

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28  
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the Homer O. Harvey room, located at 1475 Maple Ave., in said district on Tuesday evening, November 26, 2019.

President Katz Muhl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

Tony Forchetti  
Michael Gilmore  
Louis Gross  
Mara Silver-Schack  
Tracy Katz Muhl

Absent: Jennifer Gallinson and Michelle Kohler.

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; Neil Milbert, Northbrook Tower Reporter; Colette O'Regan, Henry Hu, Chen Li, Kris Izenstark, Karen Nelson, Leslie and Albert Herbst, District 28 parents; Jeremy Bartunek, Abby Blair, Kathryn Finch, Anca Apetean, District 28 Music Teachers; and Ginny Hiltz, Greenbriar Principal.

**VISITOR'S COMMENTS**

A parent referred to a newspaper article about elementary teachers teaching math. She asked the board to consider having math specialists teach math to students beginning in kindergarten.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hewitt reported that he has spoken with the math department head and the superintendent in District 225 to get clarification regarding the status of the math class, Algebra 163G. He said he was told by both sources that the course is a college-prep course and that it is not a remedial class.

**PRESENTATIONS**  
**(Music Curriculum Update)**

Dr. Raitzer introduced the district's four music teachers: Abby Blair at Westmoor, Kathryn Finch at Meadowbrook, Jeremy Bartunek at Greenbriar, and Anca Apetean at Northbrook Junior High.

Over the past two years the music curriculum has been reviewed to align with the new Illinois Learning Standards. There are four pillars of music learning: creating, performing, responding, and connecting. After a short video, the teachers provided examples of how those pillars are applied to learning at each grade level. K-5 elementary students have music for one hour, twice a week and as part of a rotation of classes for six-week periods in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Eighth-grade students have music as an elective.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Holiday Modification**

At 7:31 p.m., it was moved by Member Gilmore and seconded by Member Forchetti that the Board open the public hearing to discuss the modification of a legal school holiday.

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

Public Act 96-640 provides that a school board is authorized to hold school or schedule specific school events on certain legal school holidays. Under consideration for the District 28 school calendar is the following holiday modification:

    Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12) – to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff developmental activities (including school improvement and in-service training), when such holiday falls on a weekday.

There were no questions and comments from the audience.

At 7:32 p.m., it was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Gilmore that the Board close the public hearing.

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

## **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 other publications, including the “Board Briefs.”

### **(Board Calendar Review)**

The Board reviewed the updated calendar of meetings.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Gilmore and seconded by Member Gross that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 22, 2019, the Closed Session minutes of October 22, 2019, the regular minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, November 5, 2019 and the Closed Session minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, November 5, 2019, since members had each previously been sent copies.

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

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Gross that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

### **(Payroll – last half of October 2019 and first half of November 2019)**

the payment of employee salaries for the last half of October 2019, in the amount of \$ 1,172,383.26 and covered by check numbers 63794 through 63838, and deduction check numbers 63839 through 63856, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the Vice President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated November 26, 2019;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of November 2019, in the amount of \$ 1,155,138.75 and covered by check numbers 63857 through 63903, and deduction check numbers 63904 through 63912, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the Vice President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated November 26, 2019;

**(Bills)**

Vendor invoices totaling \$1,288,293.89 and Warrants listed as Numbers 53557 through 53809, confirmed by the signatures of the Vice President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated November 26, 2019.

**(Personnel Report)**

**New Hire**

Jennifer Breuck	WM	EC Social Worker, Step M+30-03, prorated to 108 days
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**Resignations**

Seth Bowers	GB	TSS
Tina DeBlasio	WM	Foundational Aide
Libby Nass	GB	Special Educational Aide

**Contract Change**

Haley Sachs	GB	School Nurse, From \$39.77 hourly to contract B+12-04, effective 8-19-19.
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On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Forchetti, Gross, Silver-Schack, Gilmore, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Members Gallinson and Kohler. Motion carried.

**FINANCE**

**(Financial Report)**

The Board of Education received copies of the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending October 2019.

Jessica Donato said the district is experiencing difficulty filling substitute teaching positions. After studying the rate of pay of surrounding districts, she proposed increasing the daily rate by \$5.

Diversified Benefit Services, a new vendor, has been contracted to serve as the District's flexible spending account administrator.

