

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:00 PM Central

Prairieview Elementary School
699 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Beth Bukey: Present
Joan Cullen: Present
Christopher Esposito: Present
Lori Hoffman: Present
Brian Liedtke: Present
Liane Raso: Present
Donna Sobotka: Present
Present: 7.

I. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Liane Raso at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Liane Raso.

III. Recognition of Visitors

In-person visitors include Joy Defors, Alex Sitko, Tom Tedeschi, Kyle Hendrickson, Nancy Lee Martyka, Dana Maksimovich, Amy Burrows, Anita Carpenter, Julie Molina, Lisa Donar, Karin Snodgrass, Jessica Rost, Carol Tedeschi, Robyn Fardy, Robin Oberle, Megan DuPass, Brian Glennon, Dave Bugajski, Elizabeth Uribe, Jake Little, Gary Kozak, Nikki Giancola, Vicki Stearns, Deb Gustafson, Lisa Brown, Allison Thomas, Tiffany Watson, Eric Ellis, Emily Cortez, Thomas Dodd, and Omair Ziauddin. Visitors joining virtually include Bridgitte Rinaldi, Sarah Coppoletta, Todd Plagman, Tammie Pry, Sheri Sulima, Mary Testolin, Sylvia McIvor, Danielle Riegler, Jane Larkin, Gayle Szpytek, Janine Pater, Steve Pinta, Jerry McDonald, Mike Gibbons, Karen Salvino, Lisa Begler, Jacqueline Spicuzza, Lisa Trauscht, Kristin Novotny, Tracey Cushing, Lisa Knippen, Lisa Brown, Kris Collins, Dawn Wrzesinski, Debbie Arbet, Jennifer Olsen, Sherry Zurales, Erin Olsen, Terri Smeltzer, Hyun Kim, Samantha Meike Grimm, Tripp Burton, Jaime Csorba, Faye Lindsey, Amy Vano, Elizabeth Nyhlen, Donna Hlavacek, Jennie Halper, Heather Tran, Mary Burland, Theresa Strong, Kristin Kennedy, Brenda Abate, Jaime Free, Deborah Stamenkovich, George Tung, Christina Coyle, Janice Tung, Kim Swaekauski, Jessica Sage, Kari Gemmell, Sara Soulman, Joy David, Janet Schultz, Alex Frederick, Becky Roberts, Anna Mackender, Tracy Spakausky, Lenore Vidal, Melinda Nowak, Steven Shanks, Andrew Smith, Keri Roegner, Brigitte Stormshak, Jori Knagge, Melissa Mandru, Krista Ziegenhorn, Joseph Tshulos, Julie Ording, Gina Hendron, Elaine Riadi, Araceli Riekana, Jennifer Tan, and Angelina Davini.

IV. Scheduled Time to Address the Board

Scheduled public comments were made by Alex Sitko, Amy Burrows, and Robin Oberle concerning the upcoming referendum.

V. Consent Agenda

V.A. Monthly Meeting Minutes

V.A.1. September 14 Budget Hearing (appears in the boardbook)

V.A.2. September 14 Regular Meeting (appears in the boardbook)

V.A.3. September 21 Community Engagement Sub Committee Meeting (appears in the boardbook)

V.B. District's Monthly Financial Statements (appears in the boardbook)

V.C. Monthly Board Bills Payable (appears in the boardbook)

V.D. New Items

V.D.1. Approve Resignation of **Patricia Anderson**, Paraprofessional, effective October 14, 2022

VI. Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Lori Hoffman, passed.

Beth Bukey: Yea, Joan Cullen: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Lori Hoffman: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VII. Communication

VII.A. FOIA Requests

Two FOIA requests appear in the boardbook.

VII.B. Community Engagement Committee

A PowerPoint presentation from members of the Community Engagement Committee which includes answers to the following was presented to the board:

- *What happened that put the district in such a poor financial position?*
- *What needs to happen to get our finances back on track?*
- *How will the district's improved financial health benefit our students and the community?*
- *What are the superintendent and board doing to ensure our financial position remains healthy moving forward?*
- *What is the impact on the community and our students if the referendum does not pass?*

The PowerPoint can be found in the boardbook.

VII.C. Safety Presentation

John Heiderscheidt, Safety Specialist from the DuPage Regional Office of Education, presented the findings of a review of the safety and security at the district schools. The review included a walkthrough of all buildings, a review of the district's Safety and Security Vulnerability Assessment from 2018, and a review of the safety assessment completed by the Darien Police Department in 2022. The findings show possible improvements and efficiencies with existing security systems and security measures that may be considered to improve operational effectiveness. The entire presentation can be found in the boardbook.

VII.D. Health Insurance

Horton Insurance representatives Jim Relyea, John Reineke, and Tom Kallai presented insurance trends over the last 3-5 years, as well as how the district has performed. On the healthcare side, the district's plan has performed better than national trends, keeping costs down. When costs have increased, the district has decreased benefits and increased premiums. The presentation can be found in the boardbook.

