

MINUTES

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Kurt Thompson, Vice President in President Sterling's absence

2. Roll Call: Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Rebecca Carlson, Larry Smith, Megan Hastings, Evelyn Meeks

Absent: Mike Sterling

Other Attendees:

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Josh Aurand led the Pledge

4. A Moment of Silence for High School student, Jazlyn Davidson

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve Agenda

1st Smith 2nd McKnight

Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks – 6 ayes

Motion carried

6. The Mission of the Harlem Consolidated School District, as a vital part of the community, is to help diverse learners realize their unlimited potential by providing an educational program dedicated to academic excellence and the development of strong character in a safe and respectful learning environment.

Presenter: Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

7. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve Regular & Closed July 18, 2024 minutes and August 12, 2024 Special Board Minutes & Closed Minutes

1st Smith 2nd Hastings

McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson - 6 ayes

Motion carried

8. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

8.A. Awards and Recognitions

Presenter: Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

Introduced Tim and Jeremy, Golden Apple Finalists, who spoke of the Harlem Paluzza partnering with Windsor Pizza Parlor and who donated the proceeds from the event. Rachel with Windsor Pizza Parlor presented a check to Music Boosters for \$1,500.

The is for the State recognized course, Beginning Piano, for students to utilize in their studies. It will purchase digital pianos for class. We will also hold an annual mattress sale in September.

Recognized the Board as earning the IASB Board Governance Recognition for 2024, one of 46 school districts that were awarded this award. This is awarded for effective governance behaviors. We have earned this award since 2011.

9. Comments from the Community

1. Pam Harding, community member, addressed the Board regarding COTW, suggesting that possibly the equity paperwork could be made available to the public as well as they don't know what is being referred to in the meeting otherwise.

10. Approval of Bills

10.A. Payables Summary \$3,978,115.32

10.B. Voided Checks \$16,406.51

10.C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$ 10,095,206.03

10.D. Accounts Payable Warrants \$14,073,321.35

Mr. Aurand reviewed expenditure totals by fund in the sum of \$14,073,321.35

Rebecca asked for clarification on the IMRF fund

Motion to approve Bills as reviewed

1st McKnight 2nd Hastings

Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight – 6 ayes

Motion carried

11. Communications and Committee Reports

11.A. Kurt Thompson, Vice President

11.A.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: September 4, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

- Noted the CTE Building Opening was a great success and many positive comments were made. Open house for students was also very exciting.

- Harlem Middle School is now graced with 6th grade students and things seem to be going well. As we experience hiccups please let the Board know. The Middle School looks great with the new sign, window decals and Mural done by a local Alumni and inside painting

and changes are amazing. Teachers are learning right along side the kids on how things are going.

- Attended Harlem Paluzza and it was fantastic. Windsor Pizza Parlor was a great location and many good sponsors. The majority of the bands were again Harlem Alumni as well. This was a wonderful fundraiser.

11.B. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary

- Wished everyone a good evening
- Thanked Pastor Pam for reaching out in Comments
- Extended condolences to Jazlyn Davidson's family through this very difficult time
- Welcomed everyone back
- Noted the CTE building is gorgeous and it is so exciting to see this finally completed
- Thanked Windsor Pizza Parlor for the check to Music Boosters
- Attended several meetings, the President's Board meeting in Naperville, the Delegate meeting in Bloomington including 21 divisions, representing Winnebago, Boone and McHenry and it was great seeing everyone there. Many districts in Illinois are really suffering with problems.
- Wished everyone a good year

11.B.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: September 4, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

11.C. Aaron McKnight, Board member

- Welcomed everyone back
- Noted it will be an exciting year
- Tim and Jeremy and the Paluzza were great, and the music was wonderful and encouraged more of this type of community events
- Asked people to be aware of bus stops and kids walking as school starts
- Please reach out to your principal if you need something and then to Terrell. If that does not resolve please reach out to the Board as we are all here for the children. Keep communications open.
- The CTE building will be open for homecoming kickoff on September 27 and encouraged people to go.

