

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting      Administration Building      7:00 p.m.– 8:07 p.m.      January 17, 2018

### Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer

Jon Buralli

Vipul Dedhia

Mary Lenzen

David Negron

Michael Rak

### Absent:

Kristin Violante

### ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Catherine Chang, Jennifer Ban, Kathleen Tomei, Griffin Sonntag, and Karyn Lisowski.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A group of middle school students, whose work was highlighted on the display boards, led the pledge of allegiance.

### ACTION NO. 16 Consent Agenda

Motion by Lenzen, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of December 20, 2017; closed session meeting minutes of December 20, 2017; special meeting minutes of January 3, 2018; closed session meeting minutes of January 3, 2018; payment of December payroll/January warrants; Gilbane gym floor settlement agreement; declassify closed session minutes; Fees for the 2018-19 school year; 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited, Students (sec. 7) and Community (sec. 8) Board policies, and January Personnel Report consisting of the resignation of elementary clerical aide Barb Pisto effective January 19, 2018; hiring of middle school instructional aide David Kavanaugh effective January 11, 2018. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Negron, Mirabile, Rak) absent – Violante.

### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Strategic Blueprint

Superintendent Dr. Palzet provided the Board with an update on the district's progress on the action steps laid out in the Strategic Blueprint. This month, the district used the December institute day to help teachers advance their knowledge of the Growth Mindset concepts by viewing the documentary *Beyond Measure*. Additionally, the district put the finishing touches on the People of Pleasantdale campaign. This campaign will help the us accomplish the action step of *creating new opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of staff and students*. A committee comprised of teachers, parents, and students visited several local schools' libraries to determine whether the district would begin a discussion about upgrading our library facilities. This action brings us closer to accomplishing our Building Learning Environments action step which states: *Explore flexible spaces and furniture arrangements to enhance collaborative work*.

#### 5-year Financial Projections

School Business Manager Catherine Chang presented the district's five-year financial projections. Each year, the administration uses the most current data and financial assumption to create these projections. Based on current data, the administration projects good financial health for the district. However, with the new school funding system, the district is being very conservative with financial planning. It has been the Board's goal for

the past several years to ensure that the district observes Board policy 4:20 which states the district will maintain a 50% total fund balance. Therefore, the district will continue to spend down reserves in a responsible manner, while at the same time continuing to look for efficiencies to lower expenditures. The goal will be a balanced budget, with a 50% fund balance by 2022.

*Bond Abatement*

Over the past 7 years, the District has abated a total of \$6.93 million of debt service to lower the tax rate for the community. The district's Finance Advisory Team recommends abating \$750,000 of Debt Service. This action will reduce the tax burden of a house assessed at \$300,000 by \$112.63 and a house assessed at \$500,000 by \$194.53. It is the Board's goal to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while at the same time ensuring that we provide the highest quality education for our students.

*Preliminary Review of District Calendar*

Each year, the district convenes a committee of teachers, parents, school secretaries, and administrators to develop the following year's school calendar. On January 11, this committee developed a draft calendar for the Board's review. The district calendar closely follows the calendar published by Lyons Township High School. The most notable change to the calendar is moving the December half-day (student attendance) from the day before winter break to December 5. The purpose for this move is to better align to the LTHS calendar. The calendar will be part of the February Consent Agenda.

*Middle School Gym Floor*

Over the course of the past several years, the district has been pursuing a solution to an issue where a portion of the floor has debonded from the foundation. This issue has not resulted in a hazard for students or staff; however, this is a manual defect to our facility. Dr. Palzet informed the Board that the administration would investigate options to address the gym floor issues at Pleasantdale Middle School. The proposed options will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the February agenda include:

Approve 2018-19 District Calendar; Approve Abatement of Bonds; Review Parent/Student Handbook; Board Policy 4:85 Cost Analysis for Programs (written); Review Governance and Planning (sec. 1) Board Policies; and Preliminary Staffing Recommendations.

ACTION NO. 17

Closed Session

Motion by Rak, seconded by Negron, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees to the District; and Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the findings shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes; and student disciplinary issues. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak) absent – Violante.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Negron, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:07 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.