

REGULAR
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
August 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Matt Boebel called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2020. We invited the public to join the School Board this evening by Zoom webinar platform. Anyone wanting to address the Board should email Recording Secretary Claudia Fecho at cfecho@sd13.org. Our meeting structure has prompted some modifications to our normal agenda that will be postponed: Recognition of Exemplars.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Terry McKeown, Mr. Cary Moreth, Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mr. David Schueler, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mr. Matt Boebel

Absent: Mr. Mike Cozzi

Other Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Dr. Evonne Waugh, Claudia Fecho, John Reiniche, Rick McCall

Exemplar Presentation – Postponed

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Wojcicki and seconded by Mr. Moreth to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Meeting held 7-27-20. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$208,213.84; the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$88,484.12; Debt Service in the amount of \$1,864.30; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$1,520.00; Capital Projects in the amount of \$0.00; and Tort Fund in the amount of 0.00; Payroll (8-10-2020) in the amount of \$381,968.19 as shown in (F.D. 8/24/2020-1); the Fund Balance Report as shown in (F.D. 8/24/2020-2); the Balance Sheet as shown in (F.D. 8/24/2020-3); the Revenue Report as shown in (F.D. 8/24/2020-4); the Expenditure Report as shown in (F.D. 8/24/2020-5); and Activity Report as shown in (F.D. 8/24/2020-6); **New Hires**, Heather Anderson, Paraprofessional at DuJardin effective 8/24/20 for the hourly rate of \$13.39/hr., Jennifer Laba SpecEd Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 8/24/20 for a hourly rate of \$12.50/hr., Eva Cegielski Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 8/24/20 for a hourly rate of \$13.39/hr. and Cynthia Sierra RN at Erickson effective 8/24/20 for a hourly rate of \$32.24; **Resignations/Retirements** Lauren Zaroni Paraprofessional at

DuJardin effective 8/4/20, Laura Dulan 7th Grade Teacher at Westfield effective 8/13/20, Lidia Vannavong Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 8/12/20, Victoria Mattis-McNees Paraprofessional at Westfield effective 8/10/20, Jena Pollard Paraprofessional at DuJardin effective 8/17/20, Lindsey Bartlett Paraprofessional at DuJardin effective 8/18/20, and Emma Underwood Paraprofessional at Westfield effective 8/20/2020; **Change in Position**, Sara Heitkam Full-time Teacher at Erickson effective 8/24/20, Gina Pecoraro Full-time Teacher at DuJardin effective 8/24/2020, Andrew Ross Full-time Custodian at Westfield effective 8/31/2020, Doreen Spagnoli LTS Maternity LOA at DuJardin effective 8/24/2020 and Heather Anderson Teacher at DuJardin effective 8/24/20; **Leaves** Nicole Kastory EFMLA effective 8/24/2020.

Superintendent's Report

Summer Project Update/Board Tour and Finance Committee of the Whole

Dr. Bartelt discussed with the Board that Thursday, September 10 would be the date of the Board Tour and Finance Committee of the Whole. If a Board member is unable to attend in person, they may attend electronically via ZOOM.

Finance Town Hall Meeting

Dr. Bartelt discussed with the Board that the Finance Town Hall Meeting will be via ZOOM instead of an in person forum. The date is still to be determined.

Board Calendar

Dr. Bartelt mentioned the Board calendar has been updated with this year's events.

Superintendent Performance Goals

Dr. Bartelt outlined his proposed goals for the 2020-2021 school year. Student Growth may be a bit difficult due to the unknown depending on the requirements for administering such assessments. Dr. Bartelt is working to develop a salary range for non-union employees; and he will continue to lead the District to work through the challenges due to the pandemic.

Public Comment – Mrs. Fecho read the emails received from parents regarding the return to school this fall.

Kathy Podosek - Please explain to parents how/ why this varies from one school to another? Across Lake St Medinah district 11 has began their in person classes 100% WITHOUT modification! Roselle district 12 is slated to do the same next week! I have attached my email responding to Dr Bartel last week that came back undeliverable. We are working parents that moved to Bloomingdale bc of school district... very disappointed for kids and for district to not even attempt or try to start the school year in person! So sad for the kids
My undeliverable message:
Not happy! Shame on you SD13- you do not have kids best interests! COVID in the classroom but not in park district facilities? COVID in public schools but not in private

schools or daycares? COVID in Bloomingdale but not in a Medinah or Roselle schools? Not even willing to start the school year with hybrid- see if concept will be working Less than two weeks before school set to start you change plans! What do you have to say to two working parents that now have to figure out daycare, learning assistance for their kids. This is not OK. Teachers are essential workers- their places are in the classroom instructing kids face to face. This was their chosen profession- like a healthcare worker or police officer. Proper PPE and protection was to be utilized. Everyone wants to stay safe and the plan that was laid out for hybrid- clearly showed that. I am totally crushed for my kids! Wonder if my tax bill will be lowered.