11.D. Rebecca Carlson, Board member

- Welcomed everyone back to school
- Noted the CTE Building is amazing and the learning stairs are awesome
- Noted that the new Culinary Department was so amazing and fabulous

- Noted she spent some time with Jamie of Food Service and she has amazing things going on i.e. chic peas with chocolate and all lines at the high school are opened up with a full crew. It is very impressive

- COTW was interesting with Education but has a concern with redundancy with just getting them better in Math and ELA as it isn't really moving forward and it is like we are missing something. She finds this frustrating on not knowing what they know to go to the next grade, what and where are we missing something. The average of our schools is one and two years behind and we need to find out how they are behind. Would like to see something simple to find out why.

Kurt offered historical trends could be a possibility and we can look at the data as well and diving into it. Rebecca noted that memorization is key and she is willing to help.

11.E. Larry Smith, Board member

- Wished everyone the best during the 2024-2025 school year as well as our wonderful students. We have alumni coming back that are top notch and they have the best interests of our students in mind to meet the needs of students.

- Noted the school buses were so clean going down the street with kids getting on and off

- The best to all school districts

- Did not make it to RVC for the robot competition but there was a nice write up and our Harlem student performed very well.

-Windsor Pizza is very good

11.F. Megan Hastings, Board Member

- Welcome back

- The robotics meet was fantastic at RVC and our student did fantastic as an 8th grade in a high school competition. She can't wait to see when they get into the CTE building.

- The band goal is \$9,000 so if anyone wants to donate feel free to do so for the digital pianos and for a more equitable way to have students learn

- Girls' Flag football team having a fundraiser at Rascals on Saturday, 1-3

- Thanked any volunteers for landscaping on the campuses that made them look beautiful

- She noted that the orientation night at Harlem Middle School was great and very informative. It was overwhelming but several times administrators were helping and greeting parents and students. Thank you to the HMS team.

- Noted she has reading number 6 on Battle of the Books

- Fundraisers for Culinary Arts and 5th grade ALP classroom wish lists are posted.

11.F.1. Next Education Committee meeting: September 4, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

11.G. Michael Sterling, President given by Kurt Thompson

11.G.1. Next Regular Board Meeting: September 9, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.

11.G.2. Next Policy Committee Meeting: September 4, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

11.G.3. Recommendation to approve Second Reading of Policy Update Recommendations from July 18, 2024 First Reading and July 10, 2024 Policy Committee

11.G.4. Recommendation to destroy audio recordings more than 18 months old (2022)

12. Administrative Reports

12.A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

12.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests: NONE

12.A.2. Recommendation to approve School Improvement Plans for Harlem High School, Machesney, Maple, Marquette, Olson Park, Parker Center, Ralston, Rock Cut, and Windsor

12.B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, Chief School Business Official

12.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property:

Machesney, Parker Center, Harlem Administration Center

12.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests: Renegades Football Club

12.B.3. Presentation of FY25 Tentative Budget, Recommendation to approve FY25 Tentative Budget Resolution and Set Public Hearing for September 23, 2024 at 5:40 PM

Presenting highlights and projects remaining

Agenda

Where we are today, FY24 Fund Review Highlights

Ed/O&M/Transportation Fund Highlights

Healthcare Costs Summary

Bond Payment Schedule

FY25 Fund Balance Projections

Timeline - FY24 ended 6/30/24

August 19, 2024 – Adopt Tentative FY25 Budget

August 20, 2024 - Place Budget on Display

Continued Budget discussions until September 23, 2024

September 23, 2024 - Public Hearing held before regular meeting at 6:00

September 23, 2024 – Adopt final FY25 Budget

Ed fund ended with 2,263,528 to excess – projected Fund balance 22,615,476

Tort Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Project Fund, Working Cash Fund, Life Safety Fund all had deficits but are still okay

Property Taxes for 2023 EAV 844,275,621 with CPI at 6.5%, tax levy 51,753,251 so a difference of 298,459

Property Taxes are being projected to continue with the trend which will lower the tax rate over the next year

CPPRT (Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax)

