

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 6:31 p.m.– 10:07 p.m. December 21, 2016

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
- Kim Barker
- Vipul Dedhia
- Gina Scaletta-Nelson – arrived at 6:35 p.m.
- Michael Rak – arrived at 6:34 p.m.
- Kristin Violante

Absent:

- David Negrón

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet was staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Meg Knapik, Ema Chorney, Karyn Lisowski, Kevin Krillic and Andrea Mars; and visitors Kathleen Tomei and Steve Guzik.

ACTION NO. 14

Closed Session

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 6:32 p.m. to discuss matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; and student disciplinary cases. Motion carried by a roll call of 4 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Violante) absent – Negrón, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak.

The Board came out of closed session at 6:44 p.m. taking a short break.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Matt Vandercar introduced members of the coding club lead by Karyn Lisowski and Ema Chorney. The students presented a demonstration on the work they have been doing. The students lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION NO. 15

Tax Levy Open

Motion by Barker, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing open at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negrón.

In her presentation to the Board, Business Manager Catherine Chang stated that based on the 2016 CPI figures, residents can expect an average 0.7% increase in property tax extensions for District 107 school operations. For 2015, there had been 5,146.295 million in new property within the district. There were no public comments.

MOTION NO. 16

Tax Levy Closed

Motion by Rak, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the Board of Education declares the tax levy hearing closed at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negrón.

ACTION NO. 17

Tax Levy Adoption

Motion by Violante, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the Board of Education adopts the 2016 tax levy as presented in the public hearing and authorizes the President and Secretary of the Board to sign all appropriate documents. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negrón.

ACTION NO. 18  
Tax Levy Resolution

Motion by Barker, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education adopts a Resolution approving to proportionately reduce each fund where the levy exceeds the tax cap limitation. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negron.

ACTION NO. 19  
Consent Agenda

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2016; closed session meeting minutes of November 16, 2016; payment of November payroll/December warrants; Board Policies (2.125 and 5.60), Resolution and Paperwork Regarding Expenses and Reimbursement; and December 2016 Personnel Report containing the hiring of elementary school principal Kathleen Tomei effective July 1, 2017. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negron.

REPORTS AND  
DISCUSSION ITEMS

Elementary School Principal Introduction

Over the course of the past several months, the District has engaged in a search to replace the retiring Mr. Vandercar for next year. The position was posted on October 24, and forty-five qualified candidates applied. In early December sixteen candidates participated in an administrative screening interview. From these sixteen candidates, six were selected to participate in committee interviews that included parents, teachers, Board of Education members, and administrators. Two finalist were selected and each candidate spent a half-day in our schools visiting classrooms and interacting with students, staff, and parents. Finally, a team of PSD 107 administrators performed a site visit at the school of our preferred candidate. Based on this rigorous and collaborative interview process, the Board approved the hiring of Ms. Kathleen Tomei as the next principal at Pleasantdale Elementary School. Ms. Tomei is currently principal at Lincoln School in Elmhurst SD 205 and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our school.

Future Planning

Superintendent Dr. Palzet provided the Board with an update on the progress of the Future Planning Committee. The work of this committee will result in a recommendation to the Board for a long-term strategic plan. At its December meeting, the committee reviewed and finalized a new district mission statement, created a set of district beliefs, created a *Portrait of a Pleasantdale Graduate*, and created district goal statements under three goal areas. The goal areas that will be brought to the Board of Education for approval are:

- Building Learning Capacity
- Building Learning Environments
- Building Human Capital

The administration will present the strategic plan in February with motion for approval at the March Board meeting.

Stipend Memorandum of Understanding

Superintendent Dave Palzet recommended that the Board approve a memorandum of understanding that includes some stipended positions to our contract that were inadvertently left out. This memorandum is non-binding and the administration reserves the right to approve or not-approve stipend proposals. This memorandum has been reviewed by our legal council and will be on the January consent agenda for your approval.

*Audit Report*

Superintendent Dave Palzet introduced Betsy Allen and Andrea Meade from the firm of Miller, Cooper and Co. LTD., who presented the fiscal audit. The audit revealed that our practices and procedures are aligned with best practice and we should continue with many of our current practice. The auditors commented that the management team at the district was easy to work with and that our financial condition and systems continue to be in great shape.

**ACTION NO. 20**Audit Report

Motion by Barker, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the acceptance of the FY16 audit report as presented by Betsy Allen and Andrea Meade of Miller, Cooper and Co. Ltd. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negrón.

*Talented and Gifted Math Update*

Middle School Principal John Glimco presented revisions to our Talented and Gifted Program (TAG). These changes allow student who qualify for an accelerated math class to be identified earlier and to complete any necessary work prior to the end of the year with instruction from a math teacher. It is our belief that these new procedures allow for less stress on families and students over the summer.

*Review Fees*

Business Manager Catherine Chang presented the proposed school fees for the 2017-18 school year. The fees included an annual 2% increase to the cost of our Bright Beginnings preschool program to offset the increases based on inflation and increases to the cost of staff. Even with a 2% increase to our preschool, our total costs are lower than private preschools 2- and 3-day programs. Likewise, the district will increase the cost of a PE lock (\$5.50) and 8th grade graduation fees (\$40.00) to reflect the actual per student costs. PE lock and 8th grade graduation fees have not been raised since 2010. Finally, technology fees were presented to the Board. The goal of these fees is to offset the cost of student used devices in the classroom. For the 2017-18 school year, the following grades can expect a technology fee: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, and 6th grade. The fee schedule will be voted on at the January Board of Education meeting.

*Preliminary Discussion of Service Contracts*

Each year, the administration makes recommendations to the Board of Education regarding our major contracts. These contracts include transportation, nighttime custodial service, food service, and auditing services. The administration recommended extending the district's transportation, custodial, and auditing services. Per state regulations, the District will open a bid for food service providers for 2017-18 school year.

*School Safety Review*

Superintendent Dave Palzet presented a review of the district's safety and security procedures. The presentation focused on crisis preparedness, administrative relationships with first responders, and how first responders interact with our students in a preventative manner. The administration shared upcoming safety projects including making the Wolf Road crossing at the middle school safer and a revised traffic pattern at the elementary school. Board member Kristin Violante stated she feels a visitor management system would be beneficial at the buildings (e.g. drivers license scanning system).

*Review Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies*

Each month the Board reviews its policies to ensure that the current policy reflects the current realities of running a school district. This month the Board reviewed Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies. These policies will be on the January Consent Agenda for approval.

*Board of Education Informational Requests*

The Board requested to receive PARCC scores for our district.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the January 2017 agenda include:  
Future Planning Update; Library Program Evaluation; Approve Stipend Memorandum of Understanding; Mid-Year Review of Non-tenured Teachers and Administrators; Abatement of Bonds; Approve District Fees; Job Share Proposals; Preliminary Review of District Calendar; Declassify Selected Closed Session Minutes; and Approve Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies.

ACTION NO. 21

Closed Session

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Scaletta-Nelson, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:31 p.m. to discuss matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent – Negrón.

The Board came out of closed session at 10:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the regular meeting adjourns at 10:07 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. \_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_