Elizabeth Threadgill - My name is Elizabeth Threadgill, and I am a mom of any incoming 6th grader. I read that 6th grade is continuing the standards base grading. Why are we doing this? This gives students the opportunity to not strive to be their best. In transitioning to middle school there are certain expectations of our students. Grades are one of them. I could never truly know how well my student was doing with standard base grading in grade school. They are now prepping for highschool. How will this help? Also, is there a chance for 6th grade only to have an in person meet and greet? Give these kids a chance to actually see their teachers and see who they will be working with. Thank you,

Ray Grinvalds - To District 13 school board (to be read and address at 8-24 online meeting):

As parents and taxpayers/customers of the Erickson public school, we were more than disappointed that school administrators reversed course and decided to shut down classroom instruction. Our son is in desperate need for an education that relies upon face to face interaction, not online classes (which could have been implemented last year, but for whatever reason was not as was done in other suburban towns). We are not in a position to cover the cost of education 2 times and would require a refund of what has been paid in taxes so that we may educate our son in a school providing classroom instruction. Once the classroom closure was announced by Bartelt, no specific reason was provided for the change in course other than (after several emails back and forth between myself and Bartelt) it was due to IDPH Frequently Asked Questions document providing guidance to school districts. I read through these FAQ's and could not find anything which would suggest that a change in course was required to shut down classrooms. In another email exchange with Bartelt, I was told that the reasoning was somehow embedded in these FAQ's. It seemed to me at this point that transparency was not being provided by Bartelt, the school board, or the local principal (who by the way did provide the FAQ's to me without further explanation). After further questioning and prodding, Bartelt shared the following explanation:

Mr. Grinvalds: Both these sections apply to District 13: A close contact is anyone (with or without a face covering) who was within 6 feet of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (with or without a face covering), for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of a day. and Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan who are unable to wear a face covering or face shield due to a medical contraindication may not be denied access to an in-person education if the school is offering in-person education

to other students. Staff working with students who are unable to wear a face covering or shield due to a medical contraindication should wear approved and appropriate PPE based on job specific duties and risks and maintain social distancing as much as possible. Other students should also remain socially distant from students who are unable to wear a face covering or face shield due to a medical contraindication.

First, it seems to me that in the interest of transparency to taxpayers and customers of District 13, this explanation should have been provided in the first letter to parents announcing the new shutdown, not hidden to everyone except those who may have questioned a hidden political agenda.

The following emails back and forth with Bartlet provide a realistic solution to this issue and should be addressed by the full board:

To Bartelt:

OK, so what is the issue?

1) with classroom students wearing masks and maintaining 6 feet distance of anyone, much less a confirmed covid case. I assume a covid case would not be permitted in classroom until positive result comes back

2) If unable to wear face mask then those students can't attend classroom instruction. What is the issue? or are you penalizing everyone if some student are unable to do classroom. As far as teachers/staff, if they can't wear masks, they should stay home. What is problem?

It sounds like you are penalizing everyone if some are unable to do classroom due to inability to wear a mask? That makes no sense to me.

From Bartelt:

Students that require instructional support often need the instructor to get physically closer than 6 feet in order to provide the assistance necessary. Monitoring the amount of time individuals spend inside the six foot social distancing guideline per day would be extraordinarily difficult and should there be a positive case identified, it could result in the shut down of classrooms or grade levels depending on the contact tracing.

I cannot deny a special needs student the right to in person instruction if it is offered. I also cannot adequately protect the students or staff in the classroom where a student is not wearing a mask due to medical permissions that are granted.

To Bartlet (**unanswered**):

I can't believe you will deny the majority (or more) of students the ability to not fall permanently behind in their education because a few less fortunate students are unable to attend classrooms instruction. These students can still participate in remote learning. That is the most stupid thing I have ever heard. Maybe we should all stop driving cars because a few unfortunate people are unable to drive due to some physical handicap. Where does this political BS stop.

If you do have a covid case, then follow the FAQ guidelines (which may include shutdown ok). I don't understand your point here.

Look, teachers should teach. Everyone else is returning to work and able to implement safety precautions. Why are you fighting it. I can only interpret this as a political ploy by the liberal teachers unions at the expense of my son's education.