FY 24 came in \$5,686,245 (a \$3,941,510 decrease or 40.5%) IDRO projected a decrease of 28.75%

FY 25 Ed Fund revenue budget is \$5,156,245, which is a \$530,000 reduction or 9.25%)

We are waiting for the FY 25 IDOR projection

CPPRT is part of the Evidence Based Funding calculation and is not a consistent revenue basis

Evidence Based Funding for FY21 & FY25 increased due to property tax relief grant

Mr. Aurand reviewed Funds Revenue for local, State, Federal

Mr. Aurand reviewed the Ed Fund Expenditures for FY25, 64.8% Salaries, 21.8% benefits are the major shares of the pie

Revenues v. Expenditures for Ed Fund

Projected ending - \$500,000 positive

ISBE is not keeping up with inflation and this is a potential challenge. The Medical Clinic could offset some of this down the road but not in the next year

Education Local, State and Federal but not a normal year but we are getting back to a normal year

Revenues have exceeded expenditures for a while and we are in the middle when the economy is great but when it slows we are seeing challenges

Fund Balance is \$14,000,000 which is a positive trend

He reviewed the all Fund projected balances for FY25

O & M is on a high point with their fund balance

Transportation is approved for four electric buses but we are still working on this with Com Ed on incentives and possibly will only have charging for two electric buses

Healthcare Trends shows overall there is a decrease in expenses and we are hoping to keep trending this way

Debt Payments will decrease over the next 7 years

Uncertainties similar to last year are: (1) Trend of CPPRT, (2) Healthcare trends, (3) Inflation and (4) Interest Rates

The Tentative Budget is on display but Kurt would like to see this Power Point viewable by the public as it is easier to understand. Kris will post it to the Agenda after the meeting.

Projects – Josh reviewed highlights noting interest may drop in September. The Grant Dr. Erb wrote for really helped coming in this year

FY24 Projects were reviewed that were completed

O & M Fund – Facility Assessment, HMS hallway painting, 2 chillers (LP/OP), softball field, Marquette parking lot, carpet removal and tile at HHS

Life Safety Projects

Life Safety Assessment and HHS Roof replacement

FY25 Projects were reviewed that are on the list for this year

Ed Fund - Marquette Cafeteria Tables, Food Service Box Truck, Food Service Equipment, New HMS Cooler (will get an ETA on this), Cycle for new building copiers (5 to 7 per year)

O & M & Capital Projects Fund – Alpha HHS LCM Controls, Carpet Removal HHS/PC, HMS School Hallway Painting, High School Furniture, HMS West lot/OP Main lot, Machesney Elementary sign, baseball field netting (JV Field). Megan asked that we take a serious look at the Machesney Kitchen needs with adding HoLA classes for around 200 students.

Life Safety Projects

HMS/H9 Roofing Replacement anywhere from 5,000 to 6,000, will get architects CORES, and then go out to bid on these

We received the Medicaid money in March and \$1,750,000 is recommended for this year

Salaries are very close budget to actual, \$165,000 difference out of 55.5 million is good

We have stayed on the transportation bussing recycle plan but will be updating and reducing quantity. We did get busses on time this year We can probably handle two electric busses with the chargers rather than four. We need to look at chargers lower or high-speed. The bus plan will be redone after we decide on the electric buses.

Capital Projects review

Megan asked about Machesney's kitchen and with the HoLA program are we good there. Josh noted we will reassess this and he will talk to Jamie about it.

Rebecca asked if teams can fundraiser for netting and poles. Josh said they can as they did fundraise for their sign. Parents and kids raised funds but it gets to a certain point when that stops and other funding needs to be found.

Rebecca asked if we are honing in on overtime. Josh noted we are but there are seasonal times when overtime is more than other times. We have a process.

End of Tentative FY25 Budget & Projects Review

12.B.4. Recommendation to approve a three-year agreement with Perry Weather for an outdoor warning system at a cost of \$3,650/year

Megan asked about the agreement. Where will it be installed. Josh noted on the Press Box at the High School and we will run that through the Maintenance Department. It will be a safety issue as well to determine lightening, and safety of students.

