

MINUTES

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

2. Roll Call

Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Rebecca Carlson, Larry Smith, Megan Hastings, Evelyn Meeks

Absent: Mike Sterling

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

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

Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Loves Park Elementary students

Presenter: Mike Valentine, Principal

4. Approval of Agenda

1st Hastings 2nd McKnight

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

Motion approved

5. 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

6. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Regular & Closed Minutes of December 16, 2024

1st Carlson 2nd Hastings

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

Motion carried

7. Dr. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations

7.A. Awards and Recognitions

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

Harlem Middle School students – ILMEA performance (Illinois Music Education Association) and Ms. Betsy and Ms. Jessica introducing students. Three band students attending out of four, concert band festival and Joshua went to the Jazz Festival as well. Evie, 8th, Joshua, 8th, Olivia, 8th

Ms. Jessica Konig, 21 students attended their festival with 3 making it to State and they will travel at the first Junior High State Choir at the end of January. Twelve students attending this evening introduced, Sophie and Layla and Biece making State.

High School Students and Mr. Perian and special guest, student teacher, Haley Hamilton, who attends University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Mr. Perian noting these students were selected for District ILMEA which is above and beyond class. They record auditions in October and then are selected to represent Harlem at District, the three band students, Nolan, Morgan and Brealle and then Chloe and Brianna representing the District. They are able to work with a college band director as an All Star Group. We also had two students that qualified for State in music for Future Music Educators Seminar. This is a very competitive process and only 35 are selected from the State so we are excited we had two students selected. Nolan tenor sax and clarinet, Morgan trumpet, Brianna trumpet, Brea and Ariana.

Nolan is planning to study music and will audition for Miliken in a week

Harlem Middle School – Classroom teacher, Ms. Jaeger, receiving the weather stations, Blue Sky which provided three weather stations with cameras and five without to place around surrounding areas. She moved from 7th grade to 6th grade and started looking at new curriculum and the last half of the year will be about weather events. She applied for a Golden Apple Grant and then requested BlueSky to provide a weather station. The CEO said they would support this and gifted the cameras for the project, three so far and will be sending another five cameras. There will be about \$3,000 donated in supplies for this project. They will be able to see real time data as a result of the camera footage. The other 6th grade Science teams will also participate.

8. Comments from the Community

1. Paul Hoffmann addressed the Board as a candidate for Harlem School Board noting he enjoyed some of the statements made at the Committee of the Whole last week. The importance of challenging each student equally was one of them. The struggle in the Education Committee and the difficulty of the data and the capability of ELA and Math comprehension. He was objected to be on the ballot so wanted to address why he is running. The big driver for him is H-1B visas. These are given to non-US citizens outside the country as companies claim there is not enough talent to fill positions. He was involved at NIU in drafting engineering curriculum. He looks at Harlem as key to build the capability for Harlem students. He supports merit-based enhancement and pushing students to highest capability, protecting students and staff from violence and pushing back on mandates that cut into instructional learning and reducing spending and cutting tax rates for the community.

1. Paul Hoffman, Board candidate, submitted an email on January 13, 2025, noting his candidacy for the School Board along with three others, bringing diverse backgrounds to the School Board.
2. Caitlin MacRoy, teacher, submitted an email on January 13, 2025, noting she watched the COTW meeting on January 8, 2025 regarding equity and also thanked Megan Hastings for the work she has done during her tenure on the School Board.

9. Approval of Bills

9.A. Payables Summary - reviewed

9.B. Voided Checks

9.C. Payroll Voucher(s)

9.D. Accounts Payable Warrants

Mr. Aurand reviewed \$12,053,879.98 in total expenditures split out by fund.

No questions were asked

Motion to approve bills

1st McKnight 2nd Hastings

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

Motion carried

10. Communications and Committee Reports

10.A. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting

- Thanked the public comment persons and noted that people can agree to disagree but in the end we all need to come together and talk respectfully and get along. The world needs more love and respect and we need to set an example for our kids

- Noted that the program started by Ms. Yaeger is wonderful and it will be great for our kids to learn more about weather and the environment

- Wished everyone a very prosperous and happy New Year for 2025

- Congratulated the students that were recognized and noted Mr. Perian is an excellent teacher

10.A.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: February 5, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

- Noted that Mr. Perian is amazing and the pep band is amazing, noting that her daughter was in the music class and really enjoyed it

- She was just chosen to be on the IASB Constitutional Committee and will be working with that committee in the future

10.B. Aaron McKnight, Board member

- Reiterating what Evelyn said and noted that he thinks the new program at the Middle School about weather will be great for our kids and thanked the teacher again

- Received a couple of emails about start times. He noted there is no right way to do it but the lesser of the evil was the decision made to make sure school started on time with a lack of bus drivers so it was not an easy decision. He thanked people for the emails and noted we will review again before the next school year.

