

REGULAR  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
October 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

President Michael Lenisa called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2024 in an in person and virtual setting. The District invited the public to join the School Board this evening by Zoom webinar platform.

Roll Call

Present: Ms. Monika Cuellar, Mrs. Nicole Majewski, Mr. Terry McKeown, Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mr. Michael Lenisa

Absent: Mr. Marcin Kapral

Others Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Shannon Zinner, Nicole Gabany, Valerie Varhalla, David Virkus, Lisa Paoletti, Chuck Vallas, Jen Laba

**Above and Beyond**

Board Member Linda Wojcicki recognized this month's Above and Beyond recipients, Scarlett Savoia (DuJardin), Disa Atilano (Erickson) and Lillian Puchalski (Westfield).

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. McKeown to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on 9-23-24. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$871,620.32; the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$142,428.23; Debt Service in the amount of \$0.00; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$98,674.81; Capital Projects in the amount of \$0.00; and Tort Fund in the amount of \$20,150.00; Payroll (9-25-2024) in the amount of \$483,549.98 and (10-10-2024) in the amount of \$527,748.15; the Financial Reports as shown in (F.D. 10/28/24-2); **New Hires**, Samantha Messamore, Paraprofessional at DuJardin effective 10/24/24; **Terminations/Recissions**, Thomas Villalejo, Mid Shift/Floater Custodian at Westfield effective 9/30/24; **Leaves**, Jacqueline Holm, Teacher at Erickson, Maternity Leave effective 10/1/24, Sarah Cross, Teacher at DuJardin, Maternity Leave effective 11/14/24.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Peterson, McKeown, Cuellar, Majewski, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: Wojcicki

Motion Carried: 5 – 0 – 1

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Student Presentation**

8th grade students from Westfield Middle School, Trenton A., Jhezey C., Alexander K., Nicholas H. and Connor H. presented their winning Food Truck project. In addition, Erickson Elementary School 5th grade Student Ambassadors Sam C. and Fiona S., along with new 1st grade students Wesley M. and Effie K. shared information about the student ambassador program. Both groups answered questions from the Board members.

### **Student Ambassador Report**

8th grade student ambassadors, Evelyn Voytek and Jacob Kane informed the Board the DuJardin students participated in a jogathon, where members of the Westfield Cross Country Team came to cheer them on. CHARACTER COUNTS! students will be going to a memory care facility in the area to visit residents on Halloween, and the week of November 4th, students will get to participate in voting for the election. Erickson held their Halloween parades and parties on October 31st, and the newly formed trivia club met for the first time recently. Upcoming events at Erickson include their Veteran's Day celebration and Girls 5K run, which are both scheduled for November 11th. Westfield Girls Basketball will be hosting a tournament this year for the first time.

### **Final Referendum Update**

Ed Sullivan of EOSullivan was present to give the Board a final update on the referendum efforts prior to the election and answer questions from the Board. He indicated that members of their organization were tracking social media and that a full detail mailer went out last week. He indicated that they are not seeing an organized effort to oppose the referendum, and that they expect a 70-75% voter turnout. Election night results should start coming in at around 7:15 p.m. on the DuPage County website.

### **School Improvement Goals**

Patrick Haugens, Principal of DuJardin Elementary School, Stacy Johnston, Principal of Erickson Elementary School, Stefan Larsson, Principal and Amanda Vreeland, Assistant Principal of Westfield Middle School presented their School Improvement Goals for the 2024-2025 school year and answered questions from the Board.

### **Public Comment**

Chuck Vallas addressed the Board to express what he feels is a conflict of interest at Erickson Elementary School concerning his children, and requested that the Board review the documents that he left at the meeting and sign these documents.

Jen Laba, Paraprofessional at Erickson Elementary, and parent of a student at Westfield Middle School spoke about the poor conditions at Westfield and the need for improvements to be made and urged residents to vote yes for the referendum.

### **Board Reports and Requests**

BIG – Ms. Peterson indicated that they met last Thursday at D93. Flyers were passed out to the group regarding the Glenbard Parent Series. Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce held their Best Of awards, where the Park District edged out D13. There will be a photo contest as part of the Park District's 60th anniversary event, and long term Park District employee Sandy VanGundy has retired.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition – Mrs. Wojcicki indicated that there would be a meeting next week.

Education Foundation – Mrs. Wojcicki stated that they discussed their March fundraiser at their last meeting.

LEND - Ms. Cuellar shared that the meeting was on Friday and that Congressman Foster was there. Items of discussion included AI and how it will affect schools, as well as funding for the state.

NDSEC – Dr. Bartelt reported that the operational board met last Monday. There was not a lot on the agenda, mostly routine topics. There was a presentation on out placed cooperative students.

Bloomingdale Council of Teachers – Mr. Lenisa indicated that they met earlier in the month where they discussed the referendum as well as upcoming contract negotiations. They are hoping to start negotiations in January or February and have them completed by Spring Break.

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Mr. Lenisa indicated that there was one FOIA request summarized in the Board packet.

### **Action Items**

#### **Authorization of the 2025 School Maintenance Grant (F.D. 10/28/2024-3)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Wojcicki and seconded by Ms. Peterson for the Board to authorize the Board President to sign the application for the School Maintenance Project Grant requesting the full amount of the grant, \$50,000.00 from the Illinois State Board of Education.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Ayes: Wojcicki, Peterson, Cuellar, Majewski, McKeown, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 6 – 0 – 0

Approval of the Snow Removal Contract (F.D. 10/28/2024-4)

A motion was made by Mrs. Majewski and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the 2024-2025 contract with ALM Group Landscaping for the provision of snow removal services, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Majewski, Wojcicki, Cuellar, McKeown, Peterson, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 6 – 0 – 0

Approval of the DuJardin Area Sidewalk Project (F.D. 10/28/2024-5)

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the DuJardin sidewalk project and sign the attached documentation as a non-participating co-sponsor, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: McKeown, Wojcicki, Cuellar, Majewski, Peterson, Lenisa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 6 – 0 – 0

**Discussion Items**

Tentative Tax Levy

Valerie Varhalla, Director of Finance presented the Tentative Tax Levy for 2024. The 2024 Tax Levy will be formally approved at the December regular meeting. A Truth in Taxation Hearing is mandatory since the proposed levy is 5% higher than the previous year's extension of property taxes.

1st Quarter Financial Report

Ms. Varhalla shared highlights from the 1st Quarter 2024 Financial Report and answered questions from the Board.

Joint Annual Conference Preparations

Board Member and IASB Delegate, Terry McKeown gave the Board a summary of the 2024 Resolutions that will be voted on at the meeting in November. In addition, Dr. Bartelt reviewed policies 2:105 and 2:125 with the Board and provided a tentative schedule for the conference.

**Topic(s) for Future Agendas**

Referendum Recap

**For Information**

Enrollment Report

Available for review in the Board packet.

NDSEC Profile

Available for review in the Board packet.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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Michael Lenisa, President

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Linda Wojcicki, Secretary