I insist that you clarify your initial email and not hide the true reasoning behind the classroom shutdown. Let's see what the other parents think about it before Monday's board meeting. Let's be transparent.

To Bartelt (**unanswered**):

I'm not a rocket scientist, but sounds like you have a few students with asthma or other condition that does not allow for masks. Why not use the gymnasium for them to social distance x 2 and teachers wear masks? These students would not come in contact with the other students or themselves or teachers without masks. Any need for contact tracing would be ameliorated. Lets think and defeat this China virus takeover.

Then you won't have to mentally handicap the vast majority of students who critically depend on classroom instruction to learn (including my son). The mental stress on both students and parents (who cannot afford to pay your/teacher's salaries while at home teaching their kids) is a cost that the liberal mob is ignoring for political purposes. Where do you stand? I don't want to accuse you of playing politics, but your actions so far suggest a political agenda.

I apologize if I am blunt, but I'm tired of your fancy letters to parents, especially when you are not being transparent.

The foregoing emails to Bartelt dated 8-17 and 8-19 have gone unanswered. It certainly expresses my view of the current environment we find ourselves in; however, I would also suggest that the school board and administrators are not being very thoughtful or in the least bit creative to solve the dilemma. I understand fairness argument, but sacrificing the education of 99% of the students because a relative few cannot participate is unconscionable. With your ever increasing budget, I'm sure you can devise an acceptable and safe accommodation to offer face to face (maybe in gymnasium) instruction to students unable to wear a mask.

Lets stand up, respect taxpayer/consumer needs, and find a real solution to address the fairness issue because being unfair to the vast majority of students is not the solution.

Jessica Matthies - Dear Dr. Bartelt and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my concerns on the way the switch to a Full Remote Learning Plan was handled. On August 13th, Dr. Bartlet sent an email to all parents and guardians to inform them of the need to switch to a full remote learning day based on the new guidelines set forth by IDPH. The email also gave sparse details to a new remote plan, that to the public's knowledge was not approved by the school board. At no time did Dr. Bartlet call an emergency meeting to share the IDPH guidelines with the board and give the public notification of the changes that were being proposed and allow the board to ask questions and vote on the proposed changes. It is disappointing because districts around us were given the same IDPH guidelines and either continued to move forward with their original plans or changed to full remote based on their school board's approval of the new plans being presented. I understand what the IDPH guidelines are saying and the difficult situation you are put in as a superintendent, however, in order to be the most transparent with your ideas and new proposed plan, it should have been brought to an emergency board meeting and the public's comments and the board's comments should have been heard. I would really

like to know the reason why a meeting was not held? I also would like to know why the committee that met over the summer was not broken into different scenarios to help develop a solid plan for all types of learning that may have occurred in the school year (full remote, hybrid A/B, and half days)? I understand our ideal was to get students back into the classroom, but if we had divided our resources and members into committees to address all potential scenarios and develop stronger plans we would not be building the plane while flying it. It is very disappointing that we were not able to come up with a way to meet the teachers in person in a socially distanced materials pick up. It would have been nice to allow students and families the opportunity to choose a 5-10 minute time slot in which to pick up their materials directly from their teacher in order to put a face with the name and begin building a rapport. There are other districts around us who are fully remote and managing to make this happen. It is very sad that the incoming 6th graders will not have the opportunity to meet any of their teachers except through videos before school starts. Thank you for listening to my concerns, hopefully you are able to answer some of my questions.

Andrew Talaga -Can you explain how is it that Catholic and private schools are able to start in class full days while public schools are handicapped or unwilling to open in person learning. Thank you

Robert Benza - Can you please tell us, the parents, why Peacock Elementary is open for in classroom instruction 5 days a week in Itasca and yet we plan for remote learning? Can we adopt their practices to open? What are we doing wrong? The school is only 6 mi. away from Bloomingdale in Itasca so I would consider them to be in the same community. Why are our children being disadvantaged? Sincerely, Robert Benza

Marlena Krupa - One of my kids starts 1-st grade and second 6 grade. Who explain me how I am suppose to teach both of them? My 1-st grade child haves problem with speeking and writings English, this is his second language. So how can he stay on the same level as the other kids? How I help him reach the same level like the other kids? He needs socializing with kids the same age. One more question I am not a teacher and I did not go to school in America, because I finish my education in my country! What about 6 grader, he start new school = more lerning, more help, so how will I help him? I can't work now because of this conditions, who pay me and the other parents?????! And why Roselles school's are open? What about places like park district or places like parks, swimming pools? No virus? District 13 disappoint me.

