

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the Homer O. Harvey room in said district on Tuesday evening, February 25, 2020.

Jennifer Gallinson president pro tem called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

Tony Forchetti
Jennifer Gallinson
Louis Gross
Mara Silver-Schack

Absent: Michael Gilmore, Michelle Kohler, and Tracy Katz Muhl

Also present were Dr. Larry Hewitt, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official; Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; Penelope Burke, Jessica Wayne, Karyn Tefka, Kris Izenstark, Cari Raymond, Colette O'Regan, Jessica Love, Hanxin Zhao, Gina Lee, Alice Seay, Lorena Stevenson, Mara Smith, Julia Pantchev, Shelly O'Regan, Marie Junkmann, Emily Hoesly, Leslie Herbst, Karen Nelson, Marina Padovsky, Julia Milman, Lisa Raju, Liz Wang, Christina Anderson, Kim Yeh, Colleen Milks, Chris Walsh, Maura Crislen, Bryce Budin, Meghan Mott, Brian Sheedy, Kelley Peifer, Jeannie Ha, Kyle Parkee, Bo Herbst, District parents; Hillary Yanai, Mary Perkins, Dave Grossman, Stephanie Badzioch, Ellen Feeney, Danyel Kilburg, Matthew Haggis, Pam Mendelson, Nicole Gas, Brenda Buckner, Jennifer Moran and Lauren Mulkerrin, District 28 teachers.

Visitors Comments/Presentations

Two teachers commented separately on the good partnership teachers have with administration and urged the decision-making process to proceed carefully and to consider the various impacts with respect to changing the junior high master schedule and implementing a new math curriculum.

Several parents spoke in support of the changes in curriculum, K-5 homework policy and the support for students in the schools.

Several parents asked for more information on the decision-making process for selecting math resources and to participate in decision-making.

Some parents said that change in instructional minutes at the junior high should not take time away from language arts.

Some parents asked that teachers be involved in the schedule decisions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hewitt commented regarding an email circulated by a parent with inaccurate information regarding communication, transparency and the math review. He noted the multi-pronged approach to enhancing communication, including live streaming board meetings, publishing the meeting information packet, expanding the public report of the meeting through "Board Briefs," establishing a parent Communications Advisory Committee, developing a strategic dashboard and publishing continual updates of the website, surveying parents and holding math forums, with additional forums planned for the spring. In addition, informational videos on academic programs have been produced and are still being published. He wished to clarify that the district is not considering eliminating the live stream of the meetings as was erroneously stated in the parent email.

1. State of 28 Annual Report -- Dr. Hewitt provided an overview of district initiatives, enrollment, demographics, finances, future development, and upcoming projects in his annual State of 28 report. He noted that the district will be carefully monitoring the demographic projections that predict an increase enrollment at the junior high over the next several years. He stated that the district has been growing more diverse with increases in the Hispanic and Asian populations. With 95% of the district revenues generated locally, the district is insulated from one-time shortfalls in federal and state funding. District reserves were used to fund the construction of an addition at Westmoor school. Interest income has been growing over the last two years. Looking to the future, safety and security will continue to be a priority. Meadowbrook enrollment as it relates to new development in the village, along with possible costs shifts in TRS pension, the TIF at Northbrook Court and a growing nationwide teacher shortage are challenges for the future.

Members Katz Muhl and Kohler arrived at 8:27 p.m. President Katz Muhl assumed the presidency role.

COMMUNICATION **(Written Communications)**

The Board was provided, as information, recent copies of "Northbrook Star" and "Northbrook Tower" articles regarding District 28 and neighboring districts and District publications including the "As a Matter of Fact," "Board Briefs," and FOIA requests. Highlights included the NBJH 8th grade boys basketball team ending their run with 50-0 record; Jeremy Bartunek was a Golden Apple finalist, and the science fair

resulted in 34 students qualifying for the Illinois Junior Academy of Science regional March 7.