10.C. Rebecca Carlson, Board member

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year, noting that 46 years ago it was 24 below zero and 21” of snow

- Thanked the teacher for the weather channel event coming for the 6th grade students

- Thanked Mr. Perian and the Middle School teachers

- Talked to Food Service Director and they have students using fiberboard trays and she is excited to see this

10.D. Larry Smith, Board member

- Thanked the Loves Park Elementary students for leading the Pledge

- Acknowledged the people that represent the Harlem School District with their musical talents

- He runs away from storms and doesn't chase them which doesn't make sense to him

- He thinks teaching about environment and weather is a terrific initiative

- Peace and love are alive in 2025

10.E. Megan Hastings, Board Member

- Hoped everyone had a great break

- Battle of the Books – The Last Human was a great book, battles start this month

- HMS transition meeting invites are put in FB so please keep an eye on your student's night as there is a lot of information given out

- Baker Street competition was the Huskie Jalapeno Sliders – Michael Swanson, Colton Zanoni, and Haley Fulton and Ms. Watson, teacher and Betsy and Baker Street

- Emphasizing kindness this year is great and you can follow on Instagram

- The documentary students just finished their investigative journalism projects reporting on different topics

10.E.1. Next Education Committee meeting: February 5, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.F. Michael Sterling, President – not present

- Kurt noted that bringing in students and finding out about teachers work and programs is wonderful as well as the greenhouse program which is wonderful

- Committee of the Whole is a great way to find out what is going on in the District

- He noted that the amount of work put in on the buses has been over four years and you can get all the information at the Committee of the Whole and everyone can see it at one time, so the more

people that come is great and this is an amazing District, keep the successes coming and making we have the right people at the table\

- He noted he appreciates public comments but having election information is a bit different to have in a public comment

10.F.1. Next Regular Board Meeting: January 27, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

10.F.2. Next Policy Committee Meeting: February 5, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.F.3. Recommendation to approve First Readings of Policy Updates from January 8, 2025 Policy Committee

10.G. Kurt Thompson, Vice President

10.G.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: February 5, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.

11. Administrative Reports

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

11.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests: 3 overnight, January 9-11, Theatre Fest; January 10-12 St. Clair bowl, Club for Feb 21-23

Larry asked how many student teachers we have and Shelley responded 17 this year

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

11.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property: Harlem High School, Maple and Marquette

11.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests: Premier Football Academy

11.B.3. Recommendation to accept September and October 2024 Treasurer's Reports

11.B.4. Recommendation to award bus bid to Central States Bus Sales for five Bluebird Conventional Style buses at a cost of \$681,600 and five Transit Style Bluebird Front Engine buses at a cost of \$795,000, for a total cost of \$1,476,600

11.B.5. Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$5,750,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2025, for the purpose of altering and reconstructing school buildings and purchasing and installing equipment therein for prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof, which is the last step in issuance of bonds to remove Harlem Middle School and Hoffman Campus

11.B.6. Recommendation to approve a Grant of Easement with Com-Ed for placing electrical poles on Swanson Rd solar project

11.B.7. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Client First Technology Consulting for fiber optic E-rate design and RFP preparation at a cost of \$13,570

11.B.8. Recommendation to approve a renewal of IXL Math and ELA licenses for Harlem Middle School for a cost of \$2,812.50, paid with HMS budget

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

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

Reviewed as 7 Transfers, 20 Employments, 1 Federation Bank Certified Sick Leave

11.C.2. Resignations – 6 since the last meeting

11.D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

11.D.1. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted on January 8, 2025, from Sheri Reid of Smart Procure relative to purchasing records from 10/9/24 to current date and the District's response dated January 8, 2025 with inclusive information

Noted that his Equity Update will be on the Agenda for the second Board meeting

12. Consent Agenda

12.A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

1st McKnight 2nd Carlson

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

Motion carried

12.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

1st Thompson 2nd McKnight

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

Motion carried

12.C. Approve Facility Request(s)

1st Carlson 2nd Meeks

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

Motion carried

13. ACTION ITEMS

13.A. Approve First Reading of Policy Updates from January 8, 2025 Policy Committee

1st Hastings 2nd Meeks

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

Motion carried

13.B. Approve acceptance of September and October 2024 Treasurer's Reports

1st Hastings 2nd Meeks

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

Motion carried

13.C. Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

1st McKnight 2nd Hastings

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

Motion carried

13.D. Approve to award bus bid to Central States Bus Sales for five Conventional Style buses at a cost of \$681,600 and five Transit Style Front Engine buses at a cost of \$795,000, for a total cost of \$1,476,600

1st Hastings 2nd McKnight

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

Motion carried

13.E. Approve Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$5,750,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2025, for the purpose of altering and reconstructing school buildings and purchasing and installing equipment therein for prevention and safety, energy conservation and school security purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof

1st McKnight 2nd Hastings

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

Motion carried

13.F. Approve a Grant of Easement with Com-Ed for placing electrical poles on Swanson Rd solar project

1st Carlson 2nd McKnight

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

Motion carried

13.G. Approve an agreement with Client First Technology Consulting for fiber optic E-rate design and RFP preparation at a cost of \$13,570

1st Carlson 2nd Meeks

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

Motion carried

13.H. Approve a renewal of IXL Math and ELA licenses for Harlem Middle School for a cost of \$2,812.50, paid with HMS budget

1st McKnight 2nd Hastings

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

Motion carried

14. Announcements and Discussion: Rebecca asked if the Board would consider a change in the COTW to have two meetings and only one Board meeting for next year.

Aaron noted that as a District we are moving in the right direction and accomplishing so much. He was in a restaurant and started talking to someone in Lake Geneva. People know who we are. There are always areas of opportunities but keep talking about the positive things happening here.

NO CLOSED SESSION

15. Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Self-Evaluation, Practices and Procedures or Professional Ethics (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16), Sale or Purchase of Securities, Investments or Investment Contracts (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), Security Procedures (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8), Establishment of Reserves or Settlement of Claims as provided in Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12), and Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

16. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

17. Adjournment

1st McKnight 2nd Hastings

All voted aye, Motion carried

The Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Arduino,

Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Dated: _____