

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 8:59 p.m. February 20, 2019

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
Jon Buralli
Vipul Dedhia
Mary Lenzen
David Negron
Michael Rak
Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Jennifer Ban, Frank Adams, Kathleen Tomei, Debbie Lubeck, Griffin Sonntag and Brianne Malatt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Middle school students displayed their chalk drawings they have been working on in Mrs. Washburn’s art class. The students lead the pledge of allegiance.

ACTION NO. 22 Consent Agenda

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of January 16, 2019; closed session meeting minutes of January 16, 2019; payment of January Payroll/February Warrants; bidding process for library renovation; FY20 School Calendar; February 2019 Personnel Report consisting of the resignation of part time instructional aide Paula Berger effective January 31, 2019. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak) abstain – Violante.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

eLearning Day

Superintendent Palzet reported that on February 19th the district launched its first eLearning (engaged learning) day. An eLearning day requires students to complete activities and lessons at home and allows the district to use this as a student attendance day. The preliminary feedback from teachers, students, and parents is that our eLearning day was a huge success. However, the district is in the process of collecting survey data from parents, students, and teachers to better assess the effectiveness of our eLearning experience. The administration will provide a much more detailed report of our eLearning day at the March Board of Education meeting.

Board Attorney Interview Update

Over the course of the last month, members of the Board of Education and the administration interviewed law firms. The interview committee recommends the firm Kriha Law to serve as the Board's general council. This firm's ability to provide personalized service as well as the staff's depth of knowledge made Kriha Law the clear choice for our district. We are currently negotiating the terms of service and expect to bring an item for approval to the March Board of Education meeting. The district will continue to work with Franczek for property tax appeals.

Library Update

Per the Board's request, on January 24th, the administration hosted a town hall meeting to help the community better understand the need for the project and the scope and financing of updated libraries. At the town hall, the administration was able to present the project and answer questions. In addition to the administration, district architect Mike Henderson attended and confidently answered any questions that were asked. The next step is to assemble the bid package and evaluate qualified bidders.

Strategic Blueprint Update

Superintendent Palzet provided the Board with an update on the progress made on our district's Strategic Blueprint over the course of the last month. Dr. Palzet shared that the district is making good progress on our Building Learning Environment goal to form a Social/Emotional Learning stakeholder committee to examine the feasibility and options to best meet the needs of our students. The district SEL committee is in the process of examining the SEL standards and completing a needs assessment of our current SEL programming to determine our strengths and areas of growth for each SEL standard. The committee continues to meet regularly and, once complete with their work, will bring recommendations to the Board. Additionally, in our Building Learning Environments goal, we continue to implement our community developed safety plan. This month the district ordered several trauma kits which will be strategically placed throughout the buildings and are accessible to teachers in the event of a crisis.

Fourth to Fifth Grade Transition Plan

Our Strategic Blueprint goal, Building Learning Environments, requires the district to develop articulation processes for grade-to-grade transitions. Dr. Ban, Ms. Tomei, and Mr. Sonntag presented the plan that has been put in place to ease the transition Pleasantdale Elementary School to Pleasantdale Middle School. Highlights of the plan include increased articulation between fourth and fifth grade staff, multiple opportunities for incoming middle schools to engage with the middle school, and timely notification of fifth grade placement to parents.

Preliminary Staffing Recommendations

Dr. Palzet presented the preliminary staffing recommendations to the Board of Education. These recommendations include staffing levels that best reflect our projected student enrollment. Additionally, Dr. Palzet recommended the addition a .5 special education teacher at the elementary school and a 1.0 special education teacher at the middle school. The purpose of these new positions allows us to meet our Strategic Blueprint goal of implementing a co-teaching model of service for our students.

Program Cost Analysis

Business Manager Frank Adams presented to the Board a cost analysis regarding Bright Beginnings preschool and extended day Kindergarten. Mr. Adams will present to the Board the technology cost analysis at the March Board meeting.

Lyons Township Treasurer Update

Over the course of the past several years we have discussed the role of the Lyons Township Treasurer's Office (LTTO) in relation to our district operations and finances. In December, the Board passed a resolution allowing our Board President to work with the other township school board presidents to seek out options to modify our relationship with the LTTO. As work unfolds, it is important to keep the Board and the community updated on this progress. Board President Mark Mirabile shared a letter sent to Representative Durkin and a list of questions sent to the LTTO.

Review Governance and Planning (sec. 1) Board Policy

Each month the Board reviews its policies to ensure that the policy reflects the current realities of running a school district. Currently section 1 is up to date and no revisions are necessary.

Board of Education Information Requests

No requests were made at this time.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the March agenda include:
eLearning Day Review; Professional Learning Update; School Improvement Plan Update; Approve Preliminary Staffing Recommendations; Approve Pleasant Dale Park District Before and After School Program Intergovernmental Agreement; Re-employment of non-tenure personnel and non-renewal of non-tenured teachers; FY20 Parent/Student Handbook; Approve Board attorney; Middle School schedule recommendations, review Board policy 2:230.

ACTION NO. 23

Closed Session

Motion by Violante, seconded by Lenzen, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss student disciplinary cases. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negrón, Rak, Violante).

David Negrón left the Board meeting at 8:30 p.m.
The Board came out of closed session at 8:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rak, seconded by Dedhia, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:59 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____