VII.E. Property Insurance

On the property side, the district's costs have been decreasing due to an improved mod, proactive strategies, and decreased claims. The presentation is included in the boardbook.

VII.F. Audit Presentation

Kyle Hendrickson from the district's auditor, Gorenz & Associates, presented the FY22 audit. He stated that the district's financial score will increase from a 3 to 4 due to the greater percentage of early tax dollars being counted. He also shared that without the early taxes being counted, the district's financial score would drop to the lowest score possible on the state's rankings. Mr. Hendrickson noted that since 2018 the average daily attendance has decreased, tax rate has decreased, state spending per pupil has outpaced Center Cass spending per pupil, assessed value has increased, and fund balances have decreased, with the exception of the past year when fund balance increased due to a larger portion of early taxes arriving. He ended his presentation saying that without counting next year's money in the fund balance, the district has negative reserves of over a million dollars in the operating funds.

VII.G. Legal Update

The school district's attorney, John Fester, whose firm represents close to 100 school districts, commented that Center Cass 66 is lacking key personnel and programming that the State of Illinois expects their schools to provide students, either through statute or recommendation. He shared that this is reflected in the low operational spending per pupil and the lower than average % of the budget spent on salary and benefits. He also stated that the district would not want a State Oversight Panel to take over the school

district as they would have the authority to make the reductions they see fit and raise the tax rate to generate the revenue they see fit to meet the state recommendations and law.

VIII. Principal Reports (can be found in the boardbook)

VIII.A. Elizabeth Ide Elementary

Principal Emily Lech reports on student development, agriculture in the classroom, and building leadership and support teams at Elizabeth Ide.

VIII.B. Prairieview Elementary

Principal Mark Pagel reports on student education, SEL, and students and staff working to keep the school running and looking good.

VIII.C. Lakeview Junior High

Principal Mark Orszula reports on authors in ELA classes, Spartan Hour, and the school environment.

IX. Director Reports (can be found in the boardbook)

IX.A. Director of Student Services

Director Sean Rhoads' report includes information on MTSS, SEL, and school improvement day.

IX.B. Director of Learning

Director Liles reports on the district School Improvement Day, the district's LRCs, and the building leadership teams.

IX.C. Director of Technology

Director Keith Roberts' report includes information on help desk tickets, older classroom projectors, and repairs of Chromebooks and iPads.

IX.D. Director of Transportation/Buildings and Grounds

Director Tom Tiede reports National School Bus Safety Week and National Custodial Appreciation Day.

X. Superintendent Report

X.A. Update on State Intervention

Dr. Wise stated that he has been in touch with people at the state level who are planning to set up a site visit.

X.B. Referendum Presentation

A presentation showing the financial impact of the referendum on homeowners, how the proceeds will be used, and why the funds are needed was shown and discussed by Dr. Wise. The presentation can be found in the boardbook.

X.C. Audit 2021-22

The 2021-2022 audit was presented and discussed earlier in the evening.

X.D. Negotiations

The CCEA/CCESP will begin negotiations with the administration very soon. The Association conveyed to administration that they would like a one-year contract.

X.E. School Maintenance Grant FY23

The district will be submitting a grant that will offset the replacing of intercom systems at Lakeview and Prairieview.

X.F. 2022-23 Office Staffing Update

With Diana Goldstein, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, leaving the district office, Maria Gannon is slated to move into that position. There will then be internal moves made to cover the Lakeview secretarial position vacated by Ms. Gannon.

X.G. Special Town Hall Board Meeting October 18, 2022, 6:00pm-8:00 pm

There will be a question-and-answer Town Hall meeting on October 18 from 6:00 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Prairieview. Members of the Community Engagement Committee will be fielding questions asked concerning the upcoming referendum.

X.H. November Board Meeting Date

Due to the fact that the vote on the referendum occurs on Tuesday, November 8, the Wednesday, November 9 board meeting will need to be pushed back a week to November 16 so that the levy can be presented then.

X.I. Personnel Counts

Dr. Wise shared that due to low pay, large workloads, and fears of deeper cuts have resulted in many employees resigning and those positions not being filled because of the district's financial situation.

XI. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

XII. Action items

XII.A. Approve the 2021-22 Audit

MOTION: To approve the 2021-2022 audit completed by Gorenz & Associates. This motion, made by Lori Hoffman and seconded by Christopher Esposito, passed.
Beth Bukey: Yea, Joan Cullen: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Lori Hoffman: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XII.B. Approve School Maintenance Grant FY23

MOTION: To approve the FY23 School Maintenance Grant. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Brian Liedtke, passed.

Beth Bukey: Yea, Joan Cullen: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Lori Hoffman: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the regular board meeting. This motion, made by Christopher Esposito and seconded by Brian Liedtke, passed.

Beth Bukey: Yea, Joan Cullen: Yea, Christopher Esposito: Yea, Lori Hoffman: Yea, Brian Liedtke: Yea, Liane Raso: Yea, Donna Sobotka: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Goldstein, recording secretary

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education