

Regular Board Meeting MINUTES  
Monday, September 23, 2024 6:00 PM

Harlem Administration Center  
8605 North Second St  
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

## MINUTES

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Mike Sterling, President

2. Roll Call

Mike Sterling, Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Rebecca Carlson, Larry Smith, Megan Hastings

Absent: Evelyn Meeks

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: Olson Park Elementary students

**Presenter:** Marya Nelson, Principal

*Nomination for Megan Hastings as Secretary Pro Tem in Evelyn Meeks' absence.*

*1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Smith*

*All aye, Nomination carries for Megan Hastings*

4. Approval of Agenda

Changes: No student travel 11 A 1 and 12 B

**Motion to approve Agenda with changes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Hastings**

**McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Sterling, Thompson – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

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: September 9, 2024

Changes to Minutes: Mr. McKnight did not give his report but it was given by Mike Sterling and the Payables are corrected to read 4 million with a period replacing a comma.

**Motion to approve Minutes with changes noted**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlson**

**Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

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

7.A. Awards and Recognitions

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

**Tailgate Party Notice, September 29 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and a Tour of the CTE building will also be held at that time.**

Additional recognitions around the District:

**Students of the Month - with Olson Park this month**

**Huskies of the Week** – New for the high school via social media for each grade level

Alyssa H., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Byron G, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade,

**Students of the Week** – Lilly, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Rock Cut, Endrit, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Rock Cut

Social media channels will reflect **staff spotlights** for buildings as well.

8. Comments from the Community

1. Received from email – Evans United Methodist Church in support of our libraries.
2. Rebecca DaLaLuz, addressed the Board regarding the Middle School needing upgrades. The transition to get the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school was not as well laid out as could be. She has had requests for extra space, tardy issues and other complications. There is congestion at lunch and hallways. The middle school deserves more and urged Board members to shadow someone at the middle school. Is there a plan in place to increase the size of the middle school and funding. She is an ally of the District and offers herself to help.

9. Approval of Bills

9.A. Payables Summary \$2,407,849.93

9.B. Voided Checks

9.C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$3,548,955.82

9.D. Accounts Payable Warrants

\$5,956,805.75 total expenditures.

Mr. Aurand reviewed the expenditure totals by fund amounting to \$5,956,805.75

No questions

**Motion to approve Bills**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**Smith, Hastings, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

10. Communications and Committee Reports

10.A. Rebecca Carlson, Board member

- Noted she hopes the football incident is straightened out
- Talked to a community member about some food service issues

10.B. Larry Smith, Board member

- Thanked the Olson Park students for leading the Pledge
- Shout out to the Class of 1974 celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion for celebrating their years
- Thanked all people in the District for what they do
- Thanked parents that express their support for the District and their conversations with their students
- Asked parents to send the message that it is not okay to hurt others, there is no place for violence and disrespect and hurtful behavior at any grade level
- Noted we need to set the example of good behavior

10.C. Megan Hastings, Board Member

- Noted Thursday parent-teacher conferences are held
- Progress reports will be coming soon
- Noted Girls' Flag Football stating we want to pack the stands at their last home game on October 2, Starting at 5:00 to 5:45; they also have a match against Guilford on Wednesday
- Homecoming will be great this week and with CTE being available and the new spots
- Asked parents about drop off, most of the schools are neighborhood schools and there are things parents can do in drop off lines to set examples, not cutting off people, not speeding. We need to set examples of safety for our kids, slow down, be kind to fellow parents and help in any way you can
- Battle of the Books – hope everyone is reading their books and she did read some books on the banned book list this week

10.C.1. Next Education Committee meeting: October 9, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.D. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary – absent given by Mike Sterling

10.D.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: October 9, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

10.E. Michael Sterling, President

- Following all the comments he thanked the Pledge students, noting he likes seeing them from different schools as well on the recognitions

- In the last two weeks we have had so many emails and messages about students with social media posts on shootings, threats. A lot of them are not even in the State of Illinois but every one is taken seriously. We respond to parents but when you read the message please think when reading, let us know who, what, where and why and try to be more specific. Anything for more information is helpful. We do immediate investigation and the recent one at the middle school written on a bathroom wall said HMS but it was not ours it was in Huntley, Illinois. We are all worried about staff and student safety. We take all threats seriously. Terrell noted "See something, Say something" get anything that is said by a student to the administration immediately so we can get on it right away. Send these to the administrators.

- Noted bussing will be discussed at the COTW at Business Services on October 9, 2024

- Mentioned redistricting research being done by the District itself to save money having an outside vendor do this

- Asked the Board to bring architects and engineers to discuss the Middle School sent back to Business Services for further discussion, and Terrell noted that when the life safety comes back we can look at the ten year survey. Mike wants to know if we can include expansion as well for the Middle School.

10.E.1. Next Regular Board Meeting: October 15, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

10.E.2. Next Policy Committee Meeting: October 9, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

#### 10.F. Kurt Thompson, Vice President

- Thanked everyone for coming and feedback

- The amount of feedback from parents in addressing the Board, emails and correspondence is wonderful and appreciated. Constructive criticism is also appreciated.