(Board Calendar Review)

The Board reviewed the updated calendar of meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Gross and seconded by Member Gallinson that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 28, 2020, and the Closed Session minutes of January 28, 2020, since members had each previously been sent copies.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Gross, Gallinson, Forchetti, Kohler, Silver-Schack, and Katz Muhl . Nay: none. Abstain: none.
Absent: Member Gilmore. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

(Payroll – last half January 2020 and first half of February 2020)

the payment of employee salaries for the last half of January 2020, in the amount of \$ 1,097,170.43 and covered by check numbers 64142 through 64177, and deduction check numbers 64178 through 64195, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated February 25, 2020;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of February 2020, in the amount of \$ 1,164,566.12 and covered by check numbers 64196 through 64238, and deduction check numbers 64239 through 64247, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated February 25, 2020;

(Bills)

vendor invoices totaling \$625,775.75 and Warrants listed as Numbers 51700 through 51855, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated February 25, 2020.

(Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations, Job Share)

New Hires

Silvia Rodriguez	WM	Foundational Aide \$17/hr.
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Leaves

Hilary Charlton	NBJH	Psychologist
Anna Marie Arreola	GB	Special Ed Teacher
Kelly Breen	WM	S/L Young Explorers
Katherine Schmitt	MB	2 nd grade Teacher
Laura Van Dien	MB	Special Education Teacher

Resignations

Emily Pietrasiak	NBJH	7 th gr. Math
Paul Siebert	MB	Foundational Aide

Job Share

Brittany Farris	MB	1 st gr. Teacher
Terese Rick	MB	1 st gr. Teacher
Jodi Siglin	GB	2 nd gr. Teacher
Liz Weir	GB	2 nd gr. Teacher

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Kohler, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Forchetti, Gross, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gilmore. Motion carried.

FINANCE
(Financial Report)

The Board of Education received copies of the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending January 2020.

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Gross that the Board accept the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending January 2020.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Forchetti, Gross, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Kohler, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gilmore. Motion carried.

(Bus Fees)

The bus contract is increasing 38% next year. Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato provided two scenarios for creating a bus fee for all district riders reflecting

input the board provided in January. The fee is intended to recoup the contract increase rather than the entire cost of the bus contract. Under the current structure, only 245 riders pay a fee, which is charged to riders who live less than 1.5 miles away from school and do not have a hazardous crossing on their route to school. The new fee will charge all riders, with a discount offered to families with multiple siblings. The specific terms for implementing the fee are as follows:

The fee will be phased in to cover the cost of the contract increase. In 2020-21 the fee will be \$325 per rider, with discount rates for families with multiple siblings. The fee for a second rider of the same family will be \$253 and a third rider will be \$181. In 2021-22, the fee will increase to \$464 per rider, \$361 for the second rider and \$258 for the third rider from the same family. For 2022-23, the bus fee will increase as additional 3% to align with the cost increase delineated in the contract. The bus fee for typically developing peers in the Young Explorers program will also increase 32% to \$725.

The need for financial assistance will be identified through the federal guidelines used for the free- and reduced-lunch program.

It was moved by Member Gallinson, and seconded by Member Silver Schack to approve a school bus fee for all riders who register for the service, subject to the implementation terms discussed.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Gallinson, Silver-Schack, Forchetti, Kohler, Gross, and Katz-Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gilmore. Motion carried.

EDUCATION

(Enrollment Report)

The January 2020 enrollment report was provided as information. Dr. Hewitt noted that Meadowbrook School received five new students after Winter Break.

(Navigate 28 Strategic Plan Update)

Dr. Hewitt provided a mid-year overview of projects in progress under each of five goals of the strategic plan:

Goal 1: Student Growth & Achievement includes work on implementing Literacy Studio/ELA; math curriculum review; implementing the newly revised social studies curriculum; and year two of Learning First instructional technology plan.

Goal 2: Learning Environment includes improving/enhancing the junior high STEM lab; developing an instructional support model known as MTSS; and creating a philosophy and vision statement for the district's diversity, equity and inclusion practices.

Goal 3: Work Environment includes designing professional learning in the areas of ELA, technology and math.

Goal 4: Family & Community Connections includes enhancing communication and information sharing; and continuing parent programming.

