

REGULAR
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
March 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Postponed

President Cary Moreth called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 to order on Monday, March 23, 2020 in a virtual setting. We invited the public to join the School Board this evening by emailing Claudia Fecho at cfecho@sd13.org. Our meeting structure has prompted some modifications to our normal agenda that will be postponed: Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, Recognition of Exemplars and Board Reports.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Matt Boebel, Mr. Mike Cozzi (entered 7:35 p.m.), Mr. Terry McKeown, Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mr. David Schueler, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mr. Cary Moreth

Absent: None

Other Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Dr. Evonne Waugh, Claudia Fecho, John Reiniche, Greg Leyden

Exemplar Presentation – Postponed

Public Hearing – Honorable Dismissal Based on Economic Necessity

A motion was made by Mr. Schueler and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to open the Public Hearing.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Schueler, Wojcicki, Boebel, McKeown, Peterson, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

Mrs. Fecho read the emails received from regarding concerns on the Reduction in Force of the nine (9) teachers and the budget deficit. Dr. Bartelt will be emailing each of them directly in response to their email.

Melissa Somone-Graham - To Whom This May Concern: On Sunday night I was made aware that the district is operating with a significant deficit and will be releasing 9 teachers. As not only a DJ parent, but a PTO Board member, a weekly hot lunch volunteer, and 3 year head room parent, I have learned a lot about our school and have had many interactions with students and staff. I was angry when I saw that teachers were being let go as a result of a budget deficit - as a parent and tax payer, I did not know that previously. More importantly, I was truly shocked as I read the names on the list of teachers from DJ. I know all 4 of the DJ teachers well and they were amongst the last names I would have expected to be reading. Mrs. Harsila is the PTO liaison, and I have had the privilege to know her well as we volunteer a lot together for various events. She is more involved with the school than ANY other teacher there. She makes learning fun and is an amazing teacher. If you ask any 2nd grade parent or student which teacher they want for 3rd grade - I am confident the majority will tell you, "Mrs. Harsila." Ms. Osborne is my daughter's teacher - and I am so grateful for that. Last year was a rough year in the classroom for my daughter because she was not being challenged and was often bored, as well as being bullied. By the middle of the school year, she was begging me to home school her because she didn't like going to school anymore. My sweet, very smart, fun daughter now hated school. That crushed me. Luckily, it all rapidly changed this year because of Ms. Osborne. Not only does she have control of her classroom, she demands respect for herself and amongst her students. She makes every day fun- and actually teaches in a way that the kids retain what they are learning. Ms. Osborne also voluntarily attends the majority of PTO events to show her support for her school and students. Mrs. Doran is my daughter's music teacher. Mrs. Doran is a very talented musician and a fabulous teacher. The ukulele program she implemented for the older kids has become a favorite amongst students and the younger kids can't wait to be of age to participate. The chorus is also run by Mrs. Doran. The performances are lovely and she really teaches the students to work together to make one beautiful voice! Her love for music and bubbly personality is evident in every class she teaches. I understand it is a common occurrence to dismiss teachers annually - but I can tell you that losing these 3 teachers will be devastating to DJ. They are phenomenal teachers, and we need more teachers like them at our school. In closing, I would like to emphasize that the students should be minimally impacted by budget cuts. Losing these teachers will negatively impact our school greatly. I truly hope that programs, such as music, will not be cut or reduced. We have an amazing community with outstanding support from parents - there is no reason our students should bare the burden for a poorly managed budget. I would also like to add that I have been a Realtor for 14 years. One of the main reasons many people want to move to Bloomingdale, or stay within the town, is because of the schools - primarily D13! Through the years, we have managed to create one of the most desirable school districts in the local area. I implore you to consider all of this as you make these important decisions and create next year's budget. Thank You for Your Time.

