

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 8:09 p.m. January 18, 2017

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
Kim Barker
Vipul Dedhia
Gina Scaletta-Nelson
Michael Rak

Absent:

David Negron
Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet was staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, Meg Knapik, John Reid, Alison Cooke, Steve Braband, Karyn Lisowski, Rikki Steinmetz, and Julie Crist; and residents Giovanna Imbarrato, Dan Lenzen and Mary Lenzen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the middle school science club who took 2nd place as a team at the Fenwick Junior Science Competition lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION NO. 22
Consent Agenda

Motion by Barker, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2016; closed session meeting minutes of December 21, 2016; payment of December payroll/January warrants; declassify closed session minutes; fees for the 2017-18 school year; Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Polices; and stipend memorandum of understanding. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak) absent – Negron and Violante.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Future Planning

Superintendent Dave Palzet provided the board with an update on the Future Planning process. The work of the Future Planning process will result in a long-term strategic plan that will guide the work of the district over the next several years. Dr. Palzet informed the Board that the staff began the process of creating action steps to ensure our district achieves the goal areas identified by the Future Planning Committee. Teachers suggested action steps in three goal areas:

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

The administration will review these suggestions and continue to refine the plan over the next month. A draft of the strategic plan will be presented at the February Board of Education meeting with a vote for approval being called in March.

5-year Financial Projections

Business Manager Catherine Chang, presented the district's five-year financial projections. Each year the district creates these projections based on the most current data and financial assumptions. Based on current data, the district projects the district is currently in good financial health. However, as the legislative landscape changes in Springfield, Dr. Chang also created scenarios for a potential property tax freeze which would restrict the district from raising additional revenue.

Library Program Evaluation

Superintendent Dave Palzet presented a status update on our new library configuration. In May the Board approved a new staffing configuration for our library program. This new configuration includes one librarian to oversee both schools' libraries and the implementation of an Innovative Teaching Coach (iTC). The current configuration has allowed for our libraries to remain open to students and staff more often than in the past. It allows teachers and students a new and better library experience. Due to this year's success of the program, the district will maintain this configuration next school year.

Preliminary Review of District Calendar

Each year, the district convenes a committee made up of teachers, parents, school secretaries, and administrators to develop the following year's school calendar. On January 10 this committee met at the administration center and developed a draft calendar for the Board's review. The district calendar closely follows the calendar published by Lyons Township High School. The most notable change to the calendar is a non-attendance day (students and staff) on April 23 that would convert to an attendance day in the event of a snow day prior to April 23. The calendar will be up for approval at the February Board meeting.

Bond Abatement

For the past 6 years, the District has abated a total of \$6.18 million of debt service to lower the tax rates for the community. The Advisory Team recommends abating \$750,000 of Debt Service. This action will reduce the tax burden of a house assessed at \$300,000 by \$111.36 and a house assessed at \$500,000 by \$192.71. It is our goal to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while at the same time ensuring that we provide the highest quality education for our students. The abatement will be up for approval at the February Board meeting.

Board of Education Informational Requests

There were no requests made.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the February 2017 agenda include: Future Planning Presentation; Approve 2017-18 District Calendar; Grade 1 Job Share Proposals (tentative); Approve Abatement of Bonds; Review Governance and Planning (sec. 1) Board Policies; and Preliminary Staffing Recommendations.

OPEN FORUM

Giovanna Imbarrato addressed the Board regarding the new library structure. She stated that she was skeptical at first of the new plan, but stated it has worked out better than she ever imagined. The libraries are in better shape than they ever have been.

ACTION NO. 23Closed Session

Motion by Rak, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 7:36 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 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak) absent – Negrón and Violante.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:06 p.m.

Board President Mark Mirabile stated “The Superintendent’s Contract being approved is a multi-year agreement that will replace Dr. Palzet’s current Employment Contract terminating on June 30, 2018. Because the Board has determined that the Superintendent has successfully completed the performance goals that are required under his current Contract, the law allows us to extend Dr. Palzet’s employment beyond June, 2018. The new Contract, which replaces the current Contract, is effective beginning July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2022. It provides for a base salary in 2017-2018 of \$179,750 with salary increases in the subsequent years of the Contract based on the CPI and a bonus awarded at the discretion of the Board. The terms and conditions of the Superintendent employment are described in the formal agreement [which has been posted in the Board agenda packet for this meeting]. The new Contract also provides the Superintendent with pension contribution payments, hospitalization/major medical insurance, life and dental insurances, vacation time, and sick and personal leave as afforded under his current employment agreement.”

ACTION NO. 24

Supt. Contract

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s Employment Contract effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak) absent – Negron and Violante.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Dedhia, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:09 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____