extensive edits to the policies for second read.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Lieber of Wilmette, updated the Board and community about legislative voting. He noted there were two additional House votes; one attempt to override the initial bill lost and the second vote, by sizeable margin in the House, approved the compromised bill.

Beth Feeley of Wilmette, requested clarification regarding when written communication should be received in order to be presented at the upcoming Board meeting. In respect to CRC findings of conservative kids being harassed, she asked if this might be reflected in the Statement of Inclusion.

Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg of Wilmette, applauded the District for proposing the Statement of Inclusion. She noted in response to the previous community member's comments, that 'perspective' in the first sentence of second paragraph would include political ideology as well as 'identities and affiliations' and 'worldviews' in the second sentence might also encompass that status. She stated as a civil rights attorney observing status issues, race and ethnicity, political ideology, and disabilities, she experiences what happens when policies and inclusions are not implemented at a young age. She also spoke as an official in her township capacity, and offered insight into intergovernmental cooperation addressing bullying issues. She recommended counseling offerings and additional services provided by New Trier Township Social Services.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Kearney requested the Statement of Inclusion be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the Personnel Report dated August 28, 2017, which included licensed full-time reemployment of **Ann Norton**, effective August 31, 2017; licensed full-time employment of **Susanna Beien**, effective August 31, 2017; **Hannah Breed**, effective August 31, 2017; **Brian Chapp**, effective August 31, 2017; **Chad Deininger**, effective August 31, 2017; **Zachary Hayes**, effective August 31, 2017; **Elizabeth Hutchinson**, effective August 31, 2017; **Jamie Knuth**, effective August 31, 2017; **Lindsay McNaught**, effective August 31, 2017; **Ashley Meneese**, effective August 31, 2017; **Vanessa Montoya**, effective August 31, 2017; **Catherine Patel**, effective August 25, 2017; **Elizabeth Pikes**, effective August 31, 2017; **Michelle Sarich**, effective August 31, 2017; **Melanie Stauner**, effective August 31, 2017; licensed part-time employment of **Connie Clark**, effective August 31, 2017; **Lauren Levinson**, effective August 31, 2017; **Hillary Rosenthal**, effective August 31, 2017; **Nicole Shamis**, effective August 31, 2017; **Shanshan Zhang**, effective August 31, 2017; educational support personnel full-time reemployment of **Hebah Abu Obaid**, effective August 30, 2017; educational support personnel part-time reemployment of **Donna Eckert**, effective August 30, 2017; **Linda Garcia**, effective August 30, 2017; **Lisa Zagorin**, effective August 30, 2017; educational support personnel full-time employment

