

**Regular Board Meeting
Board of Education School District No. 6
Lake County, Illinois
2800 29th Street, Zion, IL 60099
October 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

Roll Call

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and held the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, and Margie Taylor.

Absent: Netya Perez Rivera, Robert Surano, and Wesley Walker.

Administration and staff present: Julious Lawson, Superintendent, Stephen Carnes, Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Hoppen, Interim CFO, Julio Ugarte, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Erik Youngman, Director of Teaching and Learning, Marianne Fidishin, Director of Special Education, Kim Monk, Director of Student Services, Donelle Staples, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives, and Kimberly Hall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education Secretary.

Approval of Agenda

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, and Margie Taylor.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Special Recognition

Dr. Lawson acknowledged Katrina Wiltse, 4th grade teacher at West Elementary, and her youth leadership team members for their contribution and Best Effort Award from the Zion Benton Labor Day parade. The student leaders had painted signs with zinnias, butterflies, and words to symbolize the attributes shared by student leaders and zinnias and also representative of the youth leaders worked together with ZBTHS National Honor Society in the Zion Community. Dr. Lawson also acknowledged Julio Ugarte, Director of Buildings and Grounds, for the district's participation in the North Shore Gas/Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Award in recognition of the mechanical equipment updates completed at Zion Central Middle School.

Public Participation

There were no public comments.

Approval of Consent Agenda

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Amended Consent Agenda, which involves one roll call vote for all recommendations including the minutes for the September 16, 2024 Board Meeting.

It is the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following resignations.

- **Barrera, Ana**, resignation from the position of Social Worker at West Elementary School and Shiloh Park Middle School, effective October 4, 2024
- **Najarro, Karla**, resignation from the position of Health Aide for Zion Elementary District 6, effective October 8, 2024
- **Prado, Brenda**, resignation from the position of Paraprofessional at West Elementary School, effective October 1, 2024

It is the Superintendent's recommendation to approve employment of the following personnel for the positions and dates of employment as indicated, subject to successful completion of the medical examination and forms, as required by Section 24-5 of the Illinois School Code, successful completion of a criminal background investigation as required by Section 1-21.9 of the Illinois School Code, a Child Abuse Registry check, and submission of all forms, documents and certifications required by law and/or requested by the District.

- **Beasley, Brenda**, for the position of Parent Liaison, for Elmwood Elementary School, new extra-duty stipend position, effective September 17, 2024
Stipend: \$5,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year only
- **Cortez, Esmeralda**, for the position of Translator, for Beulah Park Elementary School, previously held by Marlene Ortega, effective September 18, 2024
Classified: \$25.64 per hour
- **Espinoza, Tania**, for the position of School Secretary, for West Elementary School, previously held by Jasmin Melgoza, effective September 18, 2024
Classified: Step 9, \$21.55
- **Felix, Trisha**, for the position of Special Education Resource Teacher, for Zion Central Middle School, new position, effective October 2, 2024
Certified: MA+48, Step 14, \$80,859.82
- **Gurrola, Christian**, for the position of Paraprofessional, for Zion Central Middle School, previously held by Gail Brown, effective September 16, 2024
Classified: Step 2, \$20.43 per hour
- **Harper, Jonathan**, for the position of Music Teacher, for Beulah Park Elementary School, previously held by Alexa Govan, effective October 7, 2024
Certified: MA+30, Step 15, \$79,008.39
- **Nieves, Nessel**, for the position of Supervisory Aide, for East Elementary School, previously filled by Adaris Toro, effective September 17, 2024
Classified: Step 3, \$18.22
- **Robinson, Ladarius**, for the position of Supervisory Aide, for Zion Central Middle School, previously filled by Brett Small, effective September 11, 2024
Classified: Step 4, \$18.39 per hour

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Denise Lear.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Margie Taylor and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried.

President's Report

President Taylor reviewed the November calendar with the board. Member Lear shared that the next SEDOL meeting will be in December. There were no updates regarding taxing bodies and TIF. Finance Committee Member Fielding and Jennifer Hoppen stated that the committee met on October 17th and discussed the estimated levy and early payment options on debt from 2017. They also have received the audit and it appears to have no findings. Jennifer has slated the final levy and audit for approval at the November 11th board meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Special Education Update

Marianne Fidishin, Director of Special Education presented data and information on the number and percentage of special education students, percentage of time in general education, a breakdown and explanation of disability criteria along with the special education students placed in out-of-district schools. Marianne also presented a list of focus areas for the special education department moving forward.

Student Services Update

Kim Monk, Director of Student Services presented data and information on attendance, truancy, student behaviors, number of McKinney Vento students, health clinic opportunities, student field trips, clubs and activities, along with implementing afterschool transportation for students to participate in engagement opportunities after the school day.

Teaching and Learning Update

Erik Youngman, Director of Teaching and Learning presented data and information on NWEA/MAP scores and student growth along with a schedule to review student data with ECRA and building administration staff.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Tim Shimp and Mrs. Angela Stallion, Consultants from KBCR Coaching, along with Donelle Staples, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives, updated the board on the strategic planning process and timeline. The first meeting will be held on November 6th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Old Business

PRESS Policy Updates

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Second Reading of PRESS Policy Updates 2:265, 2:260, 7:20, and 7:185 as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Ken Fielding.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, Latoya Barnes, and Margie Taylor.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

New Business

Estimated Levy

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Budget as presented.

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Ken Fielding.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding, Margie Taylor, and Denise Lear.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Communication

There will be a Special Joint Meeting with the Boards of Education from Winthrop Harbor School District 1, Beach Park School District 3, Zion School District 6, and Zion Benton Township High School District 126 on October 29th at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be held at Zion Benton Township High School.

Closed Session

President Taylor asked for a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of:

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals, who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- B. Collective negotiations matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/(c)(2).
- C. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

Motion made by Latoya Barnes, seconded by Denise Lear to enter into Closed Session.

Roll Call: Ayes; Latoya Barnes, Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, and Margie Taylor.

Nays; None

Motion carried and the Board entered Closed Session at 7:28 p.m.

There being no further business, the Board exited Closed Session at 7:43 p.m. and resumed Open Session.

Other Business

Arbitration Settlement Agreement

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Arbitration Settlement to resolve the 27-pay issue with the ZEA as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Latoya Barnes.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, and Margie Taylor.

Nays; Ken Fielding.

Motion carried

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the release of closed session minutes for the following meetings; November 13, 2023, December 6, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 12, 2023, December 19, 2023, January 22, 2024, February 12, 2024, March 18, 2024 and April 15, 2024 as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Ken Fielding.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Ken Fielding, Margie Taylor, and Latoya Barnes.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Verbatim Recordings

President Taylor asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to destroy the closed session verbatim recordings for the following meetings: October 17, 2022, November 14, 2022, December 12, 2022, January 23, 2023, February 13 2023 and March 20, 2023, as presented.

Motion made by Denise Lear, seconded by Latoya Barnes.

Roll Call: Ayes; Denise Lear, Latoya Barnes, Margie Taylor, and Ken Fielding.

Nays; None.

Motion carried

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the board motioned to adjourn.

Ayes; All in favor. **Nays;** None.

Roll Call: Latoya Barnes, Ken Fielding, Denise Lear, and Margie Taylor.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Dated: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education