Mrs. Donato reported that the district went out to bid for transportation services simultaneously but separately, from neighboring districts. She reported receiving six letters of interest on the bid but only one complete bid proposal, which was from the existing provider, First Student. She noted the proposal was

substantially higher than the rate the district is currently paying. She will be working through the proposal with First Student to identify additional savings. She will also be researching other options.

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Gilmore that the Board accept the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending October 2019.

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

## **EDUCATION**

### **(Enrollment Report)**

The October 2019 enrollment was provided as information.

### **(Ratification of New Certified Staff)**

It was moved by Member Gross and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the following contract for employment for the 2019-20 school year, subject to the provisions of the Board policy pertaining to pension contributions, at the respective step and cash salary and TRS contribution, (collectively known as "Salary"):

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP AND LANE</u>
Diane Anderson	GB	EL Teacher	M+12-12, prorated to 113 days to 50%

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

### **(School Report Card)**

Dr. Hewitt presented the School Report Cards which are prepared annually by the Illinois State Board of Education for each school and the district. Multiple indicators are used to determine each school's status. Seventy-five percent of the score is academic and 25% is learning environment. Academic indicators include both student proficiency and growth. Learning environment indicators include results from the Illinois 5Essentials Survey and chronic absenteeism. The district sent information in each school's e-news about the report cards with hyperlinks to the documents, as well as a letter to parents from the superintendent. The letter included overall student performance on IAR from neighboring districts.

**(MAP – Measure of Academic Progress)**

Dr. Raitzer presented an overview of NWEA MAP, which the district administers by choice to grades 3-8 two to three times a year. MAP is one data point that helps the district understand student learning and also provides immediate feedback to teachers to understand each student's learning profile. MAP is one of multiple data points used in considering placement in advanced classes. The district's scores fall primarily in the top two national quintiles.

**(Draft 2020-21 School Calendar)**

A draft of the 2020-21 school calendar was presented for review. The proposed calendar has school starting the same week as previous years and aligns winter and spring breaks with the high school calendar. The last day of school is tentatively June 1. The final calendar will be approved in December.

**(Grant Funding Activities Report)**

Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent, summarized the 2019-2020 State and Federal grant allocations and an 8-year history of State and Federal grant funding in District 28.

**(Special Education Disability Report)**

Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services, provided an 8-year history of District 28 students receiving services. Dr. Sculles said the District has focused professional learning for staff to target areas of student need.

**(Northfield Township Articulation Update)**

Dr. Hewitt reported that at the most recent township superintendents meeting included discussion on the following topics: 8<sup>th</sup> grade placement process; exploring SEL programs and initiatives in each district; and the shared services agreement with NSSD. The pilot program Hunger Free Northbrook was successful at Westmoor School and will expand to at least one school in each of the area school districts. The superintendents also reviewed emergency weather protocols.

**BUILDINGS and GROUNDS**

No report.

**LEGISLATION**

Member Silver-Schack and Katz-Muhl reported on the IASB resolutions voted on at the recent Triple I conference. Member Katz-Muhl attended as the district delegate. The resolution that would direct IASB to encourage state government

to develop legislation allowing school districts to arm teachers was defeated. The resolution to support funding for School Resource Officers was approved.

### **POLICY**

The Board conducted the first reading of the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Issue 101, Policies: 2:110, 2:140, 2:230, 4:20, 5:180, 6:40, 6:340, 7:180.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communications Director Terry Ryan recapped the November meeting of the Communications Advisory Committee and future topics for parent programming. She also highlighted the Veteran's Day Ceremony at NBJH and an update of the letter-writing project with the District's sister school in Kenya – Spurgeon's Academy. Dr. Hewitt reviewed an online strategic dashboard developed by ECRA, as well as possible success indicators that could be used in the areas of academics, finances, the learning environment, and district characteristics.

### **NSSSED**

Member Gilmore reported the NSSSED finance committee continues to work on developing a viable financial model for the coop.

### **AD HOC**

#### **(SAF)**

The minutes from the SAF meeting, which was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, were provided as information.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **(In)**

At 9:13 p.m., it was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to discuss the following:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel for the District to determine its validity as authorized 5ILCS 120/2 © (1), and
2. Matters related to individual students as authorized by 5ILCS120/2.

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

**(Out)**

At 10:01 p.m. it was moved by Member Gross and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education return to Regular Session.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:02 p.m., it was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the meeting be adjourned.

All members present voted Aye. Nay: none. Absent: Members Gallinson and Kohler. Motion carried.

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Larry A. Hewitt, Secretary

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Tracy Katz Muhl, President