12.B.5. Recommendation to approve an agreement with the Illinois MTSS Network to provide professional development to the Harlem Middle School Improvement Team at a cost of \$16,560, paid with School Improvement Grant

12.B.6. Recommendation to approve an independent contractor agreement with Maria Ragonese for speech and language services at \$100/hour up to 15 hours per week from August 15, 2024 to June 1, 2025

12.C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

12.C.1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

Reviewing: 8 Transfers; 30 Employments

12.C.2. Resignations – 10 since last meeting

Addendum is for One New Position for Bi Lingual Paraeducator as required by teacher to student ratio which is based on a percentage.

12.D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

12.D.1. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated July 12, 2024 from Sheri Reid of Smart Procure requesting purchasing records from 4-10-24 through current date and the District's response dated July 18, 2024, with inclusive records.

12.D.2. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted by Jan Mansfield on July 2, 2024 requesting emails between the Board of Education Members and Superintendent (individual and group); the District's 5 day extension request and District's final response sent to requester which included responsive emails from March 2024 through July 2, 2024.

12.D.3. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted on July 15, 2024, from Jennifer Laureano requesting a video clip of her student dated back to May 22, 2024 and the District's response dated July 25, 2024 denying the request under FOIA and treating the request as a Student Records Request and inclusive records

12.D.4. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted by Dan Williams on August 1, 2024 requesting vendor bussing contracts for the past year and the District's response dated August 2, 2024 with inclusive information.

12.D.5. Recommendation to approve updated Harlem Athletic Department Philosophy (Target Policy)

13. Consent Agenda

13.A. Motion to Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

1st Smith 2nd Hastings

Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight – 6 ayes

Motion carried

13.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s) NONE

13.C. Motion to Approve Facility Request(s)

1st Hastings 2nd McKnight

Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14. ACTION ITEMS

14.A. Motion to Approve Second Reading of Policy Update Recommendations from July 18, 2024 First Reading and July 10, 2024 Policy Committee

1st Hastings 2nd Smith

Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson-no, Smith – 5 ayes, 1 no

Motion carried

14.B. Motion to Approve destruction of audio recordings older than 18 months (2022)

1st McKnight 2nd Smith

Meeks, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14.C. Motion to Approve School Improvement Plans: Harlem High School, Machesney, Maple, Marquette, Olson Park, Parker Center, Ralston, Rock Cut, Windsor

1st Carlson 2nd Smith

Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14.D. Motion to Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

1st McKnight 2nd Smith

McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14.E. Motion to Approve FY25 Tentative Budget Resolution and Public Hearing Set for September 23, 2024 at 5:40 p.m.

1st McKnight 2nd Smith

McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14.F. Motion to Approve a three-year agreement with Perry Weather for an outdoor warning system at a cost of \$3,950 for the first year, and \$3,600 for the 2nd and 3rd year

1st Carlson 2nd Smith

Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14.G. Motion to Approve an agreement with the Illinois MTSS Network to provide professional development to the Harlem Middle School Improvement Team at a cost of \$16,560, paid with School Improvement Grant

1st McKnight 2nd Smith

Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson – 6 ayes
Motion carried

14.H. Motion to Approve an independent contractor agreement with Maria Ragonese for speech and language services at \$100/hour up to 15 hours per week from August 15, 2024 to June 1, 2025

1st Smith 2nd McKnight

Hastings, Meeks, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith – 6 ayes

Motion carried

14.I. Motion to Approve updated Harlem Athletic Department Philosophy (Target Policy)

1st Carlson 2nd Hastings

McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks, Thompson – 6 ayes

Motion carried

15. Announcements and Discussion: none

Motion to go into Closed Session for discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) at 7:40 p.m.

1st McKnight 2nd Smith

Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Meeks – 6 ayes

Motion carried

The Board went into closed session after a brief break at 7:40 p.m.

17. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

18. Motion to Adjourn

1st McKnight 2nd Smith

All aye, Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Arduino,

Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Dated: _____