Goal 5: Resources includes enhancing safety & security, improving cyber security, and developing a four-year capital improvements plan.

The full mid-year report is posted on the district's Navigate 28 Strategic Plan webpage.

(Northfield Township Intergovernmental Agreement for Providing Student Services Programs)

The IGA will allow two or more of the participating districts to enter into a shared services agreement to provide specific student service programs, as needed, for the benefit of students and their respective districts. This agreement provides the avenue to share services should it be mutually agreeable and beneficial.

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Gallinson that the Board approve the Northfield Township Intergovernmental Agreement as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Forchetti, Kohler, Gross and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gilmore. Motion carried.

(Northfield Township Articulation Update)

Dr. Hewitt provided a summary of topics covered in the monthly meeting held with Northfield Township superintendents. Highlights included working with NSSED on the shared services agreement; work on a United Crisis Emergency Plan to establish common terminology and implementing a crisis communication app for 2020-21; the challenge of student truancy; the impact of the coronavirus and the use of early release or late start for professional development.

(NBJH Master Schedule Update)

Dr. Hewitt outlined the process that prompted the review of the NBJH master schedule. As the math program review progressed, the need to extend instructional minutes in math became apparent through several factors. There are too many learning standards to cover in 40-minute classes, which is compounded with the

single acceleration and double acceleration course pathways. An instructional model that focuses on student-centered learning rather than lecture-style instruction also requires more time. The curricular materials being reviewed are structured on a 60-minute period. In addition, a survey of area districts showed that the NBJH schedule is in the lowest tier of math instruction. An administrative team that includes Dr. Meek, Dr. Raitzer, Dr. Hewitt and Michelle Jackson are working on the many moving pieces involved in restructuring the master schedule. There is no quick solution, and any change in one subject will have an impact in another area. They worked with a consultant to develop several different examples to review with staff. The team will continue to work with the staff and examine possible changes that will increase the math minutes. They will report on their progress at the March meeting.

Member Gallinson left the meeting at 10:47 p.m.

BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

Dr. Hewitt noted the committee will be meeting in the coming month to review summer projects.

LEGISLATION **(Legislative Update)**

No report.

(Policy)

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Gross that the Board approve the policies as presented in Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Issue 102: 2:20, 2:70, 2:70-E, 2:100, 2:105, 2:110, 2:200, 2:220, 2:220-E, 2:250-E2, 2:260, 4:15, 4:30, 4:60, 4:80, 4:150, 5:10, 5:20-E2.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Forchetti, Gross, Silver-Schack, Kohler, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Members Gallinson and Gilmore. Motion carried.

NSSSED

No report.

COMMUNICATION

Communications Director Terry Ryan noted that all four schools reached the response benchmarks on the Illinois 5Essentials Survey to receive full reports. This information is shared with the public in the annual Illinois School Report Card. A series of four videos explaining the curriculum and instructional approach to Literacy Studio is being shared with parents this month. Analytics on the number of viewers of

the board meeting video streaming as well as on the opens and clicks of Board briefs were also reported.

AD HOC Committees

(Economic Development Committee – EDC)

No report.

(SAF)

The SAF minutes from the January 29, 2020 meeting were provided as information.

NEW BUSINESS

President Katz Muhl reported that there was a strong community response at the Pace hearing against the elimination of a Northbrook public bus route.

CLOSED SESSION

At 11:00 p.m. it was moved by and Member Kohler seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board go into Closed Session to discuss the following:

1. the appointment, employment, compensation of specific employees of the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine the validity as authorized by 5ILCS 120/2 © (1).

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Kohler, Silver-Schack, Forchetti, Gross, and Katz-Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Members Gallinson, Gilmore. Motion carried.

At 11:24 p.m., it was moved by Member Gross and seconded by Member Forchetti that the Board return to the regular session.

All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed moving the March meeting from March 17 because of the IL primary election. Board members agreed to meet on March 19 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:26 p.m., it was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the meeting adjourn.

All members present voted Aye. Absent: Members Gallinson and Gilmore. Motion carried.

Larry A. Hewitt, Secretary

Tracy Katz Muhl, President