- Helped deliver apples to people last week and nominations for teachers is now going on for pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

10.F.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: October 9, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

#### 10.G. Aaron McKnight, Board member

- Repeated all said by the other Board members

- Tailgate Party is a great time, as in showing parents all about the pathways program booklet which is absolutely stunning to parents out of our District. We need to talk about the positives of this District and put those out there.

### 11. Administrative Reports

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

11.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests: None

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

11.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property: Harlem Middle School, Maple, PC, High School and Administration Center

11.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests: Huskie Baseball Club

11.B.3. FY 25 Budget Public Hearing Report and recommendation to adopt FY 25 Tentative Budget with changes recommended as the FY 25 Final Budget

11.B.4. Recommendation to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Hagney Architects for Harlem Middle School and Hoffman Campus for re-roofing project which will save a half of million dollars

11.B.5. Recommendation to approve Municipal Advisory Agreement with PMA for professional services in regard to bond issuance for roof projects which also goes along with the life safety discussion knowing where things stand for roofs, mechanical equipment projects. An example is the Ralston chiller. Replacement cycles are the goals but we need to get caught up first.

Mike noted we need to explore any kind of funding that is possible. The 1% is something to keep discussing but there are a lot of other factors involved and is going around the County. Rockford would like our support on this as well. We need to support it as a community after presentation of the projects.

Rebecca asked if ROE would have anything to put into the Hoffman Campus. Terrell noted they will help out as much as they can for updating. Kurt asked if we put a new roof on the Middle School we cannot go up. Jason noted that the magnitude of going up without a referendum or sales tax would almost be impossible right now. Mike noted we know we should have the conversation now but possibly having a town hall on what we need regarding the State of Harlem. We need our community to be present.

Megan noted possibly we should start having some town halls so people can understand what is being discussed with sales tax so we can get our community educated about this and get the "why" out there. Even if we don't go up with the middle school there is no point doing a roof if we are doing an expansion. The projects have been around for a long time but we now have the issue of looking at the middle school so maybe we pause for a bit. Josh noted that if things go great and we can do the 1 percent sales tax it will be a couple of years before we see any of that. We have to do things during the interim. Mike noted he wants to see what an engineer and architect will say about the roof and middle school building. We are looking at putting a roof on in the summer not during the winter. We cannot be the first one per Kurt to discuss going up. Does this information exist in dollar amount or structure. There is also Hoffman to consider. Larry noted we need to discuss in house what the needs are first as far as looking at major expansion projects but look at what we have available now. As a community member if he knows the District is being fiscally responsible, he would be in favor of the sales tax. Aaron noted we are already at a disadvantage than Rockford as we are higher than Rockford for sales tax and this increase will put us in the double digits. We will be at 10.75 while Rockford is lower at 8 something. We are a very quickly growing area but that tax would cause people to possibly leave the area. Mike noted we need to get all of our resources and options on the table and get more information now.

We can then present to the community. Even multiple town halls can be conducted. Our population is aging and we need to get those voters on Board.

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

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

Shelley Wagner reviewed: 16 Employments, 10 Transfers Haley Roberts is transferring from PC to Marquette and not Maple; 3.5 additional para positions, 3 at MQ for students moving in with IEP's and .5 at Maple for a student who qualified with eligibility

11.C.2. Resignations: 12 since last meeting

The CTE chairperson is like a department division chair

11.D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

11.D.1. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted by Jan Mansfield on September 6, 2024 requesting additional Board member communications from August 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022, and the District's five-day extension request to respond by September 20, 2024.

11.D.2. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) submitted by Owen Wang of Rockford Sun on September 19, 2024, requesting a pdf copy of the District's school evacuation plan, and the District's response dated September 19, 2024, including the District website link for safety protocols and procedures.

11.D.3. Redistricting discussion – discussed above

12. Consent Agenda

**12.A. Motion to Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Carlson**

**Hastings, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s) - None**

**12.C. Motion to Approve Facility Request(s)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> McKnight**

**Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

13. ACTION ITEMS

**13.A. Motion to Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.B. Motion to Approve adoption of FY 25 Tentative Budget with recommended changes as the FY 25 Final Budget**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Thompson, McKnight, Carlson-abstain, Smith, Hastings, Sterling – 5 ayes 1 abstain**  
**Motion carried**

**13.C. Motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Hagney Architects for Harlem Middle School and Hoffman Campus for re-roofing project**

**1<sup>st</sup> Carlson 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**McKnight, Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Sterling, Thompson – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.D. Motion to Approve Municipal Advisory Agreement with PMA for professional services in regard to bond issuance for roof projects**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Carlson, Smith, Hastings, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

14. Announcements and Discussion: none

**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. Motion to Adjourn**

**1<sup>st</sup> McKnight 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**All aye, Motion carried**

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

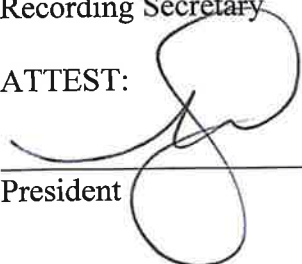
Respectfully submitted,

*Kris Arduino,*

Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

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President



  
Secretary

Dated: 16-15-24