Monika Zawadzka - And also , I would like you to now , that my kids are so disappointed, they are asking me , why their best friend is going to school, but not him . I'm also so disappointed, I feel left behind, and you don't care about us , working moms , single moms , etc When I asked in Park District if they are will help my first grader if he'll have any reading or Chromebook problem , he said NO. That will be only supervisions for kids ? So my kid will be left behind , because he doesn't know how to read yet? Why district 13 doesn't have school, and district 12 Roselle - they going to school 5 days in person ? Could you explain that? When school will back?

Why we have to pay for kids care in Park District, I have 2 kids , one is first grader , when I asked is that will be any help provided for him , the answer was no . Will cost me 80 \$ for my 2 boys , and no help? What abt free tutoring for kids , they are behind, spring e learning wasn't the best .

Grace Archacki - Good morning!

I have few questions for the Board for today's meeting.

1. How come our district can not meet the DHS requirements but others like Medinah or Itasca can?
2. What are the requirements we can not meet – please be specific.
3. How come park district can be open for kids and schools can't? I saw Mr. Bartelt email stating they are not learning like schools BUT what is the REAL reason????
4. We don't expect teachers to walk to kids during classes, they can have all paperwork worksheets ready before school day starts and problem solved!
5. Whos exactly is in the Teacher Council and who give them the power to decide what is better for OUR kids???? I always thought that parents should decide what works for their kids better. If there are parent who doesn't want their kids go back to school (in person) let them sit at home. But more than 80% of parents in our district want their kids to have a chance to start the in-person learning at least twice a day. Why don't you want to give the kids a chance??? – PLEASE BE SPECIFIC.
6. Why can't we have a copy of curriculum for both elementary and middle school? I e-mailed the principals and both of them are unable to give me the physical copy of curriculum. How come??? In this situation we shouldn't even ask the district should offer it to parents.
7. Will the kids will have any assessment test in the begging of the school year, so the teachers know on which level to work with specific student? If yes will they get different assignment? I think it should be done. I was working with my kids during the summer so they are not behind "the schedule" with their grade level and I think it would be unfair for them to be placed with kids that parents didn't really care. Sincerely Grace A.

Board Reports and Requests

CHARACTER COUNTS! - Ms. Wojcicki commented that the CHARACTER COUNTS! celebration at the Towne Center has been cancelled.

NDSEC – Ms. Peterson commented that the meeting was cut short due to the tornado warning.

Freedom of Information Act Requests – There was one FOIA requests since our last meeting. Steven Duplain at std0700@outlook.com requested names, corresponding job titles, email addresses and the most current and readily available salary information of all teachers and administrators employed at the Bloomingdale SD13 as of the date of

this request. The request was received on July 28, 2020 by Mrs. Fecho and a response was sent July 29, 2020.

ACTION ITEMS

Second Reading/Adoption of Board Policies (F.D. 8/24/2020-7)

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. McKeown for the Board to approve the amendments to the 6 identified policies, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, McKeown, Moreth, Schueler, Wojcicki, Boebel

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

Resolution in Support of CHARACTER COUNTS! (F.D.8/24/2020-8)

A motion was made by Mr. Schueler and seconded by Mr. Moreth for the Board to approve the Resolution in Support of CHARACTER COUNTS! and each Board Member sign said resolution.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Schueler, Moreth, McKeown, Peterson, Wojcicki, Boebel

Nays:

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board/Union Meeting

Dr. Bartelt discussed with the Board that he would be drafting a letter in collaboration with the Union setting a goal for in person learning with modifications. The next meeting is set for September 15, 2020.

Board/Superintendent Expectations

Dr. Bartelt discussed with the Board that the expectations have not changed since 2012 and if there is anything they'd like to see added to let him know.

Strategic Plan Initiatives for 2020-2021

Dr. Bartelt reviewed the Strategic Plan Initiatives from the four goals and initiatives set in the 2018 District Strategic Plan: Student Success-District 13 will achieve success in maintaining a caring, supportive culture, engaging students in meaningful learning activities and building positive and productive relationships utilizing different instructional methods. Teaching and Learning-District 13 will support student centered learning environments with innovative instruction during the 2020-2021 school year, Communication and Collaboration-utilize as many tools as possible during the challenges created from the pandemic and Finance-maintaining a truly balance budget and to communicate with District finances through forums and quarterly reports. District staff will continue to address the successful implementation of strategies that will lead to student academic recovery with social emotional support.

Topic(s) for Future Agendas

Communication with the Board/Community regarding the return to in person learning while Dr. Bartelt will continues to monitor the metrics set by the DuPage County Health Department.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: all ayes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Matt Boebel, President

Linda Wojcicki, Secretary