

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 8:37 p.m. June 21, 2017

Members Present:

- Kristin Violante, Presiding Officer
- Jon Buralli
- Vipul Dedhia
- Mary Lenzen
- David Negron
- Michael Rak

Absent:

- Mark Mirabile

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, and Jolene Lorimer; guest Griffin Sonntag, and PTA President Arlene Cabana.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Retiring Principals Matt Vandercar and John Glimco; and resigning Assistant Supt. Candy Kramer led the pledge of allegiance.

ACTION NO. 52 Consent Agenda

Motion by Rak, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of May 17, 2017; closed session meeting minutes of May 17, 2017; special meeting minutes of May 31, 2017; closed session meeting minutes of May 31, 2017; payment of May payroll/June warrants; prevailing wage resolution; voluntary student insurance; transfer of interest; imprest fund custodian; designation of depositories for school district funds; resolution for serious safety hazard approval; resolution authorizing certain payments; approve Title I plan; June 2017 Personnel Report consisting of the resignation of elementary teacher Jen Maita; hiring of middle school principal Griffin Sonntag; hiring of middle school resource teacher Patricia Kelly and middle school math teacher Margaret McCarter; and hiring of elementary secretary Leah London. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Negron, Rak, Violante) absent - Mirabile.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Pleasantdale Middle School Principal Introduction

Over the course of the past several weeks, the district has engaged in a search to replace the retiring Mr. Glimco for next year. The position was posted in early April, and 45 qualified candidates applied. In late April twelve candidates participated in an administrative screening interview. From these twelve candidates, four were selected to participate in committee interviews that included parents, teachers, students, Board of Education members, and administrators. Finalists were selected, and each candidate spent a half-day in our schools visiting classrooms and interacting with students, staff, and parents. Based on this rigorous and collaborative interview process, the Board approved the hiring of Mr. Griffin Sonntag as the next principal at Pleasantdale Middle School. Mr. Sonntag is currently principal at Clarendon Hills Middle School in District 181 and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our school.

Strategic Blueprint Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet provided the Board with a progress update on our District's Strategic Blueprint. In the category "Building Learning Environments" the district has

progressed on the action step to *Investigate and find creative solutions to provide spaces for testing, related services, interventions, sensory breaks, developmentally appropriate play/exploration*. At the Elementary school, space has been identified to use as a sensory room and occupational therapy small group space. The sensory room will be equipped with a variety of sensory tools for students and a small instructional table which will allow therapist to better meet the needs of students. Additionally, a room at the Elementary School has been identified as flexible space for testing, small group instruction, and team collaboration.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Update

Staff member Jolene Lorimer and Principal John Glimco presented a review of District social/emotional learning (SEL) programs. The Board heard a review of how our schools provide students with a program that promotes positive social/emotional learning. Our program focuses on developing a positive culture within our schools as well as helping students to make good decisions. This is accomplished through building-wide programs such as *The Eagle Way* at the Elementary School and *The I's of the Tiger* at the Middle School. In addition, SEL concepts are taught through our Second Step program and in our health class.

Superintendent Goal Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet presented the superintendent's goals for the 2017-18 school year. The district follows a philosophy of cascading goals, which is the best way to ensure that organizational goals are met. This strategy dictates that the district/board goals are the same as the superintendent's goals, which are the same as the building and principal goals. Having similar goals across an organization ensures a clear focus for improvement and a higher likelihood that goals are achieved. As such, Dr. Palzet's goals mirror the District's Strategic Blueprint, with the addition of an academic achievement goal and a social emotional learning goal, both priorities for the Board.

Pleasantdale Class of 2016 Update

As part of our Strategic Blueprint, the Future Planning Committee created a Portrait of a Pleasantdale Graduate. This portrait outlines the qualities and dispositions we would expect our students to possess after they graduate from our schools. These broad categories are *Knowledgeable and Empathetic Communicator, Respectful and Creative Problem Solver, Passionate and Confident Individual, and Collaborative and Responsible Global Citizen*. One way we are able to see if we hit the mark is through reviewing how our graduates have done in high school as well as their perceived preparedness for the rigors of high school. Middle School Principal John Glimco reviewed data on how our students are faring at Lyons Township High School. Board member David Negron asked what percentage of Pleasantdale students made up the freshman class at LTHS. Board Secretary Mary Lenzen confirmed that this information was shared with the grade 8 teachers and social workers at both the elementary and middle school.

Spring Testing Report

Assistant Superintendent Candy Kramer provided the Board an update on how our students performed on a variety of standardized academic measures. Students in Kindergarten through eighth grade took the MAP test for the first time this year. The focus of Mrs. Kramer's presentation was on student outcomes based on the MAP test. The initial review of our testing data show that our students are performing well above the national level and make significant growth throughout the year. Mrs. Kramer's analysis highlighted each grade level.

Revision to Board Policy 7:60 Residence

The Board reviewed and amended the District's policy on establishing residency. This revision to current policy allows the administration to enforce a residency verification process for students who are transitioning from fourth to fifth grade.

ACTION NO. 53

7:60 Residence

Motion by Negron, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to Board policy 7:60 *Residence*. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Negron, Rak, Violante) absent - Mirabile.

Amendment to the District Facilities Plan

The Board and administration maintain a five-year facilities plan. This plan allows us to prioritize the work that needs to be done in the District and ensures that we will maintain high quality facilities. Our facilities plan calls for a phase-in of boiler replacements at the Elementary School. The actual cost of the boiler replacement was higher than anticipated at \$46,785 as opposed to \$20,000 that was budgeted. Because the facilities plan was already approved, an amendment to the facilities plan was approved.

ACTION NO. 54

Boiler Purchase

Motion by Negron, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education amend the District Facility Plan to reflect the boiler purchase in the amount of \$46,785 from Precision Control Systems, Inc. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Negron, Rak, Violante) absent - Mirabile.

Board of Education Information Requests

No requests were made at this time.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the August agenda include:
Establish Petty Cash Fund; Summer Academy Update (written); Hiring Status Report (written); Declassify Executive Session Minutes; Class Size Update; Review Personnel (sec. 5) and Student (sec. 7) Board polices; and Tentative Budget.

OPEN FORUM

Principal Matt Vandercar thanked the Board for 15 wonderful years at Pleasantdale and for the gift from the Board.

Principal John Glimco thanked the Board for everything. He stated that he was happy to be ending his career in the same township where he had started.

Assistant Superintendent Candy Kramer thanked the Board for the wonderful relationships she has been able to gain with all the families and staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Negron, seconded by Lenzen, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:37 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____