

LIBERTYVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
District No. 70
Libertyville, Illinois

November 18, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Education District No. 70, Lake County, Illinois, was called to order at 5:00pm in the boardroom at the ERC, 1381 Lake St., Libertyville on Monday, November 18, 2024.

The following members answered present at roll call: Mrs. Balanag, Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen, Mr. Lawton, Mrs. Schilling and Mr. McGhee.

Also present: Superintendent Rebecca Jenkins, Dr. Bongle, Mrs. Bachar, Mr. Theis, Mr. Vipond, Ms. Donev, Mrs Kollman, Mrs. Coyle, and Divnoor S.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular meeting started with the pledge of allegiance.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Three Highland Middle School orchestra students were selected to play for the ILMEA District 7 and were honored at Monday night's board meeting. Carol Janossy's students, eighth-graders Francis T. (double bass) and Bree S. (viola), and seventh-graders Jayveer R. (double bass) were honored for their musical skills and dedication. Students have to audition and be selected to play in the ILMEA Honor Orchestra and this is one of the highest honors a musician can receive in their younger years. Mrs. Janossy said more than 300 young musicians from ILMEA Districts auditioned for the orchestra and a little over 100 were accepted. Students talked briefly about the honor and why it is important to them.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Balanag, seconded by Mr. Lawton, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented in Board Report 3. The following items were contained in the consent agenda:

3.1 - Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 21, 2024

3.2 - Approval of Finance Reports

- Agenda of Bills
- Payroll
- Budgetary
- Treasurer's Report

3.3 Approval of Personnel

- New Hires
- Retirement

- Resignation
- Leave of Absence

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mrs. Balanag, Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen, Mr. Lawton, and Mr. McGhee, Mrs. Schilling. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no presentations from the floor.

STUDENT AND SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Highland Middle School seventh-grader Divnoor S. was introduced by Mrs. Jenkins as a new member of the Superintendent’s Student Leadership Advisory Council. She spent some time talking about herself and what brought her to SSLAC. Divnoor joined because she wanted to “make our school a better place for everyone. Also, make the new kids more comfortable with our district.” Divnoor, who started attending HMS last year, said she would like to work on helping to make new students feel more comfortable at the middle school. This year, SLLAC members are staying for the entire Board of Education meeting and are invited to contribute to topics being discussed.

Divnoor also will join fellow SSLAC members Roark N. and Anika A. in attending the Joint Annual Conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards, known as Triple I, on Friday in Chicago. The students will attend a session called “Bringing Student Voice to the Table” and be joined by Mrs. Jenkins, along with board members Wendy Schilling and Angela Balanag. The council was created by Mrs. Jenkins to bring student voice forward into decision making. Members of the council will help Highland and District administration identify areas of celebration and areas of growth at Highland Middle School and in D70 overall.

Mrs. Jenkins thanked Board of Education members for their dedicated service and noted that Nov. 15 was School Board Appreciation Day. Schools presented BOE members with cards created by students, student letters of appreciation, cards signed by staff, and posters created and signed by students. The Superintendent Report also showed how all elementary schools celebrated Veterans Day with current and former military personnel, SEL games played by students in class, Libertyville firefighters teaching students about fire safety, a drumming assembly to teach students how to work together, mock voting at HMS, a career fair with HMS eighth-graders presented by the Lake County Regional Office of Education, and an in-school presentation by an author and illustrator.

The link to the Student and Superintendent’s Report from tonight’s meeting is available on our district website under Board section.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

Board Report 6.1 included a recommendation to approve board policy 5:330, Educational Support Personnel: Sick Days, Vacation, Holiday, and Leaves.

Motion was made by Mr. Lawton, seconded by Mrs. Dahlke, that the Board of Education approve the policy as submitted in Board Report 6.1.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mrs. Schilling, Mr. McGhee, Mrs. Balanag, Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen and Mr. Lawton. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section.

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO CRISES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF LAKE COUNTY

Board Report 6.2 sought approval for an IGA between Libertyville District 70 and other public schools in Lake County. The specific intent of this IGA is to safeguard the lives, persons, property, communities, and schools, enabling other public agencies to provide additional resources, equipment and/or school personnel as needed through a coordinated and organized manner. This IGA is made in recognition of the fact that natural or human-made occurrences may result in emergencies or disasters that exceed the resources, equipment and/or school personnel of a given public agency.

