

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 6:00 – 8:14 p.m. November 15, 2023

Members Present:

Arlene Cabana, Presiding Officer
Bill Brockob
Charles Zona
Mary Lenzen
Becky Walters
Jason Nash (arrived at 6:02)
Tarryne Marchione

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Jennifer Ban, Griffin Sonntag, Beth Parker, Tousha Summers, and James Mukite. Community members in attendance included Tom Arra, Linda Arra, Karyn Lisowski, and Mike Sochacki. Additionally, District consultant Paul Hanley from *Beyond Your Base* was in attendance. Students and their parents included Joey Szymczak and Avery Urban.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by students who participated in the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence leadership conference.

BOARD RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION

To recognize the efforts of nearly 6,000 school board members in the state, November 15, 2023, is designated School Board Members' Day in Illinois. Our Board of Education members serve on a volunteer basis and do so for the betterment of our community. On behalf of the children and families of Pleasantdale School District 107, we recognize and thank our seven Board of Education members. Additionally, Board member Charles Zona was recognized for the recent publication of his book *Ticket Stub Stories: A Memoir of Live Music*.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Arra addressed the Board about the current construction/improvement proposal the Board is considering. Mike Sochacki addressed the Board about the current construction/improvement proposal the Board is considering.

ACTION NO. 6

Consent Agenda

Motion by Lenzen, second by Nash, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented consisting of meeting minutes of October 18, 2023 Regular Board meeting; payment of October payroll/November warrants; approve Finance (sec 4) Board Policies; approve Intergovernmental Agreement between Pleasantdale School District 107 and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Motion

carried by a roll call of 7 ayes (Brockob, Cabana, Zona, Lenzen, Walters, Nash, and Marchione).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Palzet provided the Board with an update on the District's Strategic Planning Process. The District convened a Strategic Plan Steering Committee composed of teachers, staff, administrators, parents, community members, and students to develop a draft of the District's next strategic plan. The committee has met twice and will meet again on Friday, November 17. The committee has drafted a new district mission statement and motto/tagline. They have also identified goal areas and have begun work on the next set of priorities for the district. The committee will identify action steps and complete the plan at the next two meetings. A draft of the plan will be presented to the Board after the first of the year.

Illinois School Report Card Announcement

Each year, the Illinois State Board of Education publishes the Illinois School Report Card for all public schools in Illinois. The school report card includes information about our schools, including relevant student demographics, teacher demographics, and district financial information. The Illinois School Report Card is currently live, and a link to our schools' report cards can be found on our district website. The district schools received the top two designations again this year. The elementary school received an exemplary designation, and the middle school was designated as commendable.

Proposed Tax Levy

The Board of Education unanimously approved its proposed tax levy for 2023, asking Cook County for a levy of \$15,519,385, with \$13,000,000 of that for educational purposes. The District uses historical information and input from the local assessors to produce this request. To ensure transparency with our community, the District will hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing at the December 20, 2023 Board of Education Meeting. The Certificate of Tax Levy will be filed with the Cook County Clerk no later than December 26, 2023.

ACTION NO. 7

Adoption of the Proposed Levy and Publication of Public Notice

Motioned by Lenzen second by Brockob that the Board of Education adopted the proposed 2023 tax levy and authorize the district to publish the time/date/location of the public levy hearing. Motion carried by a roll call of 7 ayes (Brockob, Cabana, Zona, Lenzen, Walters, Nash, and Marchione).

Transportation Update

Business Manager Griffin Sonntag provided the Board with an update on the effectiveness of our transportation services. Overall, the services provided by First Student have improved over the last year, with improvements in on-time status and fewer service delays. Mr. Sonntag has established regular meetings with First

Student leadership and holds the company accountable by charging fees for delays and underperformance. The District will continue to monitor the performance to ensure the best service possible.

Facilities Development

Dr. Palzet and the District’s research partner shared data from a community survey and feedback from the Citizen Engagement Committee. Feedback from the community revealed a heightened level of tax sensitivity, making a large-scale construction project that requires voter approval unfeasible at this time. However, the data did show that the community would support a smaller project that also helps meet the District’s identified priorities. Dr. Palzet also shared the Citizen Engagement Committee’s four recommendations for District Improvement. These recommendations included: 1. Make school safety updates; 2. Consider purchasing land to prepare for growth and programmatic changes; 3. Explore expansion of PreK; 4. Explore ways to create a more developmentally appropriate fifth-grade experience. The Board directed Dr. Palzet and his staff to investigate these recommendations and report the findings at the January 2024 Board of Education Meeting.

Items for Next Agenda

Facilities Update; Strategic Plan Update; Review Students (sec 7) and Community Relations (sec. 8) Board Policies; Review 2024-25 School Calendar; Preliminary Review of Service Provider Contracts (written).

OPEN FORUM

Tom Arra addressed the board and provided his feedback from the Citizen Engagement Committee and ideas pertaining to the proposed facilities development project. Mike Sochacki addressed the Board regarding the tax levy presentation and the community survey sent on October 16.

WRITTEN REPORTS

The Board fulfilled Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests Tom Lisowski regarding raw data from the District’s Strategic Plan Survey; Karyn Lisowski regarding the District’s live birth data; Shari Altich regarding student enrollment data; Michael Rost regarding information about the District’s property and casualty insurance and employee insurance benefits. ; Tom Lisowski regarding information provided in the Board packet; and Rhonda Norris regarding information on the District’s photocopier contracts.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Walters, seconded by Marchione, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried by a roll call of 7 ayes Motion carried by a roll call of 7 ayes (Brockob, Cabana, Zona, Lenzen, Walters, Nash, and Marchione).

App. __ President _____ Secretary _____