

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 12:20 a.m. October 16, 2019

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer

Jon Buralli

Mary Lenzen

Joy Tristano

Kristin Violante

Charles Zona

Absent:

David Negron

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Jennifer Ban, Frank Adams, Kathleen Tomei, Griffin Sonntag, Brianne Malatt, and Debbie Lubeck; and Ruthann Vihen from the Women’s League of Voters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elementary students who have been participating in a running group, Girls on the Run, lead the pledge of allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

Ruthann Vihen, who was representing the LaGrange Women’s League of Voters, addressed the Board regarding upcoming Resolutions that will be up for vote in November. She asked for the support of our Board to vote no on those items.

ACTION NO. 8
Consent Agenda

Motion by Lenzen, seconded by Tristano, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 18, 2019; payment of September payroll/October Warrants; Finance (sec. 4) and Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6); October 2019 Personnel Report containing the hiring of Robert Adamik as Maintenance Director effective October 9, 2019. Motion carried by a roll call of 6 ayes (Buralli, Lenzen, Mirabile, Tristano, Violante, Zona) absent – Negron.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Library Update

Superintendent Palzet informed the Board that the final work list for our libraries has been issued. In the coming days and weeks, the final furniture delivery will be made, and the books will be reshelved. The finishing touches will be added to the casework and circulation desks. Final painting touch-ups will be completed, and the custom wall graphics will be applied at both schools. Finally, the technology installation will occur in the next few weeks, which includes LCD monitors and projectors in all areas of the library. We will be scheduling a ribbon-cutting in the coming weeks and hope the community can help us celebrate these beautiful spaces.

Strategic Blueprint Update

Superintendent Palzet updated the Board on the progress made to the Strategic Blueprint goals over the course of the last month. Notable accomplishments include improvements to school safety. The Burr Ridge Police department spent a half-day with our staff reviewing how best to react to an active incident in our schools. As we seek to better integrate technology, our librarian (Rikki Steinmetz) and instructional technology coach (Meagan Bubulka), provided a professional development session titled, “I Can Create with the iPad.”

This workshop focused on the tools available to teachers and how students and staff can use these programs to enhance collaboration. As we make updates to our curriculum, science teachers are finishing training on new resources, which will be piloted in science classes.

Middle School Schedule Update

Middle School principal Griffin Sonntag updated the Board on the implementation of the new schedule at the middle school. His presentation focused on the benefits of the new schedule as well as areas that need to be improved. The administration will continue to make adjustments to the schedule and will provide the Board with a presentation at the November Board meeting outlining the multi-tiered supports in place, along with how IEP minutes are being addressed and lunch line wait times.

Class Size Update

Principals Tomei and Sonntag provided the Board with an update on class sizes at both schools. The goal is to ensure that class sizes remain at or near the guidelines that are established in Board policy 7:65. As stated in Board policy, if any class goes over the Board guideline, supports will be put in place for the teacher and students within that class. Class sizes in Pleasantdale remain manageable, and our students continue to enjoy reasonable class sizes.

Elementary and Middle School 2019-20 Improvement Plans

The building principals at both schools presented their plans to move our schools forward. The School Improvement Plans were created in cooperation with each school's leadership team. These plans are closely tied to the district's Strategic Blueprint and will help us achieve our district goals. The plans are connected to the Blueprint goal areas of Building Learning Capacity, Building Human Capital, and Building Learning Environments. Each plan also includes building-specific goals that will improve the student experience at each school.

Superintendent 2019-20 Goals

At the September 18, 2019 Board of Education meeting, the Board provided several suggestions to improve Dr. Palzet's annual goals. Dr. Palzet took the Board's feedback and adjusted the goals based on the Board's ideas.

ACTION NO. 9

Supt Goals 19-20

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Lenzen, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's 2019-20 goals as amended. Motion carried by a roll call of 6 ayes (Buralli, Lenzen, Mirabile, Tristano, Violante, Zona) absent – Negrón.

Finance Tutorial: Dissecting the CBA

As part of an ongoing series, our Business Manager, Frank Adams, presented a tutorial that will help the Board as they carry out their fiduciary duties. This month's tutorial focused on the financial aspects of the collective bargaining agreement.

Negotiations Update

Superintendent Palzet provided the Board with an update as the Board and the Teacher's Association of Pleasantdale (TAP) prepare to negotiate a new contract. The presentation included a review of the Modified Traditional Bargaining Method which the Board and TAP have agreed to use. Additionally, workgroups that are meant to provide information and research to the negotiators were established.

ACTION NO. 10

Negotiation Groups

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Lenzen, that the Board of Education will implement a finance, stipend, and language group to assist with negotiations. Motion carried by a roll call of 6 ayes (Buralli, Lenzen, Mirabile, Tristano, Violante, Zona) absent – Negrón.

ACTION NO. 11

Board Participation

The motion failed for lack of motion – that the Board of Education approve Board member participation in negotiating groups.

Board of Education Information Requests

No requests were made at this time.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the November agenda include:
Service Contract Legal Review (written); Adopt Proposed Tax Levy; Middle School Lunch Line Update; Intervention and IEP Minute regarding Middle School Schedule update.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Lenzen, that the regular meeting adjourns at 12:20 a.m. (October 17, 2019) Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____