of **Eileen Alps**, effective August 30, 2017; **Sandra Arellano**, effective August 17, 2017; **Susan Dinh**, effective August 30, 2017; **Becky Dolinko**, effective August 30, 2017; **Daniel Fogal**, effective August 30, 2017; **Hayley Forde**, effective August 30, 2017; **Elizabeth Gonzalez**, effective August 30, 2017; **Kathleen Kelley**, effective August 30, 2017; **Amy Kramer**, effective August 30, 2017; **Hallie Nissen**, effective August 30, 2017; **Slaney Palmer**, effective August 30, 2017; **Laura Resis**, effective August 30, 2017; licensed resignation of **Jacqueline Evenboer**, effective August 8, 2017; **Allison Krzesinski**, effective June 28, 2017; **Caitlin Merkle**, effective August 31, 2017; **Sarah Richards**, effective July 23, 2017; educational support personnel resignation of **Madeline Bednar**, effective August 15, 2017; **Marsha Eagan**, effective August 11, 2017; **Catherine Evans**, effective August 15, 2017; **Dylan Falduto**, effective August 8, 2017; **Victor Hernandez**, effective August 7, 2017; **Claire Jaeger**, effective July 27, 2017; **Mary Luxem**, effective August 17, 2017; **Patricia Murphy**, effective July 31, 2017; **Nancy Nordgren**, effective July 31, 2017; **China Saria**, effective August 4, 2017; **Samuel Scherer**, effective June 9, 2017; **Marnie Schmisek**, effective July 21, 2017; **Danielle Stephens**, effective August 22, 2017; **Lauren Wenzel**, effective August 16, 2017; **Holly Zimmerman**, effective August 11, 2017; educational support personnel retirement of **Joanna Topolinski**, effective the end of the 2020-21 school year: to approve the annual renewal dated August 28, 2017 of the State of Illinois School Treasurer Bond in the amount of \$13,000,000.00: to approve as first read revised Board of Education Policies 6:10 *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*; 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*; 6:50 *School Wellness*; 6:60 *Curriculum*; 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 June 20, 2017 – July 24, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$609,379.36; O&M Fund \$92,923.58; Debt Service Fund \$317,490.00; Transportation Fund \$36,981.73; Capital Projects Fund \$177,412.00; total all funds: \$1,234,186.67: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between July 25, 2017 – August 28, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$867,825.85; O&M Fund \$294,005.11; Transportation Fund \$36,023.61; Capital Projects Fund \$1,579,677.00; Tort Fund \$70,626.00; total all funds: \$2,848,157.57: approve the manual checks issued between June 20, 2017 – July 24, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$543,739.66; O&M Fund \$571,615.32; Transportation Fund \$12,178.09; Capital Projects Fund \$198,449.62; total all funds: \$1,325,982.69: to approve the manual checks issued between July 25, 2017 – August 28, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$436,772.22; O & M Fund \$34,237.24; Debt Service Fund \$1,545.65; Transportation Fund \$324.54; total all funds: \$472,897.65.

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.**

To address voting on the Statement of Inclusion, Dr. Lechner recommended voting on the statement as written. He explained the statement included political perspectives and affiliations and also talked about sexual orientation and written parallels honoring “races and cultures, genders and sexualities, abilities and aspirations, identities and affiliations”, etc. using two words as opposed to three words. He noted the Board may amend the statement if they so choose.

Mr. Steen requested a motion to amend the Statement of Inclusion from “sexualities” to “sexual orientations”. Mrs. Kearney moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to amend the Statement of Inclusion. Mr. Cesaretti noted he would like to postpone the vote. Mr. Steen stated the Board could vote the amended statement down and it would be presented at the next Board meeting.

A voice vote on the amended statement, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Ellen Sternweiler, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent – none: **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Steen requested a motion to approve the Statement of Inclusion as amended. Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the Statement of Inclusion as amended.

Mrs. Kearney felt a statement of inclusion was unnecessary. She felt the District is nothing but inclusive whether it’s written or not. She reread the District’s Mission Statement noting it encompasses inclusion.

Mrs. Sternweiler felt it extraordinarily important to have in writing a clear, clean statement of inclusion that puts significance of the work behind the words.

Mr. Cesaretti, felt this statement was a good one and felt comfortable moving forward.

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes asked Dr. Lechner to provide a brief recap for developing a Statement of Inclusion.

Dr. Lechner explained the statement began over a year ago, as teachers developed a basic belief system to embrace and display on the website for new families and potential new employees. The CRC provided input and refined the improved statement. The Board Strategy committee also reviewed the statement and it was embraced overall.

Mrs. Schaff felt the statement was very important to state the intent of the District, noting it was a project developed by the teachers who worked long and hard on it.

Mr. Steen stated the District expresses its beliefs in many different ways, in practices, through behavior, and more formal ways such as policies. He added going the extra mile to explicitly express a Mission Statement and strive to follow it all of the time was another display, as is this statement. He felt strongly that this Inclusion Statement is the right statement and this is the right time to make it.

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

B. Adopt Annual Budgets

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to adopt the Annual Budget for Wilmette Public Schools, Cook County District 39 as presented in the report dated August 28, 2017 reflecting all anticipated revenues and expenditures for a period extending from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

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.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to adopt the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement annual budget, as presented in the report dated August 28, 2017, reflecting all anticipated revenues and expenditures for a period extending from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

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.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the resolution dated August 28, 2017, authorizing a permanent interfund transfer in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund as contained in the report.

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

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary