

REGULAR
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
March 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Matt Boebel called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022 in an in person and virtual setting. The District invited the public to join the School Board this evening by Zoom webinar platform.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Patrick Devitt, Mr. Michael Lenisa, Mr. Terry McKeown, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mr. Matt Boebel

Absent: Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mrs. Kari Zehme

Others Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Shannon Whitaker, Nicole Gabany, John Reiniche, Rick McCall, Narendra Murkonda, Madhuri Nekkanthi, Jenny Donohue, Dan Donohue, Stacy Johnston, Greg Leyden, Avani Shah, Ali Ventrella, Alex Keown

Recognition of Exemplars – Board Member, Terry McKeown recognized this month's Student Exemplar, Olivia Wierzba, and Staff Exemplar, Mike Ryan.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on 2-28-22, Special Board Meeting held on 3-14-22, and Closed Session Meeting held on 3-14-22. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$133,903.71; the Operations and Maintenance Fund for in the amount of \$115,643.18; Debt Service in the amount of \$1,864.30; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$85,005.05; Capital Projects in the amount of \$0.00; and Tort Fund in the amount of \$100.00; Payroll (3-10-2022) in the amount of \$502,885.84 and (3-25-2022) in the amount of \$445,139.84 as shown in (F.D. 3/28/2022-1); the Fund Balance Report as shown in (F.D. 3/28/2022-2); the Balance Sheet as shown in (F.D. 3/28/2022-3); the Revenue Report as shown in (F.D. 3/28/2022-4); the Expenditure Report as shown in (F.D. 3/28/2022-5); and Activity Report as shown in (F.D. 3/28/2022-6); **New Hires**, Isaac Quiroz, Custodian at Westfield for an hourly rate of \$16.00/Hr., Marcos Rosales, Director of Buildings and Grounds for a salary of \$95,000, Valerie Varhalla, Finance Director for a salary of \$132,580; **Resignations/Retirements**, Nancy Knoll, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 4/08/22, John Reiniche, Finance Director effective 6/30/22, Jessica Wetendorf, Librarian at Westfield effective 8/01/22; **Leaves**, Patricia Edwards, Medical effective 3/10/22, Jacqueline Holm, Maternity effective 7/12/22, Zachary Hendry, FMLA effective 3/11/22, Vicki Flaws, FMLA effective 2/28/22, Layne Barnett, Parental effective 8/01/22, Lesya Gnatyuk, Parental effective 8/01/22.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Devitt, Wojcicki, Lenisa, McKeown, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Superintendent's Report

Erickson Student Presentation

Erickson Elementary fifth grade students Arjav Shah and Nithya Murkonda, fourth grade students Maggie Montiel and Drew Keown and third grade students Andrew Donohue and Yuktha Murkonda shared their presentation about the service projects they have been involved with during the school year. The 5th grade service project was to raise money for Mayfield School District in Kentucky after they were severely impacted by the December tornadoes that swept across several states. Students made keychains and bracelets that they sold, raising \$1,200 for Mayfield School District. The 4th grade service project was focused on Phil's Friends in Roselle, an organization that helps those with cancer. The entire 4th grade class started a fundraiser to purchase supplies needed to make care packages containing fleece blankets, cards and care packages that were sent to hospitals to cheer up those with cancer. They raised \$900 for supplies. The 3rd grade service project was Gratitude Week, where 3rd grade students served donuts, coffee, and words of gratitude to a variety of community members each morning including police officers, firefighters, board members, bus drivers, PTO officers and retired Erickson staff.

New Website Preview

Director of Technology, Richard McCall, provided the Board of Education and the public a preview of the new District website. He will give a more in depth preview of the website at the April 25 board meeting.

Staffing Plan Presentation

Dr. Bartelt gave the Board an overview of the 2022-2023 staffing plan. He explained that salaries and benefits make up over 80% of the District's expenditures, and indicated that the results of the upcoming contract negotiations will impact the District's ability to staff positions going forward. Dr. Bartelt discussed the District's retirement incentive, which encourages those who are eligible to receive the maximum benefit of retirement and allows the District to bring in younger educators coming in at a beginning salary as opposed to end of career salary. Reductions in force are also taking place this year as part of the action items later in this meeting, which will include four teachers. In addition, he noted that our District is unique in that many of our paraprofessionals are able to work as substitute teachers, having knowledge of the children, giving them the ability to propel lessons and learning forward. However, due to shortages, hourly wages for these paraprofessionals needs to be addressed so that we can hire and retain qualified people for these positions. It was announced that the role of permanent substitute teacher will be discontinued at the end of this year with the

retirement of that teacher. Dr. Bartelt expressed that we would like to reduce our NDSEC tuition commitment and stated that by bringing students that we populate a majority of those NDSEC programs back to the District, in time, we are going to see a reduction as we start serving our own students in District. He also touched on extra duties and student enrollment growth in the District, and indicated that these topics were covered in the January meeting by Mr. Reiniche.

Return to Learn

Dr. Bartelt reviewed the COVID dashboard with the Board, and reported that today, for the first time in quite some time, the rolling average for positivity rates was under 5%. We have not had a large number of COVID positive cases in our schools, so we are very comfortable right now with where things are at.

Public Comment

Ali Ventrella – Commented on the hiring of new teachers, stating that it sounds like the District is going to save money and only hire new teachers, and not think about what a veteran teacher could bring to the table.

Board Reports and Requests

BIG – Mr. Lenisa indicated that there was no meeting in the last month.

D13 Has Character – Mrs. Wojcicki reported that they finally honored the two D13 staff members from the fall that Dr. Bartelt nominated for the Pillar Award, Tom Buchholz and Vicki Flaws.

Education Foundation – Mrs. Wojcicki indicated that the Education Foundation had no meeting. They are still working on the grants that will be presented at Spring Fling.

LEND - Mr. Reiniche indicated that there were a number of bills that went through the house and the senate. One of the bills that he highlighted was House Bill 3573, Remote Learning Day which now includes election day, where we have the option now for safety to take a remote learning day and not have kids present with people coming into the school to vote. The other was Senate Bill 3914, Mental Health Days. This bill gives school staff the option of using up to five of their allotted sick days as mental health days.

NDSEC – Dr. Bartelt said that there was an operational and governing board meeting on the 14th. They passed resolutions at that meeting for the honorable dismissal of teachers, as well as non-renewals in their action items. The special assessment for the roof replacement at Lincoln Academy was approved as well as policy revisions that were presented.

Bloomington Council of Teachers – Mr. Boebel shared that on March 14 they had training regarding interest based bargaining. Negotiations will begin tomorrow.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

Mr. Boebel indicated that there were two FOIA requests that were summarized in the board packets.

Action Items

Second, Third, and Fourth Year Appointment/Tenure (F.D. 3/28/2022-7)

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

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Wojcicki, Devitt, Lenisa, McKeown, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

Resolution Authorizing the Honorable Dismissal of Teachers (F.D. 3/28/2022-8)

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mr. Devitt for the Board to approve the attached resolution regarding the honorable dismissal of four teachers, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Devitt, Lenisa, Wojcicki, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Discussion Items

Five Year Financial Projections

John Reiniche, Finance Director presented the Five Year Forecast from 2022 through 2027 for the District. He indicated that the savings for salaries next year would be approximately \$179,617 replacing this year's retiring teachers. We anticipate a net increase of 1.50 FTE for the upcoming school year. Mr. Reiniche stated that since we are in a negotiation year, many of the salary increases are still being discussed. However, it is expected that salaries for District Paraprofessionals to increase 13% in the upcoming school year. The second largest expenditure is benefits with a majority of that coming from major medical with an expected increase of 0 - 1%. Mr. Reiniche touched briefly on purchased services, supplies and capital outlay, but stressed that the people and the benefits has the most significant impact. The other large item is NDSEC tuition. We spend about 1.5 million dollars with NDSEC which has decreased from over 2 million dollars since we decided to bring those programs in house. Our transportation renewal for this year is 11%. To lower our costs, we share transportation services with Medinah and Lake Park High School. Our three districts are planning to go out to bid to see if we can reduce that 11% increase that First Student is quoting. Mr. Reiniche then spoke to the Board about the District's funds, indicating that the Operation and Maintenance Fund as well as our Working Cash Fund is growing. What isn't growing is the Education Fund, meaning that these two funds are carrying the Education Fund. When looking more closely at just the Education Fund, it shows that we have a balanced for next year and the year after, then we get into a structural deficit, at which point the deficit doubles every year. Dr. Bartelt added that these projections are based upon if the District did nothing different going forward.

Board Officer Nomination and Election Process

Dr. Bartelt informed the Board that every April we elect Board officers, which include the Board President, the Board Vice President and the Board Secretary. Board President, Matt Boebel stated that our Board officers serve a one-year term. And that the Director of Finance serves as the Board Treasurer.

Topic(s) for Future Agendas

Linda Wojcicki suggested E-Learning as a future agenda item. Dr. Bartelt indicated that he would put together an E-Learning presentation to share with the Board

For Information

Enrollment Update

Available for review in the Board packet.

NDSEC Profile

Available for review in the Board packet.

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Wojcicki and seconded by Mr. Lenisa to adjourn to closed session to discuss the employment/evaluation/compensation of personnel and collective bargaining.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Wojcicki, Lenisa, Devitt, McKeown, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Matt Boebel, President

Linda Wojcicki, Secretary