Antonia Pitrello-Missanelli - Dear District 13 School Board, It was just brought to my attention that there are going to be resolutions of teachers at the end of this school year. As I looked at the list, I see my own daughter's kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sara

Heitkam. I am concerned for her personally and for the future children that will neither be able to experience her care and experience her support nor her overall passion for teaching. As I am sure each teacher on the list is a great asset to the district, I can only speak to my experiences with Mrs. Heitkam. Even with the current situation we are in with the COVID-19 virus, Mrs. Heitkam has still been there to support her students and their parents. Before there was an official plan in place for our district as to moving to e-learning, Mrs. Heitkam had already sent our class multiple options for helping our students to stay on track with school. Additionally, she has been available to us via email and the remind app, outside of school hours. She always responds promptly even when I have sent her a message at 9 pm. The above examples speak to Mrs. Heitkam's excellence as an instructor and therefore her asset to our district. Thus, I reiterate my concern for the planned resolution of our fine teachers, like Mrs. Heitkam. I urge you to please try to minimize the impact on our student's learning and their resources by considering other options! Sincerely,

Laura Bidwell – Hello, My name is Laura Bidwill and I have two students at Dujardin Elementary school. We were informed today that a few teachers are at risk of losing their jobs. I would just like to express my Disappointment. One of the teachers, Miss Rachel Osborne, is my second graders current teacher. She's very upset by this news. She has had a very successful year in the classroom and a lot of that has to do with how engaging Miss Osborne is. When my fourth grader found out that most Doran is also at risk, she became very upset. She says she's a very fun teacher and she really enjoys the games that they play in class. Also, she was upset to hear that Miss Harsila *Sorry if that is spelled incorrectly might also be leaving. I do not understand the reasoning for these layoffs. How does a school district have such a deficit in their budget? What can we do as parents and students to help rectify this? We would be very disappointed to see such great teachers Leave our school. I appreciate you taking the time to read this email.

Traci Donnelly - As the School Board works to balance the budget, I would like to say a few words. I understand with the crisis it is critical to make some cuts....please strive to minimize the impact on student learning and the services in our school district.

Before cutting or reducing programs within our school buildings, please look closely at other options. As a parent to an iep student no one understands more that cuts in the wrong areas can greatly negatively impact our children including the ones most likely to get left behind. The success of our School District is a central benchmark of real estate value in our community. Hence why my family moved to this area and pay such high taxes happily. Please be the most resourceful, creative and careful as you can be during cuts. Thank you for your time

Alicia Atilano - To whom it may concern, while I recognize District 13 is faced with a serious budget issue, I'm shocked and heartbroken that at a time when communities come together during this world crisis you would decide to dismiss nine teachers. Teachers who have made and continue to make huge impacts in our children's lives. I know in the grand scheme of things, my voice is small and in the end may not affect

the decision, but my daughter is a student at this school and she loves coming to school because of Ms. Heitkam. This past week has been difficult for her and many of her classmates, with the drastic changes in life and not going to school, but getting an email from her teacher brought such a smile and lifted her spirit greatly. Ms. Heitkam is a wonderful teacher and my daughter learned so much from her this year. My daughter was new to this school and district this year and was welcomed with open arms by her new favorite teacher. Ms. Heitkam cares greatly about each child in her class and anyone can see her passion is teaching kindergarten kids.

I can't help but think that this district could find other ways to cut costs and scale back in an effort to save these amazing teachers. There are numerous areas of unneeded spending that I can think of off the top of my head perhaps, certain programs should be parted with or funded on behalf of the people that attend. I think redirecting certain funds that can be allocated in better ways would be beneficial as oppose to educators losing their jobs.

Please consider the children that are affect by this and that losing one of their favorite teachers can really hurt them.

Byren Travis - Dear Bloomingdale School District 13 School Board, As the School Board works to balance the budget, please strive to minimize the impact on student learning and services in our school district. Before cutting or reducing programs within our school buildings, please look closely at bus routes and the number of busses, capital projects, travel to conferences, planned retirements, renegotiating service contracts, purchasing, etc. The success of our School District is a central benchmark of real estate value in our community. Please be creative and careful as you tighten your belts.