Motion was made by Mrs. Balanag, seconded by Mr. Lawton, that the Board of Education approve the IGA as submitted in Board Report 6.2.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mrs. Balanag, Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen, Mr. Lawton, Mrs. Schilling and Mr. McGhee. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section.

APPROVAL OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Board Report 6.3 sought approval of the estimated tax levy. Per the Illinois Property Tax Code, a Tentative Levy Estimate is to be presented at least 20 days prior to the adoption of a school district's Final Aggregate Levy. If the aggregate estimate is more than 105% of the prior year, a public hearing must be held on the district's Final Aggregate Levy before it can be adopted. Additionally, a notification of the public's hearing must be published no more than 14 days nor less than 7 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

Motion was made by Mr. McGhee, seconded by Mr. Lawton, that the Board of Education approve the estimated levy as submitted in Board Report 6.3.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mrs. Dahlke, Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen, Mr. Lawton, Mrs. Schilling, Mr. McGhee and Mrs. Balanag. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section.

APPROVAL OF SUNBELT AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Board Report 6.4 sought approval of an agreement with Sunbelt for a temporary occupational therapist to cover an open position due to a leave of absence.

Motion was made by Mrs. Balanag, seconded by Mr. Lawton, that the Board of Education approve the agreement as submitted in Board Report 6.4.

On roll call vote: ayes – Mrs. Khan, Mr. Sticklen, Mr. Lawton, Mrs. Schilling, Mr. McGhee, Mrs. Balanag, and Mrs. Dahlke. Absent – None. Nays - None. All in favor. Motion carried.

A link to this report may be found on the website under Board section.

FIRST READING OF CHANGES TO POLICIES

The administration and school board use a policy subscription service provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards as the basis for developing, reviewing, recommending, and approving policy language. This service is used by the majority of school districts in Illinois and is known as the Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS). At the board meeting, policies 2:105 - 8:10 and 5:120 were discussed.

ASSESSMENT REPORT

During the Nov. 18 board meeting, Dr. Kerri Bongle, director of teaching, learning, and assessment, updated the board on District 70's annual report card, which is assembled by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The report card reflects data from the 2023-24 school year in areas of student achievement, growth, and attendance, as well as school climate and culture.

During the 2023-24 school year, District 70 students performed better than more than 97% in English Language Literature, 96 percent better in science, and 94 percent better in math compared to students from across the state. Illinois has five summative designations for schools: Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, Comprehensive, and Intensive. All District 70 schools received either exemplary or commendable status, and it is important to note that some of the schools that received commendable designations are very close to earning exemplary.

For the upcoming year, District 70 will focus on improving math proficiency and growth, narrowing the gap for Black/African American and Latino students, and growing the proficiency for students with special education services. Noteworthy areas included attendance improvement, which the district focused on last year, as well as 5Essentials survey praise for effective leaders, a supportive environment, and ambitious instruction.

Dr. Kerri Bongle also noted recently released information from US News and World Report school rankings that placed Copeland as the number one elementary school in Lake County and #33 out of more than 3,000 public elementary schools in the state, and Highland Middle School as the number two middle school in Lake County.

STRUCTURED LEARNING SERVICE MODEL AND EXPANSION UPDATE

Ms. Zuica Donev, assistant superintendent of student services, discussed changes to District 70's special education services for kindergartners and first-graders with autism to foster independence

and push into general education classes. The program is new this year and has been so successful, it will be expanded next year. (See Friday's community newsletter for more information.) Members of the team each explained their role and how it helps the students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Board Member Mr. Sticklen discussed the recent SEDOL Gala and mentioned a governing board meeting on December 4.
2. Board Member Mr. Lawton discussed the ED-RED Meeting on November 8.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Board of Education Correspondence this month.

OTHER ITEMS

Board Member Mrs. Balang requested the administrators look into the current policy of students bringing home school devices daily. The administration will report back during the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mrs. Balanag, seconded by Mr. Lawton that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 7:20p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Khan, Board President

Nanette Dahlke, Board Secretary