

Mendota School District 289
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Narration: District #289 Northbrook School Teacher Lounge 03/20/25

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Community School District #289, LaSalle, Bureau, and Lee was held March 20, 2025 at 6:30pm at Northbrook School Teacher Lounge.

Narration: Roll Call

At 6:31 p.m Mrs. Komitas called the Board of Education meeting to order with the following Board members answering present: Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Coss, Mrs. Schroeder and Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Espinoza and Ms. Rapp.

Resolution: Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Coss, seconded by Ms. Rapp to approve the agenda as presented. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Espinoza, Ms. Rapp and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Narration: Reception of Visitors and Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Resolution: Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Coss to approve the Consent Agenda including the disposition of minutes for February 2025, payment of the bills, district treasurer's report, imprest, activity fund, and cafeteria reports, personnel report. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Move Executive Session prior to Action Item 8.1

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Schroeder to move the Executive Session prior to Action Item 8.1. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Narration: Informational Items

FOIA requests - none

Administrator Reports: Northbrook

Ms. LeBeau, Assistant Principal, shared pictures of athletics, yard signs for student of the month students, enrichment program, blender bike, and many other activities Northbrook students participate in.

Mrs. Daley updated the board with a new school improvement program taking place. Students can seek help before school starts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:25 to 7:55. She also mentioned that next school year, the 5th grade class will be departmentalized. The 5th grade team is excited and have already begun preparing for this transition.

Sarah Henkel and Megan Gatza shared stats on Career Day. 270 students participate which includes Holy Cross students and 38 careers are represented with 47 speakers. This is the 8th year that Career day has been done at Northbrook.

Consideration of Board Committees and Reports

Mr. Cox mentioned that the initial Health Insurance Committee meeting was held. They are continuing the conversation on insurance rates. A well-being biometrics screening will be held in late April at Northbrook School.

Resolution: Executive Session

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Landers to move to Executive Session at 6:58 pm for the discussion of student discipline. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Coss, Mrs. Espinoza, and Ms. Rapp. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Open Session

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Coss to move to Open Session at 7:04 pm. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Coss, Mrs. Espinoza, and Ms. Rapp. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Milk Rate increase 40 to 45 cents

A motion was made by Mrs. Coss, seconded by Mrs. Espinoza to increase the milk rate from 40 to 45 cents as presented. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Board Meeting Dates

A motion was made by Mrs. Landers, seconded by Ms. Rapp to approve the board meeting dates for FY26 as presented.. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Re-Employment of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Teachers

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Espinoza to approve the Re-employment of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year teachers as presented. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Granting Tenure Status to 4th Year Teachers

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Espinoza to grant tenure to 4th year teachers as presented. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Student Bus Suspension

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Landers approve the student bus suspension as presented. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Resolution: Holy Cross Food Service Agreement for FY26

A motion was made by Mrs. Landers, seconded by Mrs. Espinoza to approve the Holy Cross Food Service agreement as presented. The following roll call was recorded: Ayes – Mrs. Komitas, Mrs. Schroeder, Ms. Rapp, Mrs. Espinoza, Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Coss. Motion carried. (6-0)

Narration: Future Funding

Mr. Cox talked about Federal and State funding in relation to the news. He stated that there should not be much of an impact from Federal sources and they should continue in a similar fashion. The same is true of Evidence Based Funding from the state, however Medicaid Reimbursement and E-Rate Programs, could be impacted or eliminated.

Narration: Student Achievement Current and Forecasting

Mr. Cox presented the board with Grades 2-8 of Fastbridge scores since 2018. Math is the highest it's ever been and reading is getting close to pre-covid scores. There are new reading curriculum supports in place.

Narration: Student Fees

Mrs. Daley, Mr. Cox and the board held a discussion on unpaid student fees. The board agreed on not holding a student back from participating in the promotion ceremony due to unpaid fees. Instead involving the district office or a collection agency to collect unpaid fees from parents was discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Landers to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. A vote by acclamation in full was recorded. Motion carried. (6-0)

Mrs. Komitas – Board President

Mrs. Landers – Board Secretary