Jobeth Karl – Hello, I was informed that SD 13 is having “budget issues” via a Facebook post by Bryen Travis. Having recently moved to Bloomingdale, hearing this information from a Facebook post wasn't ideal. My questions are have these “budget issues” been shared with the community and what is the plan moving forward? Is a referendum going to be something on the horizon to fix this? Are there any plans to reduce the use of a special education co-op and instead reduce costs by hiring district staff (with proper training and support) to support students that way? The cost of hiring another FTE for a sped position would be cheaper than paying for it from a co-op. (Love co-ops and love the support they offer their member districts, just know this is the trend in other districts to help support students and taxpayers). Thanks for letting me ask my questions.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to close the hearing.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Wojcicki, Boebel, McKeown, Schueler, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Boebel and seconded by Ms. Peterson to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular and Closed Meetings held 2-24-20, the Board Workshop Meeting held 3-11-20, and the Special and Closed Meetings held 3-16-20. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$63,942.18; the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$48,949.15; Debt Service in the amount of \$1,874.28; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$66,896.17; Payroll (2-25-2020) in the amount of \$ 453,318.39 and (3-10-2020) in the amount of \$456,008.49 as shown in (F.D. 3/23/2020-1); the Fund Balance Report as shown in (F.D. 3/23/2020-2); the Balance Sheet as shown in (F.D. 3/23/2020-3); the Revenue Report as shown in (F.D. 3/23/2020-4); the Expenditure Report as shown in (F.D. 3/23/2020-5); and Activity Report as shown in (F.D. 3/23/2020-6); **Change in Position**, Chris Shamet as a Long Term Sub at Westfield effective 3/9/2020 with a rate of \$271 daily, **Maternity Leave of Absence/FMLA**, Nicole Gabany Assistant Principal at Westfield effective 3/6/2020.

Superintendent's Report

Board Union Meeting

Mr. Boebel reported that once again the Board/Union meeting held on March 10 was a positive one. The group continued to discuss committee meetings and how they should be facilitated, leadership terms and limits, establish a committee policy and to make sure that all committees line up with our District Core Values.

Board Workshop and Dinner Meeting

The Board felt that the meeting was interesting and appreciate Brad Black adding an extra dimension to the meeting. The Board noted that the workshop was very similar to what it has been in the past and hopes that moving forward there will be something different in two years. The Board discussed setting goals for themselves at a later date.

Public Comment - None

Board Reports and Requests - Postponed

Freedom of Information Act Requests

Mrs. Fecho reported that there were two Freedom of Information Act Requests since the last Board meeting. Darrin airzson@yahoo.com emailed Mrs. Fecho on 2/27/20 requesting copies of invoices sent to D13 from any vendors selling janitorial supplies to it for the last 4 months; ikranjcec@smartprocure.com emailed Mrs. Fecho on 3/9/20

requesting any and all purchasing records from 12/3/19 to current. Both requests were answered within the required timeline by Mrs. Fecho NBC5 sent a survey regarding Chicago area schools and the Corona virus which was also completed.

ACTION ITEMS

Second Reading of Amendments to Board Policies (F.D. 3/23/2020-7)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Schueler for the Board to approve the amendments to the 6 identified policies, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Schueler, Boebel, Cozzi, McKeown, Wojcicki, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 - 0

Approval of Membership in the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (F.D.3/23/2020-8)

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Ms. Peterson for the Board to approve the membership in the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Peterson, Boebel, Cozzi, Schueler, Wojcicki, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Third & Fourth Year Teacher Appointment/Tenure (F.D. 3/23/2020-9)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wojcicki and seconded by Mr. McKeown for the Board to approve the re-employment of teacher recommended for third, and fourth year contracts, as well as teachers on tenure track.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Wojcicki, McKeown, Boebel, Cozzi, Peterson, Schueler, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Approval of Retirement Requests (F.D. 3/23/2020-10)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the retirement requests of the teaching staff, as submitted.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Wojcicki, Boebel, Cozzi, McKeown, Schueler, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers (F.D. 3/23/2020-11)

A motion was made by Mr. Schueler and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the recommendation of the Administration to not renew the contracts of the teachers listed above with regret.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Schueler, Wojcicki, Boebel, Cozzi, McKeown, Peterson, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Approve the NDSEC Transportation Services Contract with Septran (F.D. 3/23/2020-12)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to reject the “Clarifications” portion of Septran Inc.’s bid for special education student transportation services and approve the Transportation Services Contract, on that basis, for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, Wojcicki, Boebel, Cozzi, McKeown, Schueler, Moreth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

Approval of the Revised Building Projects (F.D. 3/23/2020-13)

The Board decided to table the approval until the April 27 Board Meeting asking the Administration to reduce the cost further before approving.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

Topic(s) for Future Agendas - None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: all ayes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Cary Moreth, President

Linda Wojcicki, Secretary